

### EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Second

**Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 6, Verses 1-10:** Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Ὁ Απόστολος, Πρὸς Κορινθίους Δευτέρως Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 1-10.

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

**according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 25, Verses 14-30:** The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'" As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 25, ἐδάφ. 14-30.

### 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.

**TODAY'S MNEMOSYNON:** Memorial services are being held today for the repose of the soul of our brother **Dimitri Haralabopoulos**, who fell asleep in the Lord 9 years ago. Ἀὐνία ἡ Μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2021 STEWARDSHIP:** Most of our Stewards have already sent in your Stewardship pledge cards for 2021, and we thank you. Your names will appear in our Honor Roll Stewards, in a forthcoming *Herald*. We ask you to reach out to your children, age 18 and above, so that they may 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](http://www.annunciation.org), and click on the appropriate link, or enter <https://annunciation.org/candle>

**REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP:** Although San Francisco has relaxed reopening guidelines, generally, churches remain closed to in-person worship. Worship outdoors is permitted; in our case, this is impractical. It remains our goal to open to in-person worship, however limited, 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:** We had hoped we would have picked up our permit from the Building Department by now, but it's not signed yet. Once it is signed, we will present it to our local police station, along with a copy of our lease with Golden Gate Parking, which will manage the lot for us. It's been a challenging role. One of these days it will happen, at long last!

**YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB:** Two weeks ago, we launched a virtual Young Adult Book Club in the interest of keeping our Young Adults connected during their time apart. The group will meet the third Tuesday of every month and will hold a discussion around a book which they have agreed to read. For the next meeting, on February 16, we will be discussing C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, letters 1-10. For more information, please contact **Andrew Miltiades** or **Christo Pappademos**. Andrew may be reached at [Andrew.miltiades@annunciation.org](mailto:Andrew.miltiades@annunciation.org). Christo may be reached at [Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org](mailto:Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org).

**OTHER YOUTH GET-TOGETHERS:** We are pleased to inform you that various Youth Committees of the Parish Council met this week to schedule regular monthly meetings for our youth in each age group (includes Sunday School, Greek School, Dance, Athletics and Acolytes).

**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>. Alex will extend an invite to the meetings, currently taking place via zoom.

## THE PANDEMIC HAS SLOWED US DOWN BUT NOT STOPPED

**US.** The pandemic has slowed down everything building-related. Nevertheless, things are moving along. 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 are in. Stonecraft is laying the remaining pavers. Meanwhile, our permit for use of the garage has been issued but not yet signed. This week, the Architects have finalized the drawings, known as the bid set, for phase 2 (completion of the interior), at a cost of \$3.8 million.... 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."*