

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Acts of the

Apostles, Chapter 6, Verses 8-15, Chapter 7, Verses 1-5, 47-60: In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. And the high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. "But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?' "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πράξεις τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 8-15, κεφ. 7, ἐδάφ. 1-5, 47-60.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel

according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 2, Verses 13-23: When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 13-23.

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.

DIVINE LITURGY THIS FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021: On Friday, January 1, we commemorate the Circumcision of Jesus Christ. We also commemorate the Feast of St. Basil the Great, whose Divine Liturgy we will be celebrating. The Divine Liturgy will be streamed, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Cathedral takes this opportunity to extend best wishes for the New Year. We pray that in 2021 life will begin to normalize. We look forward, in earnest, to the day when we will all celebrate the Divine Liturgy together, in person,

2021 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE: 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. We invite you to complete and return your 2021 Stewardship pledge card by December 31st. 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 keeps 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>.

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: As announced, 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!!!

YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB: We have decided to launch a virtual Young Adult Book Club in the interest of keeping our Young Adults connected during their time apart. A book club gives us the opportunity to learn more about our faith and one another as we will be meeting for regular virtual discussions. This project is being developed by **Andrew Miltiades** and **Christo Pappademos**. Please e mail them if you are interested in helping or joining. Andrew.miltiades@annunciation.org Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org

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."