

# SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY IN GREAT LENT: SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS

ANTIPAS OF PERGAMUM; TRYPHAINÉ THE RIGHTEOUS

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 6, Verses 13-20: BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 13-20.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, Chapter 9, Verses 17-31: At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 17-31.

**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:** Today's Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of our sister **Terpsi (Terpsichore) Varanis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 3 months ago. Αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

**PHILOTOCHOS EASTER BAKE:** The Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos is pleased to announce it will hold its Easter bake this year. Easter breads (*tsourekia*) are available (@\$20) as are *Koulourakia* (\$10 a dozen). Orders must be placed by Thursday, April 22. Your order will be delivered to your home on Thursday, April 29. To place an order, please call **Sophia Makras**, at 650-784-1775.

**WE HAVE REOPENED OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP:** Dear parishioners and friends of the Cathedral,

Now that we have officially reopened for in-person worship, we invite those of you that are comfortable doing so, to return to your spiritual home. We are currently allowed limited capacity at 40 congregants, so as to maintain social distancing guidelines. After so much time apart, it has been a joy to see each of you as you return one by one. Please visit <https://www.annunciation.org/liturgyreservation> to RSVP for upcoming services and [https://annunciation.org/images/Reopening/Reopening\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://annunciation.org/images/Reopening/Reopening_Guidelines.pdf) to view our Reopening Guidelines. We look forward to seeing everyone in-person soon!

**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 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>. During the past year, Father Stephen has been lighting your candles in real time. As of March 25, and going forward, now that we are 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*.

**UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA: TUESDAY, MAY 4 11:00 AM -11:45**

**AM VIA ZOOM:** An education program presented by the Alzheimer's Association® and brought to you by the Annunciation Cathedral will take place on Tuesday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. via zoom. Join us for this informative session. As you may know, since June of 2018, the first Tuesday of every month, our Cathedral was hosting an in -person Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group for families that have been affected by Alzheimer's. We are now offering our caregiver support groups online via Zoom.

The May 4 session promises to be informative: Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available for some symptoms, and Alzheimer's Association resources. There is no cost to join. However, registration is required. To register, please utilize the following: <https://tinyurl.com/ANNGRUAD>. For any additional information, please contact **Tessie Calligeros**, [tcalligeros@alz.org](mailto:tcalligeros@alz.org) or call, 408-372-9916.

## **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."*