

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 15, Verses 1-7: Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Ὁ Απόστολος, Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 15 ἐδάφ. 1-7.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 9, Verses 27-35: At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, 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. 9, ἐδάφ. 27-35.

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.

EXAPOSTEILARIA OF PARAKLESIS SUNG DURING THE AUGUST FAST: Ο γλυκασμὸς τῶν Ἀγγέλων, τῶν θλιβομένων ἢ χαρὰ, Χριστιανῶν ἢ προστάτις, Παρθένη Μήτηρ Κυρίου, ἀντιλαβοῦ μου καὶ ῥῦσαι, τῶν αἰωνίων βασάνων.

O sweetness of the Angels, O joy of those in affliction, and the protectress of Christians, O Virgin Mother of the Lord, come to my aid and redeem me from the eternal torments.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: The August fast continues. 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), next Sunday, August 15. A *paraklesis* service will be chanted today and on Wednesday, Aug 11 at 10 am.

ANNUNCIATION IS FULLY OPEN FOR SERVICES, HOWEVER: Effective August 3, a mandatory mask order is in place. Masks are required to be worn by everyone, vaccinated and unvaccinated alike while on the premises, until further notice. If you are not vaccinated we urge you to be mindful of your own well-being and of others and get vaccinated.

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU: The last 17 months have been challenging, Thankfully we are recovering, despite the most recent mask mandate, and are engaged in the rebuilding of our parish life and its many ministries. It is of vital importance that you continue to pledge your support through stewardship. Let's match what we did last year in terms of level of support. If you need a stewardship card we will be happy to mail one to you. Please call the Cathedral, at 415 864-8000. Cards are also available in the vestibule just outside the *pangari*.

GREEK SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES: 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 (hopefully for in-person instruction) on Sunday September 26. Similarly, our Greek School will resume (again hopefully for in-person instruction) on Saturday September 11. Our Reopening Task Force is considering mandating that all children who participate in church programs must be vaccinated, as vaccines are available to them.

FESTIVAL 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM: Thank you for your enthusiastic response to this year's Festival Commemorative Album. As it is being printed in this, our 100th year, the book is expected to surpass the one which was printed in 2020. What a wonderful opportunity to feature photos and history of your family members and loved ones. While the deadline is Aug 15, we would like everyone to be included, and will wait for your response. If you require a contract, we will be happy to mail one to you. They may also be found at the vestibule just outside the *pangari*.

YAL CONFERENCE: The conference will take place in Phoenix AZ, at the JW Marriot Desert Ridge Resort., Sept 1- 3. For more information visit: www.sanfran.goarch.org/YAL

YOUTH FAMILY BAY CRUISE: On Saturday, September 11, all Cathedral youth and their families are invited to join us for a cruise of the San Francisco Bay! We are planning for the 2pm departure time that day. We will be sailing on a Blue and Gold ship, which sails from Pier 39. Group tickets are about \$25. Per person. If you are interested in joining, please contact Christo at Christo.pappademos@annunciation.com to make your reservation and for additional information. We hope you will be able to join us.

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."