

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

SEBASTIAN THE MARTYR & HIS COMPANIONS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul 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 Κολοσσαεῖς 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: The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. 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.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Today's memorial service is being offered for the repose of the soul of **Emily Lee**, 40 days since her passing. May her memory be eternal! Αἰώνια ἡ μνήμη!

ELPIDA TODAY: Today we will hold our December installment of Eplida! This is a reminder that children will be dismissed first to receive Holy Communion so that they can make their way to their classes. If your child or children are interested in joining our fun new Elpida program, please contact our Director Mia Fanourgiakis for more information! Mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY: Today the Parish Council will meet following Divine Liturgy upstairs in the conference room to discuss all ongoing matters of the Cathedral and our community.

CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER: Thanks to the efforts of **Kalliope Fousekis** and **Irene Kyriacou** we are holding our annual Christmas Card fundraiser. Please see Kalliope in the hall after Liturgy to sign up and have your name on this year's Christmas card! The suggested donation to participate is \$30.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES: We provide classes over Zoom for people who are considering converting to Orthodox Christianity and for Orthodox people who want to refresh their knowledge of the faith. Please reach out to Alex Kozak at <https://agkozak.com/intro> to learn more.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA: Instagram: @the_cathedral_sf, Twitter: @annunciationsf, Facebook: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral

PAVER PROJECT UPDATE: It is time to get more pavers inscribed in our courtyard! Join our "Adopt a Paver" program. To learn more, pick up a brochure at the *pangari*, call **Jim Vorrises**, Chair, at 650-464-1616 or email at iim.vorrises@annunciation.org



“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.”