

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

HILARION THE NEW MARTYR; HERODION THE APOSTLE (ONE OF THE 70 APOSTLES)

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 1 Verses 10-14; Chapter 2, Verses 1-3: "IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 10-14, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 1-3

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, Chapter 2, Verses 1-12: At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 1-12.

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

The stone that had been sealed before your tomb by the Jews, and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory unto our resurrected Christ, glory unto your Kingdom, glory to your Dispensation, O You who alone love mankind.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντον σου Σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν. Διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι, Ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῇ Ἀναστάσει σου, Χριστέ· δόξα τῇ Βασιλείᾳ σου· δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

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 MNEMOSYNON: Memorial services are being held today for the repose of the soul of our brother **John Sarikakis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 19 years ago. Αἰωνία 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, 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. As of March 25, and going forward, and 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: After being closed for a year, the Cathedral reopened to in-person worship on March 25, in accordance with our reopening guidelines. For the time being, in person worship is limited to no more than 40 persons. Pre-registration is required. In order to register, please visit our web site, www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link. Until further notice, strict protocols are being observed, as mandated by the CDC, our state and local health officials, and our Metropolis. These include the wearing of masks throughout the service, social distancing, and handwashing. There is no kissing of icons. Antidoron is not available during Holy Communion; it is distributed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, by means of tongs. There is no fellowship hour following the services. Going forward, we will continue to stream the services on Sundays and for Holy Week and Pascha, as noted in the schedule which was mailed with the reopening guidelines and our calendar, found at the bottom right hand side of our web site, www.annunciation.org.

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.

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."