

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verses 1-17: Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Ὁ Απόστολος, Πρὸς Κορινθίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-17.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 14, Verses 14-22: At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 14, ἐδάφ. 14-22.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Seven (Grave):

O Lord, by your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at your command—that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing your mercy on the world evermore.

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέφξας τῷ ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας. Ὅτι ἀνέστης, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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.

THE AUGUST FAST: As we prepare to observe the Feast of the Dormition, on August 15, we offer the service of *Paraklesis*, daily, beseeching the intercessory prayers of the Mother of God. The service will be offered at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy will also be offered on Thursday, August 5, which is the Feast of the Transfiguration, beginning at 10 a.m. The services will be streamed.

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, 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 99th 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.

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."