

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verses 33, 40; Chapter 12, Verses 1-2: Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 1-11.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 10, Verses 32-33, 37-38, Chapter 19, Verses 27-30: The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 10, ἐδάφ. 32-33, 37-38, κεφ. 19, ἐδάφ. 27-30.

Today's *Apolytikon* (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Eight (Plagal Four):

Descending from on high, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be released from the passions of this world, You who are our Resurrection and our Life, Lord, glory to You.

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες, ὁ Εὐσπλαχνος, ταφὴν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης πῶν παθῶν, ἡ Ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

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: Today's Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the souls of our brothers and sisters: **Panayiotis Kouropoulos (10 years); Ioanna Mojsilovic (2 years) and Haralambos, Loukia, Nikolaos, Panagiotis, Maria, Hariklia, & George;** and also **George Tsokas (16 years) and Kerasa Tsokas (4 years).**

RETURNING TO FULL WORSHIP: Following the guidance by State and local health officers and our Metropolis, in light of the June 15, 2021 lifting of restrictions by the State of California, occupancy limits for in-person worship have been suspended. Reservations for in-person worship, therefore, are no longer required. However, mask wearing indoors continues to be required, both for those who are vaccinated and those who are not vaccinated. While 80% of eligible San Franciscans have been vaccinated, there are some who have not been vaccinated. We care for the health and well-being of all our parishioners. Sunday coffee hour will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. In September, we hope to open Sunday School and Greek School to in-person learning, and to reopen other programs and activities. Toward this end, we are reviewing the guidance from the State and City health departments. Announcements concerning these will be made in the near future. We welcome you, as we return to full worship and plan to reopen other pre-pandemic programs and activities.

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU: The last 16 months have been, as we know, challenging. Thankfully, we are recovering and are engaged in the rebuilding of our parish life and its many ministries. It is of vital importance that you continue to pledge and fulfill your support, through stewardship and, now that more and more people are being vaccinated, by in-person worship. In spite of the pandemic, 2020 was a banner year for us: we ended the year with 323 stewards (which includes 7 new families!). This year, however, we are reporting only 259 stewards, as of June 15, 2021. We know that some of you are waiting until later in the year to declare your support. We would encourage you to do so sooner rather than later.

GREEK SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL: All of our teachers and students are to be commended for overcoming the difficulties of this past year by holding classes virtually. Our Sunday School will resume in the fall (hopefully, for in-person instruction), on Sunday, September 26th. Similarly, our Greek School will resume in the fall (again, hopefully, for in-person instruction) on Saturday, September 11. Our Reopening Taskforce is considering mandating that all children who participate in church programs must be vaccinated, as vaccines are available to them.

THE CATHEDRAL TURNS 100: 100 years ago, on May 17th, 1921 a banquet was held at the Fairmont Hotel, celebrating the decision to establish the Cathedral. Two days later, on May 19, a group of San Francisco Greeks, ostensibly the first Parish Council, met to discuss a path forward. The former Archbishop of Athens, **Meletios Metaxakis**, presided over the meeting and noted how, at the Fairmont Hotel (in the Gold Room, specifically) two days earlier, "a decision was made to establish the cathedral church..." The next day, May 20, the Council met again, with Metaxakis presiding, and decided to purchase property at Hayes and Pearce Streets and to erect the cathedral there, along with a school, diocesan offices, and an orphanage. Articles of Incorporation were submitted on Jun 29 and, on June 30, the fledgling Parish Council held its 19th meeting since the establishment of the community six weeks earlier. The rest is history. In 1928, the community voted to relocate to its present location on Valencia Street. And the Cathedral's 100-year-old story continues from there. But, it all began on May 17, 1921. It began with a vision and with a decision. The vision continues as we take up phase two of our current building project. This phase aims at completing the interior, with walls, furnishings, and iconography, and to consecrating the new cathedral on March 25, 2023. A beacon of our Faith and culture in the heart of San Francisco, for the next 100 years and beyond!

FESTIVAL THIS YEAR? Our Festival Committee is hard at work to see how it can be done. Save 9/17 – 9/19.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR PHASE 2 HIRED. This week, the Parish Council, acting on the recommendation of the Building Committee, hired Joel Josehart as construction manager to coordinate and oversee the completion of the interior of the new cathedral. We are in the process of interviewing contractors for the work. Joel will help us transition from contractors who built the exterior and bring to a conclusion some pending matters, as the garage. Meanwhile, the Capital Campaign Committee has resumed its task of raising the funds to complete the project, estimated at \$4 million. The Cathedral already has on hand the \$1.5 million bequest by the late Sam George as well as money from the paver project... 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."