

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 6, Verses 1-7: In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 1-7.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, Chapter 15, Verses 43-47, Chapter 16, Verses 1-8: At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 15, ἐδάφ. 43-47, κεφ. 16, ἐδάφ. 1-8.

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.

TROPARION OF PASCHA: CHRIST IS RISEN! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

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

TODAY'S MNEMOSYNON: Today's Memorial services are offered for the repose of the souls of our brothers and sisters **Vasilia Papapsoma** (40 days); **John Dekaristos** (6 years); **Vassiliki Vorrises** (10 years); **Dionysios Vorrises** (45 years); **Harry Jensen** (2 years). Αἰωνία ἡ Μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY: Our Parish council will meet today virtually following Divine Liturgy at 12:30 pm to discuss the various matters and goings-on of our community. We thank the Parish Council members for their participation and all their work for the well-being of our Cathedral.

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!

GUIDELINE AWARENESS AND CORRESPONDING UPDATES: There has been discussion that the tier system which we have been following throughout the duration of the pandemic may be dissolved by San Francisco county on June 15th. If this is the case, thankfully we will finally be able to welcome back many more of our faithful for services. Although no official word has been given yet, we remain vigilant and ready to adapt our reopening protocol when the time comes.

As we progress and experience ongoing changes in the current restrictions in place, our Reopening Task Force will continue to meet and discuss best procedures to adapt to the coming guidelines so that we can welcome back more and more parishioners. Please be on the lookout for updated information regarding our in-person worship practices. After more than a year of restrictions it will be a true blessing to welcome more and more of our faithful back safely and accordingly.

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.”