

## SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018

### THE ANNUNCIATION OF/TO THE THEOTOKOS

#### EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Letter

**to the Hebrews, Chapter 2, Verses 11-18:** Brethren, he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me. Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

#### Ὁ Ἀπόστολος: Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 11-18:

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ ἀγιαζὼν καὶ οἱ ἀγιαζόμενοι, ἐξ ἑνὸς πάντες· δι' ἣν αἰτίαν οὐκ ἐπαισχύνεται ἀδελφούς αὐτοὺς καλεῖν, λέγων, Ἀπαγγεῶ τὸ ὄνομά σου τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς μου, ἐν μέσῳ ἐκκλησίας ὑμνήσω σε. Καὶ πάλιν, Ἐγὼ ἔσομαι πεπειθῶς ἐπ' αὐτῷ. Καὶ πάλιν, Ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ καὶ τὰ παιδιά ἃ μοι ἔδωκεν ὁ θεός. Ἐπεὶ οὖν τὰ παιδιά κεκοινωνήκεν σαρκὸς καὶ αἵματος, καὶ αὐτὸς παραπλησίως μετέσχεν τῶν αὐτῶν, ἵνα διὰ τοῦ θανάτου καταργήσῃ τὸν τὸ κράτος ἔχοντα τοῦ θανάτου, τοῦτ' ἔστιν τὸν διάβολον, καὶ ἀπαλλάξῃ τούτους, ὅσοι φόβῳ θανάτου διὰ παντὸς τοῦ ζῆν ἔνοχοι ἦσαν δουλείας. Οὐ γὰρ δήπου ἀγγέλων ἐπιλαμβάνεται, ἀλλὰ σπέρματος Ἀβραάμ ἐπιλαμβάνεται. Ὅθεν ὤφειλεν κατὰ πάντα τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς ὁμοιωθῆναι, ἵνα ἐλεήμων γένηται καὶ πιστὸς ἀρχιερεὺς τὰ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, εἰς τὸ ἰλάσσεσθαι τὰς ἁμαρτίας τοῦ λαοῦ. Ἐν ᾧ γὰρ πέπονθεν αὐτὸς πειρασθεῖς, δύναται τοῖς πειραζομένοις βοηθῆσαι.

#### GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 1, Verses 24-38.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 24-38.

#### Today's *Apolytikion* (Dismissal Hymn):

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ κεφάλαιον καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος μυστηρίου ἢ φανέρωσις· ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζειται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαίρει, κεχαριτωμένη· ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Today is the crown of our salvation and the manifestation of the mystery that is from all eternity. The Son of god become the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good tidings of grace. Therefore, let us also join him and cry aloud to the Theotokos: Hail, you who are full of grace: the Lord is with you.

**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](mailto: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 THE GREAT FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION:** The Divine Liturgy is being celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Apostolos of Medeia. His Grace also presided over the Office of Great Vespers, last evening, as well as the Orthros, this morning. Thank you, your Grace, for your presence and blessing.

**ARTOCLASIA:** This morning's Service of the Breaking of the Bread, held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and in conjunction with the Doxology on the occasion of March 25<sup>th</sup>, the anniversary of Greek Independence, is being offered by **Angelo (Evangelos) Koutoulas**. We thank Angelo for providing the dinner following last night's Great Vespers.

**TODAY'S LUNCHEON:** The Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos is sponsoring today's luncheon of *psari plaki*, following the Divine Liturgy, Doxology, and Artoclasia services. The donation is \$25 per person. Your donation helps support the philanthropic ministries of the Ladies Philoptochos. We thank **Despina Kokalis** for her donation of the fish, and also **Mike Sarikakis** and **Cynthia Vlahos**, for their donation of the wine. Meanwhile, our Ladies Philoptochos will be conducting their Easter Bake this Wednesday, March 28, Thursday, March 29, and Friday, March 30, and would appreciate your assistance.

**DIVINE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS 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 Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, which will be celebrated **this Friday, March 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** While this is being billed as a "Young Adult Service," everyone is welcome. A light Lenten meal will follow the Liturgy. Characteristic of the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is that the *Ammos*--that which we receive in Holy Communion--the Body and Blood of Christ--is being consecrated at today's Divine Liturgy, hence the term "pre-sanctified." Regular Divine Liturgies are not celebrated Monday through Friday in Great Lent, with one exception: on the Feast of the Annunciation. This Friday's Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be celebrated by **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos**.

**DIVINE LITURGY:** The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated this Saturday, the Raising of Lazarus from the Dead, beginning at 10 a.m. Following, our GOYA group will prepare the palms for Palm Sunday.

**SOCKS DRIVE:** We are having a socks drive all during the months of March and April. The socks will be given out to our guests who come to Community Kitchen. The most recent Community Kitchen took place this past Tuesday. The next Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, April 17. 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 Wednesday, March 28 and Thursday, March 29, beginning at 7 p.m.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MEETING:** The meeting will take place this Wednesday, March 28, beginning at 7 p.m.

**GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER:** 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 \$528,000. 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, και 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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."*