

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from **Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians Chapter 6, Verses 16-18, Chapter 7 Verse 1:** Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from **the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew Chapter 15, Verses 21-28:** At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

**AN INVITATION TO HOST COFFEE HOUR:** We're excited to announce the launch of our revitalized coffee hour program to include a more complete offering for our parishioners to enjoy with their cup of coffee! Here's where you come in...we're calling on all ministries and organizations (and even our parishioners!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours over the course of the year. We'll supply the coffee/cream/sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (e.g., pastries, donuts, bagels & cream cheese, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable/cheese platters and assorted dips, or other similar items.) We're currently seeking hosts for the following Sundays: February 25 and March 2, 9, and 16. Please reach out to Irene Melitas ([irene.melitas@annunciation.org](mailto:irene.melitas@annunciation.org), or, 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

**STEWARDSHIP CALL:** We are all blessed with certain gifts. It is important to develop these gifts, multiply them and offer them back to God. Please take a moment to fill out your annual Pledge card and don't forget to fill out the back offering your skills and talents!

**ELPIDA LENTEN RETREAT:** On Saturday, March 30th we will be hosting our second annual Elpida Lenten Retreat! We already have about 80 kids registered, be sure to register your children as well! In preparation for the Retreat, we are also asking for assistance from those who would be interested in prepping crafts for the children. Please contact **Mia Fanourgiakis** for information about registering or helping us prep our crafts! [mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org](mailto:mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org)

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** Save the date for our next Men's Fellowship gathering on **Thursday, February the 29th**. As always, social hour begins at 6pm followed by prayer, dinner, and our program at 7pm. Please RSVP to Jim Rakos if you'd like to attend at [jim.rakos@annunciation.org](mailto:jim.rakos@annunciation.org)

**PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES:**

-**March 25th, Monday**-Please join Philoptochos in celebrating the Feast Day of the Annunciation with a luncheon. Save the date. More details to follow.

-February is Philoptochos Membership month. Become a new member or renew your membership. Your pledge helps us to continue our mission of helping those in need. Mail in the form or go to the church's website to complete.

