

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verses 9-10, 32-40: BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος Πρὸς Ἑβραίους ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 11, ἐδάφ.9-10,32-40.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, Chapter 1, Verses 1-25: (shortened for our bulletin text) So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-25.

40 DAY BLESSING: Today we welcome parents **Robert Lee** and **Eleni Kalligeros-Lee** as we receive their son **George William** into the church for his 40 Day Blessing. Congratulations! Να σας ζήσει! Long life to George William!

COFFEE HOUR TODAY: Today's coffee hour is being sponsored by the Kalligeros-Lee family on the occasion of their son's 40 Day Blessing. Please enjoy some refreshments in the gallery/courtyard area following Divine Liturgy today. Thank you to the Kalligeros-Lee family!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Our Parish Council will hold their monthly meeting today following Divine Liturgy to discuss all important church matters.

CHRISTMAS DAY LITURGY: This Saturday, Christmas Day, we will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord with Divine Liturgy. We welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos who will be present with us to celebrate this most joyous Feast Day. Χριστός Γεννάται! Δοξάσατε! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

PHILOTOCHOS VASILOPITA SALE: Ring in the New Year with a delicious traditional Vasilopita from our Ladies Philoptochos. Please visit our church website www.annunciation.org to order your own Vasilopita to cut and enjoy with your family. This is no better way to begin the new year. The vasilopites are \$20 each. Order yours today!

BASKETBALL IS BACK: Our Basketball program chairman, **Deno Konstantinidis**, with the assistance of our Athletics Board has made the necessary preparations for the Cathedral to be able to open up for basketball practices again following all SFDPH guidelines regarding COVID. Youth practices take place every Wednesday and adult practices happen every Thursday unless there is a schedule conflict with our gym. Church basketball has been a much welcome way for our kids to reconnect and have fun while getting some exercise. If you or your child is interested in playing basketball at the Cathedral, please contact **Deno Konstantinidis** at deno.konstantinidis@annunciation.org

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.”