

# SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW : DORMITION OF SAINT ANNA, MOTHER OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians, Chapter 4, Verses 22-27:** Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 22-27.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 8, Verses 28-34, Chapter 9, Verse 1:** At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 28-34, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 1.

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

When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished evermore, and Christ our God has risen from the dead, and granted to the world His great mercy.

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου μαθήτριάι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμενοι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος 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.

**RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH:** This morning, we are receiving **Natasha Asteris** into the Church, by means of the Sacrament of Chrismation.

**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. Sunday coffee hour will resume as soon as it is safe to do so, likely in September.

**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 269 stewards, as of July 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? YES:** Our Festival Committee met on Monday, July 19, to determine whether we can hold a festival this year. The committee decided to hold a festival with limited food items. These include take out of pre-ordered foods, as *pastitsio*, *moussaka*, and our Philoptocos-baked pastries, as well as the serving of gyros on site. The festival will take place as planned, Saturday, September, 18 and Sunday, September 19. Hours to be determined.

**IFESTIVAL 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM:** Meanwhile, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary Festival Ad book is in the process of receiving your ads, photos, and message. To date, we have 30 ads. Our goal is 100, especially in this, our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. What a wonderful opportunity it is to be included in this keepsake book.

**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."*