

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW : FATHERS OF THE 4th ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

EMILIAN, PAUL, THEA & WALLENTINI THE MARTYRS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus, Chapter 3, Verses 8-15: Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Τίτον Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 3, ἐδάφ. 8-15.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 5, Verses 14-19: The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπή ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 5, ἐδάφ. 14-19.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Three:

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death, and first-born of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιásthω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιτίας Ἰδοῦ ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY: The Parish Council will meet today, remotely, beginning at 12:30 p.m. In the stated agenda are issues pertaining to construction, for example, the selection of a general contractor for the interior of the Cathedral, and plans to hold some type of festival in September.

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.

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 25th). If you are interested in helping chaperone, please e mail Christo at 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

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."