

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 1, Verses 1-8: In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-8.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John, Chapter 1, Verses 1-17: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-17.

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.

TROPARIUM OF PASCHA: CHRIST IS RISEN! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

Χριστός ανέστη εκ νεκρῶν, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζῶν χαρισάμενος.
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs, granting life.

MOTHER'S DAY PHILOPTOCHOS EVENT: We have missed seeing you all this past year, and missed our traditions, one of which is our annual Mother's Day luncheon and fashion show. This year, since we still can't gather together, we have found some fun virtual ideas for you to connect with the special women in your lives. Please see the church's website, www.annunciation.org for more information on our virtual Mother's Day ideas. An email will also be sent to our members. Want to join this amazing Philanthropic organization? Please contact President, Janis Petrou, janpetrou@yahoo.com.

On Mother's Day, May 9th, Father Stephen will read the names of special women that we would like to honor in each of our lives. Please send in names of women, whose names you would like read, living or deceased. We would appreciate a small donation to Philoptochos, \$10 or whatever you feel comfortable donating to support our charitable work. Please send your list of names and donation to: Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos 245 Valencia St. San Francisco, CA 94103. All names must be received no later than Friday, May 7th.

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 or call, 408-372-9916.

WE HAVE REOPENED OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP: 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 to in-person worship. Please visit <https://www.annunciation.org/liturgyreservation> to RSVP for upcoming services and 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, 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. Going forward, now that we are open to in-person worship, the candles 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*.

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."