

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

ANDREW, BISHOP OF CRETE; KYPRILLA THE MARTYR

INDEPENDENCE DAY

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, Chapter 2, Verses 10-16: Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 10-16.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 4, Verses 18-23: At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 18-23.

Today's *Apolytikon* (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: Today's Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of our brother **John J. Eliopoulos, Jr.**, who fell asleep in the Lord 6 months ago. Αἰωνία ἡ Μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

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.

FESTIVAL THIS YEAR? Our Festival Committee is hard at work to determine whether we can hold this year and, if so, what kind of event it can be. We are holding the third weekend in September, 9-17 through 9/19.

YAL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 2-6: The in-person conference will take place at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Phoenix, AZ. It is open to all young adults from our parishes, featuring a weekend of fellowship, service, witness and worship. To enroll, and for additional information: www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL.

BAY AREA YOUTH EVENTS: JULY 10- BAY AREA FAMILY BEACH DAY: Bring your entire family or arrange for a parish carpool and join us in Santa Cruz for a Family Beach Day of fun from 12:00pm - 5:00pm at Seacliff State Beach with beach games, swimming, a sand castle competition, surfing lessons with Fr. Milutin, and Vespers at Prophet Elias at 6:00pm.

AUGUST 21, 2021 - GOYA END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION: Youth, grades 6-12, are welcome to join us for a fun hike in Novato followed by a Paraklesis service and BBQ at the church. For more information and to register: <https://gosfyouth.org/bay-area-summer-activities-2021>

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."