

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 6, Verses 1-10:** Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Κορινθίους Δευτέρας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 1-10.**

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 6, Verses 22-33:** The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

**Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 22-33.**

**Today's *Apolitikion* (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Two:**

When You descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And, when You, from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory [to You].

**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 Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of our sister **Ermina Haramis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago, and our sister **Terpsi Varanis**, 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 26<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**ANNUNCIATION BAY CRUISE:** Christo Pappademos, our Pastoral Assistant, is in the process of organizing a Bay Cruise, with a possible visit to Alcatraz, for our parish youth, the last Saturday in September (September 25<sup>th</sup>). If you are interested in helping chaperone, please e mail Christo at [Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org](mailto:Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org). The Bay Cruise is open to our young people of all ages.

**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>

**YAL CONFERENCE IN PHOENIX, SEPTEMBER 1-3:** This year's Young Adult conference will gather at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort. For more information, visit: [www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL](http://www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL)

**CONSTRUCTION BIDS EXPECTED.** We are expecting bids from 5 contractors who were invited to bid on our project (completion of the interior of the new Cathedral). Immediately thereafter, our Building Committee will interview and select one of them. Meanwhile, construction manager. Joel is helping us transition from contractors who built the exterior and bring to a conclusion some pending matters, as the garage. Our Capital Campaign Committee has resumed its task of raising the funds to complete the project, currently estimated to be \$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."*