

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians, Chapter 3, Verses 4-11: Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Κολοσσαεῖς Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 3, ἐδάφ. 4-11.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, Chapter 14, Verses 16-24: The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν κεφ. 14, ἐδάφ. 16-24.

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

When You descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And, when You, from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory [to You].

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεώτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, 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 libranos del Mal.

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 <https://agkozak.com/intro>

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY: The Parish Council will meet at 12:30 p.m., remotely, as it has met every month since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY: Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our 2021 Stewardship drive. Stewardship is about **involvement**. It's also about **money**: Stewardship is all about giving back to God that which God has given us. In this way, we become Stewards of God's grace, as we read in 1 Peter 4:10: *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful Stewards of God's grace in its various forms*. Thanks to your faith, the Cathedral has been able to meet its budgetary expenses for 2020. We now invite your support for 2021. Stewardship cards have been sent out to our Cathedral community. Please complete and return your card by December 31st. A couple of new features this year. One is a check box asking you to identify your primary affiliation with the parish. This will help us better understand the various groups that make up the community. Another is a checkbox asking whether you would like to continue your 2021 pledge into 2022. A 2021 stewardship pledge card can be downloaded at <https://annunciation.org/pledge-card>.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD: Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our Annunciation Christmas card appeal! Today is the last day to have your name(s) included. The donation is \$25 per line. To pay on line, visit our web site: www.annunciation.org/donate/2020ChristmasCard. You may also send a check, payable to Annunciation Cathedral, and mail it to 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-2320. For changes or questions, please contact Annamaria Blaian (Baliana@aol.com) or Kalliope Fousekis (KalliopeF@aol.com), or call Kalliope at 650 591-5409. Help us get the word out to your family and friends in the community, so that everyone may be included. We wish you and your family members health and happiness during this holy season.

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). To light your virtual candles, please visit our web site, www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link, or enter <https://annunciation.org/candle>

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP: As San Francisco is currently under the Stay at Home order, churches are closed to in-person worship. It is still our goal to open as soon as it is safe to do so. Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday services, remotely, through streaming. Thank God for our Technology team, who are making this possible.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR CHURCH REOPENING: We thank Eleni Carter and Rada Nashawati (Paximadis) for offering to serve as volunteers, in addition to the members of our Parish Council. If you would like to join them, please click on <https://www.annunciation.org/reopening-volunteer>.

OUR ADOPT A PAVER PROJECT: The good news is all 100 pavers that have been "adopted" have been inscribed. The "walkway of honor" is quite a site, creating a special place in our courtyard.

CORRECTION: Please refer to the November-December Herald, d Philoptochos Section. The correct phone number to call Foula Vasilogiorgis to order a Christmas ornament is: 415 378-7200. You may also email her at Philoptochosornaments@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of the philanthropic efforts of Philoptochos.

INSPECTION OF THE ELEVATOR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED! The present pandemic has put everything building-related on hold. Nevertheless, things are moving. Granite along the Valencia Street walls and the stone cap have been installed. The roofing and drainage issues have been addressed. The gates are now virtually complete. The lobby doors have been installed. Stonecraft has put in the remaining pavers. We are now waiting for the elevator to be inspected. As soon as this is done, we will obtain our certificate of occupancy for the garage, so we can open the garage to self-park. Opening the garage 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."