

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

TARASIOS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; REGINOS OF SKOPELOS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verses 24-26, 32-40. It is found in our books on pages 138-139.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος: Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 11, ἐδάφ. 24-26, 32-40: Ἀδελφοί, πιστεῖ Μωϋσῆς μέγας γενόμενος ἠρνήσατο λέγεσθαι υἱὸς θυγατρὸς Φαραώ, μᾶλλον ἐλόμενος συγκαουχεῖσθαι τῷ λαῷ τοῦ θεοῦ ἢ πρόσκαιρον ἔχειν ἀμαρτίας ἀπόλαυσιν· μείζονα πλοῦτον ἠγγησάμενος τῶν Αἰγύπτου θησαυρῶν τὸν ὀνειδισμόν τοῦ Χριστοῦ· ἀπέβλεπεν γὰρ εἰς τὴν μισθαποδοσίαν. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; Επιλείψει γὰρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψών καὶ Ἰερφάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν· οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβησαν δύνάμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων. Ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστιγῶν πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον· περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι - ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος - ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄποις τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες, μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως, οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρεῖττόν τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 1, Verses 43-52. It is found in our books on pages 289-291.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 43-52. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 288-290.

Today's *Apolytikon* (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Five (Plagal 1):

Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful, we both praise and worship Him for, in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure, and the dead He raised unto life though His all-glorious Resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκὶ ἀνελεθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY: (*Sundays, 9 a.m., upstairs*). This class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey. It is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. We explore Christian theology and practice by reading selections from Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover) why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact **Alexandros Kozák** at orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com. Note: The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month (rather than every Sunday). For March, the class will meet on Sunday, March 4, and on Sunday, March 11, both days at 9 a.m.

TODAY'S MEMORIAL SERVICES: Memorial Prayers are being offered today for the repose of the soul of our brother **James Dakis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago. Aionia I Mnimi!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Due to be held today, the Parish Council will meet, instead, next Sunday, February 25, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in the second-floor conference room.

SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT: HAIRETISMOI (SALUTATIONS) ON FRIDAY: The Great Lent, a period of prayer, preparation, fasting, and repentance, in preparation of Holy Pascha (the Resurrection of Christ), is characterized by additional weekday services. One of these is the Service of Salutations to the Theotokos. It is conducted on the first five Fridays of Great Lent, as this Friday, March 2, culminating in the Service of the Akathist (all four Stanzas of the Salutations Service are recited), on Friday, March 23. Services begin at 7 p.m. and last about an hour.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: Basketball practice will take place this Wednesday, February 28 and Thursday, February 29, beginning at 7 p.m., both days.

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU: We cannot stress how important it is for everyone, age 18 and above, who considers the Cathedral to be your home parish, to support its ministries through Stewardship. For, we are a family, and a family needs all its members doing their part, in order for it to be a happy, functioning family. In an effort to properly acknowledge and thank you for your support, we have listed the names of all Stewards (through February 15) in our March *Herald*. In case you've misplaced your card or if you wish additional cards for family members, these, as well as information about our Stewardship program, may be found at the *pangari*. They are in an envelope marked "Stewardship." We also invite you to direct any questions you may have concerning our Stewardship program, to Father Stephen or a member of the Parish Council Stewardship Team. Let's make 2018 a banner Stewardship year for the Cathedral. Together, we can do it!

CRAB FEED THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 3: As noted, this year's Crab Feed, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos, has been moved from Friday, January 26 to Saturday, March 3. The reason for the move was the unavailability of enough fresh crab to enable us to hold the crab feed in January. We trust you will be as supportive of the event this Saturday, March 3rd, as the crab feed is a major fund raiser for our Philoptochos. In turn, the Philoptochos supports a number of philanthropies, as well as the rebuilding of this Cathedral. For reservations: annunciation2018crabfeed@gmail.com

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS THIS EVENING: As today is the Sunday of Orthodoxy (the day icons and all religious symbols were restored in the Orthodox Church, first by means of the decree of the 7th Ecumenical Council, in 787, then, in fact, in 843, Orthodox of all ethnic backgrounds have been gathering to celebrate our oneness in the Faith. Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers will take place at the Holy Trinity Church, 999 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, beginning at 5 p.m. Bishop Daniel of the Serbian Diocese will be the homilist.

CLOSER AND CLOSER: We're in the home stretch. As you can see, we are nearing **completion of the exterior**. We've recently been awarded a conditional use permit, which will enable us to secure a third-party operator to run the parking. Tentatively, we've been given April 1, 2018 for utilization of our parking. As for the **interior**: we hope to locate a contractor by the end of 2018 for the upper interior wall installation. However, in order for us to continue, we need your prayers and your continued financial support. First, we have outstanding pledges, to the tune of \$550,000. May we ask you to make good on your Building Fund pledges? If you have not yet contributed, won't you consider making your gift? Your gift is fully tax deductible, to the extent allowed by law? More importantly, you will experience the joy of giving (and to such a historic undertaking!), helping make firm our presence as a Greek Orthodox house of worship in the *heart of our Great City*. In this way, we will be answering the call by God to Moses, when he said *"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you."* (from the Septuagint: *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). When everything is completed, we will be able to consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God. Most likely, this will coincide with our 100th anniversary, in 2021.



"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."