

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 6, Verses 16-18; 7:1: Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Κορινθίους Δευτέρας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 16-18, 7:1.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 15, Verses 21-28: At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 15, ἐδάφ. 21-28.

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

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death, and first-born of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας Ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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: Memorial services are being held today for the repose of the soul of our brother **John J. Eliopoulos, Jr.**, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago. Ἀώνια ἢ 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*. Meanwhile, 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 may 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: Our reopening Task Force met on Thursday, virtually, to plan for our reopening for in-person worship. The Task Force is hoping we can safely reopen in March. We will make the announcement as soon as we have a date. 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 the continuation of our liturgical life, even in this way, possible.

PERMIT TO OPERATE THE GARAGE: We are being given assurances that our permit to operate the garage will be signed any day now. As soon as 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: Three 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. Christo may be reached at Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org.

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

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."