

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 11 – Chapter 14, Verse 4. It is found in our books on page 137.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Κορινθίους Πρώτης Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 8 - κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 2: Ἀδελφοί, νῦν ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἡ σωτηρία ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν. Ἡ νῦν προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν· ἀποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ σκότους, καὶ ἐνδυσώμεθα τὰ ὄπλα τοῦ φωτός. Ὡς ἐν ἡμέρᾳ, εὐσημῶνως περιπατήσωμεν, μὴ κώμοις καὶ μέθαις, μὴ κοίταις καὶ ἀσελείαις, μὴ ἔριδι καὶ ζήλῳ. Ἀλλ' ἐνδύσασθε τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιήσθε, εἰς ἐπιθυμίαν. Τὸν δὲ ἀσθενοῦντα τῆ πίστει προσλαμβάνεσθε, μὴ εἰς διακρίσεις διαλογισμῶν. Ὅς μὲν πιστεύει φαγεῖν πάντα, ὁ δὲ ἀσθενῶν λάχανα ἐσθίει. Ὁ ἐσθίων τὸν μὴ ἐσθίοντα μὴ ἐξουθενεῖτω, καὶ ὁ μὴ ἐσθίων τὸν ἐσθίοντα μὴ κρινέτω· ὁ θεὸς γὰρ αὐτὸν προσελάβετο. Σὺ τίς εἶ ὁ κρίνων ἀλλότριον οἰκέτην; Τῷ ἰδίῳ κυρίῳ στήκει ἡ πίστις. Σταθήσεται δέ· δυνατὸς γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ θεὸς στήσαι αὐτόν.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 6, Verses 14-21. It is found in our books on page 285.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ: ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 14-21. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 284.

**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. 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 next Sunday, March 8, and also the following Sunday, March 15.

**GREAT LENT BEGINS TOMORROW:** At the end of today's Divine Liturgy, the altar covers are changed to reflect the Lenten journey that lies ahead. It's a 40day period of repentance, fasting and prayer that leads to Holy Pascha—the Resurrection of the Lord! We wish you a joyous Lenten journey and invite you to join us in prayer at our various Lenten services.

**DEMENTIA CARE GIVERS SUPPORT GROUP:** The group will meet this Tuesday, March 3, at 11 am.

**FIRST SALUTATIONS THIS FRIDAY:** On the first five Fridays of Great Lent, Salutations to the Virgin Mary are held in Orthodox churches. The origin of the service comes from 626 AD, when Constantinople was besieged by a the Avars. Patriarch Sergios led a procession around the city wall with an icon of the Theotokos, and the people prayed all night without sitting, hence the word *akathistos*. The City was spared. The service on the fifth Friday of Great Lent is known as the Akathist. Services on each of the Friday evenings begin at 7 pm

**SATURDAY OF SOULS THIS SATURDAY:** On Saturday, March 7, also known as Saturday of Souls, we commemorate the Miracle of St. Theodore, Tyro: it was revealed to him that he should warn Christians of the emperor's design to pollute the Fast and to eat boiled wheat (*kollyva*), instead. The services will take place in our chapel, at 10 a.m.

**JV BASKETBALL AT ANNUNCIATION TODAY:** 2 pm: Holy Cross and Annunciation Girls Elementary; 3 pm: Holy Cross and Annunciation Boys Middle School; 4 pm St. Nicholas and Holy Cross Boys Elementary School, 5 pm Annunciation and St. Gregory Boys Elementary School.

**BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK:** Practice for Middle School will take this Wednesday, March 4. Practice for Elementary School boys and girls will take place this Thursday, March 5. Both practices at 7 pm. Meanwhile, Varsity practice will begin this Tuesday, March 3, at 7:30 p.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. Look for a QR code posted in the halls which will take you to the survey. Today is the last day

**SUNDAY STREETS NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8: MINI GREEK FESTIVAL:** Valencia Street will be closed to through traffic next Sunday, March 8. Our parking will be open for the Divine Liturgy. Come down 14<sup>th</sup> Street and tell the volunteers you are attending church; you will turn left onto Valencia Street and into our parking lot. We are also 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:** Having passed our Final Fire and Electrical Inspections on, December 3, 2019, we are complying with additional requirements imposed by the Building Department, namely, an interior fire rated wall, the final lobby doors, the Valencia Street gates and the walkway from the lobby to Valencia Street, so that we can implement our Conditional Use Permit and operate the garage full-time. We are concurrently addressing drainage issues. 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: *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγιον ἕδος, καὶ 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."*