

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, Chapter 4, Verses 5-8, Chapter 7, Verses 1-5, 47-60: TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Δευτέρως Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου 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 Mark, Chapter 1, Verses 1-8: The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-8.

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.

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>

DIVINE LITURGY THIS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021: On Wednesday, January 6, we commemorate the Baptism of Jesus Christ, as told to us in Scripture. Known as Epiphany (ἐπιφάνεια, 2 Timothy 4:8, or Theophany (θεοφάνεια, lit. the manifestation of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit) the feast is among the major feasts of the Lord. On this day, the Great Blessing of the Waters is celebrated, recalling Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan River. This will take place at the conclusion of the Doxology, and will be followed by the Divine Liturgy. The services will be streamed, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2021 STEWARDSHIP: 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 at your earliest convenience, if you have not already done so. We also ask for your assistance in encouraging your children, age 18 and above, to also declare their support for the ministries of the Cathedral by submitting their own Stewardship pledge card. 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, 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.

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 are planning 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 contact for more information. Andrew may be reached at Andrew.miltiades@annunciation.org or Christo may be reached at 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."