

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021

CHEESE FARE/ FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

BENEDICT THE RIGHTEOUS; EUSCHEMON THE CONFESSOR

AEPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 11 - Chapter 14, Verse 4: Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 13, ἐδάφ. 11 - κεφ. 14, ἐδάφ. 4.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 6, Verses 14-21: The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 14-21.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Seven (Grave):

O Lord, by your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at your command—that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing your mercy on the world evermore.

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέωξας τῷ ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θοῆνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας. Ὅτι ἀνέστης, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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 sister **Toula Caloyanides**, who fell asleep in the Lord 1 year ago, and for the repose of the souls of the members of the **Sia Sooklaris** family: **Mary Callas Taylor** - 30 years, **Pete Callas** - 41 years, **Artemisia Callas** - 20 years, **Maria Kiskis** - 13 years, **Eleni Callas Sampson** - 12 years, **Earl Sampson** - 3 years, **Nikolas Callas** - 23 years, **Eleni Callas** - 4 months. Ἀὐνία ἡ 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 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> During the past year, Father Stephen has been lighting your candles in real time. Beginning March 25, and going forward, as we open to in person worship, Father Stephen will no longer be lighting the candles. They will be lit, instead, by a Parish Council member. Those attending services in person will be able to light their own candles at the *pangari*.

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP: Our reopening Task Force met on Tuesday 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.

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."