

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

SUNDAY BEFORE ELEVATION OF CROSS

MARTYRS MENODORA, METRODORA, AND NYMPHODORA

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Galatians Chapter 6 Verses 11-18: Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John Chapter 3 Verses 13-17: The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Apolytikion of the Feast:

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Θεοτόκε, χαρὰν ἐμήνυσε πάσῃ τῇ οἰκουμένη· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἀνέτειλεν ὁ ἥλιος τῆς δικαιοσύνης, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, καὶ λύσας τὴν κατάραν, ἔδωκε τὴν εὐλογίαν· καὶ καταργήσας τὸν θάνατον, ἔδωρήσατο ἡμῖν ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον.

Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth, for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing; and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life.

FIRST DAY OF ELPIDA: We welcome back all of our Elpida kids today for another year of religious education! Father Angelo will invite the children up for a Blessing of the Backpacks before Holy Communion. Then the kids will receive Communion first and be dismissed for class. We invited the rest of the faithful to come forward for Communion after the kids have received.

MINISTRY SUNDAY: Today in the hall following Divine Liturgy, we will be hosting our Ministry Sunday. Leaders from our various programs will be stationed at different booths to offer information to all who may be interested in joining! Come say hello!

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Festival Volunteers are highly needed for kitchen help and also other much needed areas. Volunteer forms will be available in the Narthex and for any questions please contact Deno Konstantinidis or Grace Koutoulas. Deno.konstantinidis@annunciation.org grace.koutoulas@annunciation.org

HELP US MARKET OUR GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL: We're excited that our Greek Food Festival is just around the corner on September 15, 16 and 17. Our marketing team is busy at work spreading the word about our amazing event...and hopes YOU will, too! So when you're next in church, please pick up a few posters and postcards that are on the display board just outside of the chapel. Hand them out to your friends, neighbors, and work colleagues – and ask them to post on their store-fronts or within their businesses, too. Let's make this the best attended festival ever!

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

PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-Today, following the Divine Liturgy, the Oath of Office will be administered to the newly elected 2023-2025 Philoptochos Board Members. We are blessed to have such a vibrant and compassionate group of women. Congratulations!

-Food Festival volunteers are needed to staff the pastry booth. Contact Grace Koutoulas to sign up for a shift at: 650-518-4657 or grace.koutoulas@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.”*

