

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 4, verses 7-13. It is found in our books on page 155.

**Ὁ Απόστολος, πρὸς Ἐφεσίους ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 7-13:** Ἀδελφοί, ἐνὶ ἑκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ λέγει, Ἀναβάς εἰς ὕψος ἠχμαλώτευσεν αἰχμαλωσίαν, καὶ ἔδωκεν δόματα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. Τὸ δέ, Ἀνέβη, τί ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ ὅτι καὶ κατέβη πρῶτον εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς; Ὁ καταβάς, αὐτὸς ἐστὶν καὶ ὁ ἀναβάς ὑπεράνω πάντων τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἵνα πληρώσῃ τὰ πάντα. Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων, εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ· μέχρι καταστήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 4, Verses 12-18. It is found in our books on page 323.

**Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 12-18, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 322.**

**T Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Four:**

When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished evermore, and Christ our God has risen from the dead, and granted to the world His great mercy.

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου μαθήτριά, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμεναι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SPANISH:** Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del Mal.

**TODAY'S MNEMOSYNA:** We pray for the repose of the souls of **John Karas, Georgia Karas, and Steven Karas.** They fell asleep in the Lord 28 years ago, 15 years ago, and 13 years ago, respectively.

**PARISH VASILOPITA TODAY:** The Annunciation Cathedral Parish celebrates its *Vasilopita* today, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. You are invited to a champagne brunch following the Divine Liturgy. We thank the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos for always being at the helm of this celebration. It ushers in the New Year, and keeps the memory of St. Basil the Great alive. St. Basil (whose Feast Day we celebrated last Sunday), was bishop of Caesarea in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. He established a poorhouse, a hospital and a hospice in his diocese, and secretly provided dowries to poor girls, hiding money in breads which he had distributed to their homes. Hence, "St. Basil's Bread" or *Vasilopita*. Only today's bread contains a coin, as a remembrance of that generosity. Whoever finds the coin is said to receive a special blessing for the year.

**OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS TODAY:** As noted, seven individuals were candidates for election to a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2017. They are: **George Ambadiotakis Ambuis, S. Christopher Kyriacou, Vassiliki Moulas, Dean Nicolakakis, Manoli Nuris, Nick Rally, and Christopher Ramos.** Together with Father Stephen and the eight who were elected last year, they compose the Parish Council for 2017. Note: we have two new Parish Council members: they are Young Adults. Meanwhile, the eight members who were elected last year to a two-year term are: **Philippos Athanasiades, George Gavros, Deno C. Konstantinidis, Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., Thomas A. Nuris, Paul P. Sogotis, Nicholas Svetcoff, and James D. Vorrises.** The oath of office will be administered to the new members, at the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy. Immediately thereafter, (following the Vasilopita celebration in the hall) all 15 lay members, under Father Stephen's chairmanship, will convene to elect Parish Council officers for 2017.

**NAVARINO MESSINIAN SOCIETY MEETING TODAY:** The Navarino Messinian Society will meet in the second floor conference room today, beginning at 2 p.m.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP; THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITH-GIFTS TO REBUILD THE CATHEDRAL:** Periodically, we publish an "honor roll of Stewards" as well as an "honor roll of the 'Blessed Builders of God's Holy Church.'" We will do so in the February 2017 Herald. We thank those who have brought or sent in their 2017 Stewardship and encourage the rest of our Parishioners to do so by January 15, so that your names may be listed in the February Herald and your Stewardship acknowledged.

**BASKETBALL GAMES AT THE ANNUNCIATION:** Next Sunday, January 15, the Girls and Boys Elementary and Middle School games being played at the Cathedral are:

3 p.m.	Boys Middle School	Annunciation vs. Holy Trinity
4 p.m.	Girls Middle School	Annunciation vs. St. Gregory 1
5 p.m.	Boys Middle School	St. Gregory 1 vs. St. Gregory 2

**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, but 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 through reading selections of 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), week after week, why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact **Alexandros Kozák** at [orthodoxy-akozak@speakeemail.com](mailto:orthodoxy-akozak@speakeemail.com)

**GERTING THERE:** Now that the scaffolding is down, one can see this magnificent landmark which you are creating--the center of our Greek Orthodox faith in the heart of the City. You should be very proud. Go ahead and share the good news with your friends, relatives and neighbors. Invite them to come and see what you are doing in response to God's invitation, *"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you."* (Translated from the Septuagint: *Και ποιήσεις μοι ἄγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). Meanwhile, the contractor is completing waterproofing of the exterior, around the deck and around the garage. He is also building the entrenchment drain, the housing for the garage exhaust ducts, and, at the same time, restoring the archways. Connection to the sewers, on the Stevenson Street side, took place December 17. On the Valencia Street side, they will take place next week, on January 11.

As for the interior, we hope to complete much of it by the end of 2017, as your generosity permits. We need your prayers and your continued financial support. Now would be a good time to make that end-of-the year gift, resulting in a tax deduction for you and enabling the Cathedral to continue building. We hope to be done with the outside by March and to start using the garage by April, so that we can begin working on the interior. We plan to consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God to coincide with our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in 2021. God will bless us, indeed, if His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who laid the cornerstone back in 1997, also consecrates it to God's glory in 2021! Let's join together & move full-speed ahead to complete what we've begun.



*"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."*

(Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Ground breaking, November 6, 1997)