

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

11TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

ZACHARIAS THE PROPHET & RIGHTEOUS ELIZABETH, PARENTS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 9, Verses 2-12: Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος: Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 2-12 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 18, Verses 23-35: The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον κεφ. 18, ἐδάφ. 23-35.

WELCOME METROPOLITAN TARASIOS OF RHODOPOLIS: We are pleased to have with us today Metropolitan Tarasios celebrating the Divine Liturgy. His Eminence is the current Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Institute in Berkeley, CA. We are blessed to have him with us today!

GRAB & GO FESTIVAL: On Saturday September 18th and Sunday September 19th we will be holding our Grab&Go Festival which will feature items such as gyros for hot food purchase, as well as pastitsio and moussaka for take and bake options. For more information contact Festival Chair **Deno Konstantinidis** at deno.konstantinidis@annunciation.org and to pre order items, visit <https://sfgreekfestival.square.site>

ANNUNCIATION IS FULLY OPEN FOR SERVICES, HOWEVER: Effective August 3 a mandatory mask order 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. Cards are also available at 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. If you require a contract we will be happy to mail one to you, they can also be found at the *pangari*.

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 with Blue and Gold Ferries, which sails from Pier 41. Group tickets will be about \$25. If you are interested in joining, please contact Christo at christo.pappademos@annunciation.org 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."