

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 8, Verse 8 – Chapter 9, Verse 2. It is found in our books on page 136.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Κορινθίους Πρώτης Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 8 - κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 2: Ἀδελφοί, βρῶμα ἡμᾶς οὐ παρίστησιν τῷ θεῷ· οὔτε γὰρ ἐὰν φάγωμεν περισσεύομεν, οὔτε ἐὰν μὴ φάγωμεν ὑστερούμεθα. Βλέπετε δὲ μήπως ἡ ἐξουσία ὑμῶν αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς ἀσθενοῦσιν. Ἐὰν γὰρ τις ἴδῃ σε τὸν ἔχοντα γνώσιν ἐν εἰδωλείῳ κατακείμενον, οὐχὶ ἡ συνείδησις αὐτοῦ ἀσθενοῦς ὄντος οἰκοδομηθήσεται εἰς τὸ τὰ εἰδωλόθυτα ἐσθίειν; Καὶ ἀπολεῖται ὁ ἀσθενῶν ἀδελφός ἐπὶ τῇ σῆ γνώσει, δι' ὃν Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν; Οὕτως δὲ ἁμαρτάνοντες εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφούς, καὶ τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν, εἰς Χριστὸν ἁμαρτάνετε. Διόπερ εἰ βρῶμα σκανδαλίζει τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, οὐ μὴ φάγω κρέα εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἵνα μὴ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου σκανδαλίσω. Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος; Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἐλεύθερος; Οὐχὶ Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν ἐώρακα; Οὐ τὸ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ; Εἰ ἄλλοις οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος, ἀλλὰ γε ὑμῖν εἰμὶ· ἡ γὰρ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 25, Verses 31-46. It is found in our books on pages 281-283.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ: ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 25, ἐδάφ. 31-46. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 280-282.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SPANISH:** Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del Mal.

**ADOPT A PAVER:** As of today, we have 91 pavers "adopted." We are trying to schedule the inscription of the new pavers and a re-do of the old ones over a weekend when no rain is expected, as the paint cannot adhere to wet surfaces. We also need to wait until the courtyard drainage issues are resolved. The company will work with us as expeditiously as possible to get the work done. Meanwhile, we need someone to head this committee, which will reach out to other parishes and fellow Orthodox, both in our parish, the Bay Area, and throughout our Metropolis, and invite their participation. Our goal is to have all 750 pavers "adopted."

**INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY:** This class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey. It is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. We explore Christian theology and practice by reading selections from Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover) why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact **Alexandros Kozák** at [orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com](mailto:orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com). Note: The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month. It meets in the second-floor conference room, beginning at 9 a.m. The group is meeting this morning, February 23.

**KUDOS TO OUR YOUTH:** The Cathedral had four groups represent it at this year's Folk Dance and Choral Festival, which took place last weekend in Anaheim, CA. In our view, all of our teams are winners! Of the four groups, **To Mellon** won 4<sup>th</sup> place; **Revmata** got gold; and **Spithes** got silver. As is our custom, the groups will present their awards to the church, at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy. Note, all this would not be possible without the selfless dedication of our directors—**Lea Lyberopoulos, Irene Kyriacou, Lea Papavasiliou, Katerina Sarikakis, Eleni Taptelis, and Katerina Misthos**—and the support of our dance parents. To all of you—*efharisto*—your monetary and moral support of this program and of our children are what make all this worthwhile.

**GO RED SUNDAY:** Our Ladies Philoptochos is observing "Go Red Sunday," today, to draw attention to the National Heart Association's national movement to end heart disease and stroke in women. Find out more during today's coffee hour.

**PARISH COUNCIL TODAY:** The meeting will take place in the conference room, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

**JV BASKETBALL AT ANNUNCIATION TODAY:** 2 pm: St. Gregory and Annunciation Girls Elementary; 3 pm: St. Gregory and Ascension Boys Middle School; 4 pm Annunciation and St. Nicholas Boys Elementary School.

**BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK:** Practice for Middle School will not take this Wednesday, February 26. Practice for Elementary School boys and girls will take place this Thursday, February 27. Both practices at 7 pm.

**SATURDAY OF SOULS:** This Saturday, February 29, also known as Saturday of Souls, is dedicated to the repose of the souls of monastics. The Divine Liturgy and the Memorial service following, will be celebrated in our chapel, beginning at 10 a.m. The following Saturday, March 7, also known as Saturday of Souls, when we commemorate the Miracle of St. Theodore, Tyro, the services will take place in our chapel, at 10 a.m.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY:** As we are looking to develop our catechetical program further and to increase participation, all our parents are being invited to take part in a survey concerning aspects of this program. It should take only a few minutes to complete: <http://bit.ly/2TZkc91>, or look for a QR code posted in the halls which will take you to the survey. In either case, we would appreciate hearing from you, as the last day of response collection is March 1.

**SUNDAY STREETS: MARCH 8: MINI GREEK FESTIVAL:** Valencia Street will be closed to through traffic on Sunday, March 8. Our parking will be open for the Divine Liturgy. We are in the process of partnering with Sunday Streets in order to hold a "mini Greek festival" just outside the Cathedral, to encourage support and activity at this northern end of Valencia Street where, in the past, there is very little going on. By offering gyros and other delectable, and some music, we're hoping to draw attention to this northerly part of Valencia Street and, of course, to our vibrant community, which has existed on this spot for nearly 100 years.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Your support makes possible the very existence of this parish, and its ability to offer Liturgical services, educational, & philanthropic programs. Let's meet our goal of 400 Stewardship pledges for 2020. As of today, we have 120 2020 Stewards. We thank you for your support. In case you have misplaced your card, additional cards are available at the *pangari*. For questions about Stewardship, please see our Stewardship chair, **Dean Nicolacakis**.

**PARKING:** At long last! Our Final Fire and Electrical Inspections took place, December 3, 2019. We passed inspection! However, the holdup is in the Building Department, whose approval we need so that we may take the final step—a hearing at our local Police Department, and the issuance of our occupancy permit for the garage and subsequent operation of the garage per our Conditional Use Permit agreement. The Building Department insisted we get the final doors and gates installed, as well as building up the lobby to meet a one hour burn criterion. The latter was recently done. The lobby doors are being installed. The installation of the gates, meanwhile, began this week, and are about half done. We can't wait for the day when the parking is up and running! As we go forward, let's stay positive and focused. Consider what you have accomplished so far! As with Moses, 3200 years ago, so in our own day we hear God speaking, telling us: ***“Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.”*** (from the Septuagint: *Και ποιήσεις μοι ἄγίασμα, και ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). All this requires vision, determination and faith. You have it all: keep reminding yourselves. You are accomplishing something extraordinary here, for you are building His sanctuary--a great sacred space, right the heart of one of the world's premier cities. Here, our Orthodox Christian faith is poised to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation to a whole new generation of worshipers! May God remember you always, in His heavenly Kingdom!



*“The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified.”*