

# SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

## PROCESSION OF THE CROSS; THE SEVEN MACCABEAN MARTYRS

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, Chapter 12, Verses 6-14: Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 12, ἐδάφ. 6-14.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 9, Verses 1-8: At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 1-8.

**Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Five (Plagal 1):**

Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful, we both praise and worship Him for, in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure, and the dead He raised unto life though His all-glorious Resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκὶ ἀνελεθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείρει τοὺς τεθνεώτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

**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.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK:** Today we begin the August fast. This two-week period of fasting is in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition (the day on which we remember the death of the Virgin Mary), on August 15. A *paraklesis* service will be chanted today and on Wednesday, August 4, at 10 am.

On Friday, August 6, we celebrate the great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated, also at 10 am. Καλή Παναγιά!

**RETURNING TO FULL WORSHIP:** Following the most recent guidance by State and local health officers and our Metropolis lifting various COVID-19 restrictions, 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 when you are in church. This applies both to 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 17 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 31, 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 Philoptochos-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.

**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 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."*