

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT (CLIMACUS)

ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM; THE MARTYR TROPHIMOS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 6, Verses 13-20. It is found in our books on page 144.

Ὁ Απόστολος: Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 13-20: Ἀδελφοί, τῷ Ἀβραάμ ἐπαγγειλάμενος ὁ θεός, ἐπεὶ κατ' οὐδενὸς εἶχεν μείζονος ὁμόσαι, ὥμοσεν καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων, Ἦ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε, καὶ πληθύνων πληθυνῶ σε. Καὶ οὕτως μακροθυμήσας ἐπέτυχεν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας. Ἄνθρωποι μὲν γὰρ κατὰ τοῦ μείζονος ὁμνύουσιν, καὶ πάσης αὐτοῖς ἀντιλογίας πέρας εἰς βεβαίωσιν ὁ ὄρκος. Ἐν ᾧ περισσότερον βουλόμενος ὁ θεός ἐπιδειξάτω τοῖς κληρονόμοις τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τὸ ἀμετάθετον τῆς βουλῆς αὐτοῦ, ἐμεσίτευσεν ὄρκῳ, ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων, ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι θεόν, ἰσχυρὰν παράκλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένης ἐλπίδος· ἦν ὡς ἄγκυραν ἔχομεν τῆς ψυχῆς ἀσφαλῆ τε καὶ βεβαίαν, καὶ εἰσερχομένην εἰς τὸ ἐσώτερον τοῦ καταπετάσματος· ὅπου πρόδρομος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν εἰσηλθεν Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ ἀρχιερεὺς γενόμενος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, Chapter 9, Verses 17-31. It is found in our books on pages 295-299.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 17-31. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 294-298.

Today's *Apolytikon* (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Eight (Plagal Four):

Descending from on high, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be released from the passions of this world, You who are our Resurrection and our Life, Lord, glory to You.

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθεις, ὁ Εὐσπλαχνος, ταφήν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν παθῶν, ἡ Ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

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). In April, the class will meet on April 15 and on April 29, beginning at 9 a.m. The class meets in the second-floor conference room.

TODAY IS GODPARENTS SUNDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL: For almost thirty years, the Cathedral has been observing "Godparents Sunday" on the Sunday before Palm Sunday. However, since that Sunday falls on March 25 (next Sunday), we have named this Sunday as "Godparents Sunday." It is a special opportunity for you to have called your Godparents, or your Godchildren, and to have invited them to come and worship together. Just before Holy Communion is offered, we will recite our Baptismal vows.

1. Do you renounce Satan? R: I renounce Satan. Ἀποτάσσει τῷ Σατανᾶ; Ἀποτάσσομαι.

OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS, RECITED JUST PRIOR TO RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION:

- 1. Do you renounce Satan? R: I renounce Satan. Ἀποτάσσει τῷ Σατανᾶ; Ἀποτάσσομαι.**
- 2. Have you renounced Satan? R: I have renounced Satan. Ἀπετάξω τῷ Σατανᾶ; Ἀπεταξάμην.**
- 3. Do you join yourself to Christ? R: I do. Συντάσσει τῷ Χριστῷ; Συντάσσομαι.**
- 4. Have you joined yourself to Christ? R: I have. Συνετάξω τῷ Χριστῷ; Συνεταξάμην.**
- 5. And, do you believe in Him? R: I believe in Him as King and as God. Καὶ πιστεύεις Αὐτῷ; Πιστεύω Αὐτῷ ὡς Βασιλεὶ καὶ Θεῷ.**

MNEMOSYNON: This morning's Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the soul of our brother **John Sarikakis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 16 years ago. Αἰώνια ἡ μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

40 DAY BLESSING: This morning we welcome 40 day-old **Quinn Rose**, daughter of **Dana & Charles Spiliotis**. Να μας ζήσει! Long life!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY: The Parish Council will meet today beginning at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in the second-floor conference room.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: THE AKATHIST THIS 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, culminating in the Service of the Akathist (all four Stanzas of the Salutations Service are recited), which will take place this Friday, March 23. Services begin at 7 p.m.

GREAT VESPERS THIS SATURDAY: It's the Feast of the Annunciation. The Great Event of the Incarnation, when the Virgin Mary was visited by the Archangel Gabriel and told she had found favor with God and would become the one to give human birth to the Word. On Saturday, March 24, Great Vespers will be celebrated, with Bay Area clergy invited to participate. The service will begin at 7 p.m. Following, dinner will take place, the offering of **Angelo Koutoulas**. Angelo celebrates his Name Day on March 25, as do all whose names are **Evangelos or Evangelia** (after *Evangelismos*, which means Annunciation).

DIVINE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED: This will be celebrated on Friday, March 30, at 6:30 p.m.

SOCKS DRIVE: We are having a socks drive all during the month of March. The socks will be given out to our guests who come to Community Kitchen. The next Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, March 20. Won't you bring a packet of new socks, please, and leave it at the pangari. You will be helping keep someone's feet warm.

BASKETBALL THIS WEEK: Varsity (High School and Adult) basketball practice will take place this Thursday, March 22, beginning at 7 p.m.

CLOSER AND CLOSER: We're in the home stretch. Notice, the pavers being laid in the courtyard and all around the new Cathedral. Notice the walls along Valencia Street and the new sidewalk along Stevenson Street. As announced, we've recently been awarded a conditional use permit, which will enable us to secure a third-party operator to run the 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. We still have outstanding pledges, to the tune of \$550,000. Won't you 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: *Και 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."