

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, Chapter 3, Verses 3-29; Chapter 4, Verses 1-5: Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Ὁ Απόστολος, Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 3, ἐδάφ. 3-29; κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 1-5.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 9, Verses 27-35 At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 27-35.

**Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Six (Plagal 2):**

When the angelic powers appeared at your tomb, those who guarded You became as though dead. And, standing by your sepulcher was Mary, seeking your pure and sacred body. You did vanquish Hades and, uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin bestowing the gift of life. From the dead You arose, O Lord: we give glory to You.

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἀχραντὸν σου Σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ: ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωροῦμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

**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.

**TODAY'S MNEMOSYNON:** This morning's memorial is being offered for the repose of the souls of: **Dionysios Vorrises, 45 years; Vassiliki Vorrises, 9 years; Ioanna Meintani, 10 years; and Harry Jensen, III.** Αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

**LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE:** Thank you for lighting a virtual candle every Sunday, thus keeping hope alive. Whether you donate \$1 or \$1,000, your gift is one of faith. It helps keep the Cathedral solvent during this universal upheaval. More importantly, it connects us to Him who is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and reminds us of our calling to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). Keep on lighting your virtual candles! To do so, please visit our web site, [www.annunciation.org](http://www.annunciation.org), and click on the appropriate link, or enter <https://annunciation.org/candle>

**VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR ON PAUSE:** Since its inception, our Virtual Coffee Hour has enabled our parishioners to visit with one another socially, following the Divine Liturgy. Effective today, virtual coffee hour is on pause; we will inform you when it resumes. Additional information can be found at <https://annunciation.org/virtual-coffee-hour>

**FESTIVAL COMMEMORATIVE BOOK:** Even though we will not be able to hold our Food Festival in September, we will, nevertheless, be publishing a Program Book, which is a big hit year after year, in addition to its being a major source of funding for the Cathedral's ministries. Entitled *Physically Distant; Spiritually Connected*, the book is being printed in this, our 99<sup>th</sup> year as a community, which we are also celebrating. In addition to your ads and sponsorship pages, the book will also contain a **directory of the parishioners and friends of the Cathedral**. We invite you to be creative: instead of the usual "best wishes for a successful festival," consider a photo or two of your being sheltered in place during this COVID-19 pandemic, along with a narrative of how you're coping, how you continue to maintain your connections with one another. Contracts will be coming to you by mail in August, with a deadline of October 1. We invite your participation and continued support.

**REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH:** San Francisco's directive is still in place, namely that "religious gatherings and ceremonies" may take place "outdoors only (up to 12 people), with face coverings and social distancing." This means that Annunciation Cathedral may not open yet, as we had planned, with up to 40 congregants (25% of capacity, based on social distancing requirements). Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday services (as for example, August 15), remotely, through streaming. We are, of course, saddened that we may not open up for in-person worship, for the time being. However, the safety of our people is paramount. Let us continue to pray for one another in these challenging times, and let us stay safe.

**VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR CHURCH REOPENING:** When we resume in-person worship, we will need to have between seven (7) and ten (10) volunteers on hand each time the church is open to monitor the parking garage, greet and check in, ask health questions, usher, and provide general oversight. Are you able and are you willing to assist? If the answer is yes, please let us know, so that we can compile a master list of our volunteer pool and begin training. Please click on <https://www.annunciation.org/reopening-volunteer>. We look forward to hearing from you.

**INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES:** These very popular classes are taking place on a weekly basis, remotely, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alex Kozak. If you are new to the parish or you are considering being received into the Church through baptism and/or chrismation, as an adult, we invite you to speak with Alex about your wishes and the possibility of joining the Introduction to Orthodoxy class. Please contact him at [orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com](mailto:orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com).

**THINGS BEGINNING TO MOVE:** The present pandemic has put everything building-related on hold but, now, things are beginning to move again. The granite which along the Valencia Street walls and the stone cap have been installed. The roofing and drainage issues are being addressed as we write this. The gate people came out this week. We're now waiting for the lobby doors. As soon as we finish this and get our certificate of occupancy for the garage, we can open the garage to self-park. This is necessary if we are to open up the church, as the valet can guide us where to park, but can no longer park our cars for us. As a community, we've been through much, especially when we lost everything to the earthquake, back in 1989. But, we've bounced back. It wasn't easy, but we did it, because we have faith, we have hope, and we have unity. So, too, we will weather this pandemic and return to a so called "new normal," – i.e. a community where we may do things a little differently, but with the same strong faith in God. After all, it is for Him, in Him, and through Him that we continue to exist at all. Praise God for the Gift of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we are given the faith and the vision to rebuild His Church.



*"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."*