

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

KALLIOPIOS THE MARTYR, ROUFINOS THE DEACON, AND AKYLINA THE MARTYR

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Hebrews Chapter 4, Verse 14 - Chapter 5, Verses 6: BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark Chapter 8, Verse 34- Chapter 9, Verse 1: The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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

-Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death, and first-born of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

-Εὐφραίνεσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιτίας Ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Today's Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of **Tom Moulas**, 40 days since his passing. May his memory be eternal! Αἰώνια ἡ μνήμη!

COFFEE HOUR: Today's Coffee Hour is being offered by the Moulas Family in memory of Tom. They invite you for refreshments following Divine Liturgy today in his memory. We thank the Moulas Family!

LENTEN SERVICES THIS WEEK: Salutations, Friday April 5 at 6pm. We look forward to worshipping with you.

GOYA IS BACK: The Youth Committee is happy to announce that we are restarting GOYA! Our first GOYA event will be Make Your Own Pizza Night at the Cathedral on Friday, April 26. This event will also include a discussion with the kids led by Christo on the importance and significance of fasting during Lent. If your child is interested in joining, please email **Vicky Spachis** at Vicky.Spachis@annunciation.org

AN INVITATION TO HOST COFFEE HOUR: As part of our revitalized coffee hour program, we're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) 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 in May: the 12th, and in June: the 2nd, the 9th, and the 16th. Please reach out to Irene Melitas (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!

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES: - Easter Bake Sale-Place orders for koulourakia and tsoureki by **April 19th**. Pick up date is **Palm Sunday, April 28th**.

-**Epitaphios**-We are collecting donations that will go toward the purchase of flowers for the Epitaphios.

-**Palm Sunday Luncheon**-Please join us for a lenten buffet on **April 28th**, after the conclusion of Liturgy. More details to come.

-**Mother's Day Luncheon**-Make your reservations for this wonderful annual event to be held on **May 11th** at the Crystals Springs Golf Course in Burlingame. The cost is \$85/person. **Please note that all purchases/reservations/donations can be mailed in, made in person, or online.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SAVE THE DATE: Our next Men's Fellowship gathering will take place Thursday, May 23rd. Social hour at 6pm followed by dinner at 7pm. Please email Jim Rakos to RSVP if you would like to attend. There is no cost. jim.rakos@annunciation.org

