

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Hebrews Chapter 6 Verses 13 – 20: BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος Πρὸς Ἑβραίους κεφ. 6 ἐδάφ. 13 – 20.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark Chapter 9, Verses 17 – 31: At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Ἡ σημερινή εὐαγγελική περικοπή ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον Κεφ. 9 ἐδάφ. 17 – 31

LENTEN SERVICES THIS WEEK: This week we will celebrate **Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday at 9:30am** and we will celebrate **The Akathist Hymn this Friday at 6:00pm**. We look forward to seeing you there.

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY TODAY: Today after Divine Liturgy there will be a Flag Raising Ceremony in honor of Greek Independence Day at Union Square. This will be a wonderful afternoon with a full program of events being hosted by Taso Zografors and the UHAS organization. Our Cathedral dance groups To Mellon and Revmata will be performing as well!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP THANK YOU: We thank everyone who came and attended the most recent gathering of our Men's Fellowship this past Thursday. We enjoyed a wonderful discussion led by Metropolis Family Wellness Professional George Papageorge and we enjoyed an great lented meal prepared by our participants themselves. If you are interested in attending our next gathering, please contact **Jim Rakos** at jim.rakos@annunciation.org

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON: Please join us in celebrating our 61st annual Philoptochos Mother's Day Luncheon & Fashion Show **Saturday, May 13, 2023**. This year, we'll be transporting you back to the 1800's in London, where the Bridgerton family lives, and the Royal family rules. This promises to be the event of the season! Additional details to follow soon. Please see the attached flyer and contact **Foula Vasilogiorgis** at annunciationmothersday@gmail.com or (415) 378-7200 for more information and to make a reservation as seating will be limited!

STEWARDSHIP: We invite you to prayerfully consider sharing the resources given to you by God by filling out our Stewardship card and pledge for 2023 today! Cards are available at the pangari and information wall. *"All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ."* Mark 9:23

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 <http://alexkozak.com/intro-to-learn-more>



“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.”