

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians Chapter 6, Verse 10-17: Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke Chapter 13, Verses 10-17: At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Two:

When You descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And, when You, from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory [to You].

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἢ ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, δόξα σοι.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Next Sunday, December 17th, we will hold our Parish Council Election. All pledged parishioners in good standing are encouraged to come participate and cast their votes for Parish Council candidates running for the 2024 Board. We look forward to seeing you.

CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER: Send Christmas greetings to our community by placing your family's name(s) in the card for a donation of \$30. Pay by Paypal on our church's website. You can also make a check payable to "Annunciation Cathedral" and put "Christmas Card" in the memo line. Mail your check to: Annunciation Cathedral - Christmas Card 245 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94013. Members listed in last year's card, who participate this year, will be listed the same, unless name(s) need to be updated. Please email Irene Kyriacou (Irene.Kyriacou@annunciation.org) or Kalliope Fousekis for any changes or questions. You can also call Kalliope at [650-591-5409](tel:650-591-5409). Please help us get the word out to your family and friends in the community, so we don't miss anyone! We would love to add more names to our card. In order to be included in the card, we must receive your payment by December 10th. Wishing you health and happiness in this wonderful time of the year!

GREEK DANCE FUNDRAISERS: The dance groups will be selling Christmas Luncheon (12/17) tickets as well as raffle tickets for the mini Christmas trees after church today. Please stop by to learn more about these fundraisers and support our Greek Dance program as they prepare to represent us at FDF this February!

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES:

-Scholarships are being offered for the spring semester from the Philoptochos and Vellis Family. Access scholarship requirements and application on the church's website. Submission deadline is December 17th.

-Christmas pastries available for purchase (kourambiethes, melomakarona and baklava) during coffee hour on December 10th and only if supplies last on Dec 17th.

-Order your vasilopita during coffee hour or online. Last day to order is Dec 17th. Order pickup is Dec 30th from 10a-1p at church.

-Annual Crab Feed Friday, January 26, 2024. Save the date. More info to follow.

