

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 24-26, 32-40. It is found in our books on pages 138-139.

**Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 11, ἐδάφ. 24-26, 32-40:** Ἀδελφοί, πίστει Μωϋσῆς μέγας γενόμενος ἠρνήσατο λέγεσθαι υἱὸς θυγατρὸς Φαραῶ, μᾶλλον ἐλόμενος συγκαουχεῖσθαι τῷ λαῷ τοῦ θεοῦ ἢ πρόσκαιρον ἔχειν ἁμαρτίας ἀπόλαυσιν· μείζονα πλοῦτον ἠγησάμενος τῶν Αἰγύπτου θησαυρῶν τὸν ὀνειδισμόν τοῦ Χριστοῦ· ἀπέβλεπεν γὰρ εἰς τὴν μισθοποδοσίαν. Καὶ τί ἐτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείπει γὰρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεῶν, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψών καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν· οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβησαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφρυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἄλλοτρίων. Ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τούτων νεκρούς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμpanίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἐτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον· περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχοῦμενοι - ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος - ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄπαις τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες, μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως, οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τὸ προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελεωθῶσιν.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 1, Verses 41-51. It is found in our books on pages 289-291.

**Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ:** ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 41-51. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 288-290.

**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 92 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.

**TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY:** The brief service at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great commemorates the restoration of icons and, generally, of religious symbols at the Seventh Ecumenical Council, held in 787 AD and, effectively, in 843 AD.

**PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING:** The Ladies Philoptochos will meet in the conference room, beginning at 12:30 pm

**TODAY IS SUNDAY STREETS:** Valencia Street is closed to through traffic, although we are accessing our parking for purposes of attending the Divine Liturgy. Sunday Streets is a big block party that takes place twice a year. Shops and restaurants participate in selling street food to the public, and there is music playing, games, and the like for the enjoyment of the general public. For the first time, the Cathedral is participating by selling gyros, frappés, fakés soup, and saláta to all those walking by. You are all invited to enjoy the food, music, weather, and paréa! We hope this will develop into a mini Greek festival, bringing people to this end of Valencia Street, where the Cathedral has had its home for almost 100 years.

**SECOND 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

**DEALING WITH THE CORONAVIRUS:** Health officials advise hand washing is the most effective way of staving off this virus. We should also refrain from the normal ways we greet one another, through handshakes and hugs. It goes without saying that if someone is not feeling up to par, that person should stay at home. Meanwhile, and until further notice, we are adjusting our Community Kitchen format: instead of having guests assemble for a meal, we will package dinners in to-go boxes and distribute them for takeout. We earnestly pray for the abatement of this disease, as we take steps necessary to protect ourselves and one another.

**JV BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS/CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Playoffs will take place this Saturday, March 14 at Saint Nicholas, San Jose, as follows: Girls Elementary School teams at 10 am and 11 am; Boys Elementary School at 12 noon and 1 pm, and Boys Middle School at 2 pm and 3 p.m. The Championships will take place on Sunday, March 15 at the Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, as follows: Girls Elementary School at 2 pm, Boys Elementary School at 3:15 pm, Girls Middle School at 4:30 pm, and Boys Middle School at 5:45 pm.

**BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK:** Practice for Middle School will take this Wednesday, March 11. Practice for Elementary School boys and girls will take place this Thursday, March 12. Both practices at 7 pm. Meanwhile, Varsity practice will take place this Tuesday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m.

**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 ἁγίασμα, 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."*