

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE

THE FALLING ASLEEP OF THE APOSTLE JOHN, THE THEOLOGIAN

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the First Universal Letter of Saint John, Chapter 4, Verses 12-19: No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because he first loved us.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, ἐκ τῆς Καθολικῆς Ἐπιστολῆς Ἰωάννου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 12-19.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John, Chapter 19, Verses 25-27, Chapter 21, Verses 24-25: At that time, standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 19, ἐδάφ. 25-27, κεφ. 21, ἐδάφ. 24-25.

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 ἠδύοκσε σαρκὶ ἀνελεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείρει τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS TODAY: After a hiatus of 18 months, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sunday School resumes today, in person. We welcome our students as well as our teaching staff and pray that this school year will be enjoyable and inspiring, as we grow in the ways of the Lord, and learn our Faith, including Holy Scripture and the teachings of the saints, prophets and Church fathers. We follow the protocols put in place by our Reopening Task Force, including hand washing, sanitation, and the wearing of masks while indoors. The safety of our children is paramount and we thank everyone for your assistance and cooperation during these challenging times.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Building on our Ladies Philoptochos inaugural coffee hour last Sunday, our fellowship hour continues this morning, outdoors, out of concern for everyone's safety and well-being. Thank you, Grace, for overseeing this on behalf of our communicants. It's a wonderful way to get reacquainted with one another and to welcome visitors and newcomers to the parish.

GRAB & GO FESTIVAL: As announced, we are holding our Grab & Go Festival today, in lieu of our regular festival, due to COVID-19 restrictions. This affords us the opportunity to take home some of our favorite festival foods, such as *pastitsio moussaka*, *spanakopites* and *tiropites* (for basking at home), as well as our famous Philoptochos-baked *koulourakia*. Hopefully, you've pre-ordered, as the supply of our food items is limited. While you are here, enjoy a gyro "on the go," a tiny "taste of Greece," reminding us of festivals pre-COVID-19 and a taste of a full-scale Food Festival, which we hope to hold September 16, 17, and 18, 2022.

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU: The last 18 months have been 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 your support through Stewardship. Let us 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*. Take one for yourselves and one for each of your children, 18 years and older, whether they live at home with you, or whether they're living on their own.

PAVER PROJECT UPDATE: To date, 100 pavers have been adopted and inscribed along the courtyard walk of honor. An additional 25 pavers have been adopted and are awaiting inscription. What a wonderful way to be a part of our ongoing efforts to complete the Cathedral. The donation is \$2,000 per paver (up to 3 lines, 25 letters and spaces per line). For your convenience, descriptive brochures are located just outside the narthex. Or, see Jim Vorrises (jim.vorrises@annunciation.org) or Dr. George Ambus, george.ambus@annunciation.org.

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. We're getting ready to go to the printer's and, so, this will serve as "last call" to those who would like to be included in this 100th year anniversary publication.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR PHASE 2 HIRED. Recently, 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. 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.”