

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

IGNATIUS THE GOD-BEARER; PHILOGONIOS OF ANTIOCH

## EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11 Verses 9-10, 32-40:

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 11, ἐδάφ. 9-10, 32-40.

## GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 1, Verses 1-25:

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-25.

**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 service is offered for the repose of the soul of our sister **Anna Tamaras**, who fell asleep in the Lord 25 years ago, and also for the repose of the soul of our brother (her husband) **Arsanes Tamaras**, who fell asleep in the Lord 391/2 years ago. Αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

**DIVINE LITURGY THIS FRIDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY:** On Friday, December 25, we commemorate the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Divine Liturgy will be streamed, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Cathedral takes this opportunity to extend best wishes for a blessed Christmas, and joy, peace, and healing for the New Year. This is the first time in its 100-year history that the Cathedral is closed to in person worship for Christmas. We pray that in 2021 we will all celebrate the Divine Liturgy in person, and receive the Holy Eucharist together.

**2021 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY, THROUGH DECEMBER 31:** Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our 2021 Stewardship drive. As of today, we are half way toward reaching our goal for 2021. Let us make 2021 a banner year for Stewardship. Please complete and return your Stewardship cards by December 31<sup>st</sup>. We ask for your assistance in encouraging your children, age 18 and above, to also submit a Stewardship pledge card for 2021. A 2021 stewardship pledge card can be downloaded at <https://annunciation.org/pledge-card>.

**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](http://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>.

**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>

**CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FOR THE GARAGE:** This is a milestone event for us! The City has passed our garage, enabling it to operate in accordance with the Conditional Use Permit which we received some time ago. Once we have picked up our permit from the Building Department, which should be available this week, all we need to do is to present the permit to our local police station, along with a copy of our lease with Golden Gate Parking, which will manage the lot for us, as well as evidence of their insurance. Once we open for in-person worship, parking for those attending services will be complimentary. At long last!!!

**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. Meanwhile, our certificate of occupancy for the garage has been issued. All we need now is the okay by our local police department and we're good to open the garage! Opening the garage is necessary when we reopen to in-person worship. At long last!!! 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."*