

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

MEATFARE SUNDAY

MARTYRS OF CHERSON: BASIL, EPHRAIM & EUGENIOS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 8, Verses 8-13; Chapter 9 Verses 1-2: Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Κορινθίους Πρώτης Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 8-13, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 1-2.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 25, Verses 31-46: The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 25, ἐδάφ. 31-46.

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.

TODAY'S MNEMOSYNA: Memorial services are being held today for the repose of the soul of our brother **Michael Nicolas**, who fell asleep in the Lord 5 years ago, and for the repose of the souls of the members of the **Sioruis Family: Angeliki - 59 years, Mihalīs - 55 years, Panaiota - 15 years, Alexander - 3 years.** Ἀώνια ἢ Μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

AGAIN, 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 our April-May *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: As announced, our reopening Task Force met recently, virtually, to plan for our reopening for in-person worship. The Task Force is hoping we can safely reopen in March, specifically, on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25. Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday services, remotely, through streaming. To do so, please visit our web site, www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link. 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: Our permit to operate the garage has been signed. In turn, it was sent to our local police station, along with a copy of our lease with Golden Gate Parking, which will manage the lot for us. Mission Station will take the steps needed to acknowledge use of our lot in accordance with our conditional use permit. A follow up visit by the Fire Inspector was made; which is asking for a final ok from the Building department. Mission Station will then schedule a required hearing. It's been a challenging process, but we're almost there. Δόξα τῷ Θεῷ.

YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB: A month ago, we launched a virtual Young Adult Book Club in the interest of keeping our Young Adults connected during their time apart. The group meets the third Tuesday of every month and holds a discussion around a book which they have agreed to read. For the next meeting, we will be discussing C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, letters 11-20. 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: This Wednesday, March 10th our Youth Strategic Plan team will meet again to discuss online registration and the implementation of our coming virtual Hope, Joy, and Goya programs slated to begin in accordance with Lent. Stay tuned for updates and more information as Lent draws near.

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. Recently, the Architects have finalized the drawings, known as the bid set, for phase 2 (completion of the interior), for an estimated 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."