

## Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: December 21, 2014

### SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

### JULIANA & THE 630 MARTYRS; THE MARTYR THEMISTOKLES

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Epistle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 9-10 and 32-40. It is found in our books on pages 150-151.

**Πρὸς Ἐβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 11, ἐδάφ. 9-10 καὶ 31-40:** Πίστει παρώκησεν εἰς γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σινηαῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς · ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοῦς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ θεός. Καὶ τί ἐτι λέγω; ἐπιλείπει με γὰρ διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ, Σαμψών, Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελίων, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρης, ἐδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων · ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοῦς νεκροῦς αὐτῶν · ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν · ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς · ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίσθησαν, ἐν φόβῳ μαχαίρης ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐπὶ ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄπαις τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according Matthew, chapter 1, verses 1-25. It is found in our books on pages 311-317.

**Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1 – 25, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 310-316.**

**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 φαῖδρον 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.

**METROPOLITAN ANTHONY OF SAN FRANCISCO: TEN YEARS:** Today's mnemosynon is being held here at his Cathedral and throughout our Metropolis for the repose of the soul of Metropolitan Anthony, who died on Christmas Day in 2004. May his memory be eternal! Meanwhile, please refer to the enclosed tribute, written by **Father John Bakas**, for the occasion. Δεκαετήσιο μνημόσυνον ὑπὲρ ἀναπαύσεως Ἀντωνίου Ἀρχιερέως, Ἀρχιεπισκόπου καὶ Πατρὸς ἡμῶν γενομένου. Ὁ Σεβασμώτατος ἐκοιμήθη ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀνήμερα τῶν Χριστουγέννων τὸ 2004.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TODAY:** The first part of the program will take place in the chapel, immediately following this morning's Divine Liturgy. Then, everyone is invited to the Community Center for lunch, compliments of the Sunday School, and a surprise visit!

**AXIOS:** Our Chancellor, **Father Apostolos Koufallakis**, was ordained yesterday to the Holy Episcopacy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral Holy Trinity in New York City. He is now known as **His Grace Apostolos, Bishop of Medeia**. Today, he is serving his first Divine Liturgy as Bishop at his former parish—St. Demetrios in Astoria, New York. Father Stephen is in New York, as he was invited by His Grace to participate in the ordination Divine Liturgy. His Grace will return to San Francisco, where he will continue to serve as Acting Chancellor, assisting **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos**. Axios! Worthy!

**SERVICES THIS WEEK:** The Service of the Great Hours will be held Wednesday, December 24, beginning at 9:00 a.m., to be followed by Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, at 10:30 a.m. On Thursday, Christmas Day, the Orthros will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy, at 10 a.m.

**HISTORIC CHRISTMAS DIVINE LITURGY:** Not only is Christmas a Holy Day and one of the Great Feasts of our Lord, this year the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral will be celebrated by **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco**, assisted by **His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia**. This is truly historic as it is symbolic. His Grace's first Divine Liturgy in San Francisco 3 years ago was for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos, at the Cathedral, November 21. His last Divine Liturgy as a priest was also for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos, November 21, 2014. Now, his first Divine Liturgy as a bishop will take place at the Annunciation Cathedral.

**FOOD DRIVE: THANK YOU FOR SHARING:** The Annual Food Drive, spearheaded by our Sunday School, ends today. Bins, supplied by the Marin-San Francisco Food Bank, were placed at either end of the gallery. Thank you for your filling them. It is heartening to see, for even one can or one box of something alone makes the difference in helping alleviate hunger.

**BASKETBALL PRACTICE:** Basketball practice, as scheduled, will take place in our gym on Tuesday, December 923, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. but NOT on Christmas Day.

**YOUR 2015 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE:** Please remember to bring or send in your 2015 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE. Your commitment to the Cathedral, especially at this time of rebuilding, is important for you and for the future of the Cathedral. To make your 2015 Stewardship pledge, please detach the bottom portion of the Stewardship letter, which was sent to you. Then, complete it and bring it with you the next time you come for the Divine Liturgy. Then, place it in the collection basket. If you prefer, you may mail it in. In making your Stewardship pledge for 2015, we ask you, first and foremost, to pray and then to decide your level of support for 2015. Recall the words of St. Paul to the Church in Corinth: *Give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* (2 Cor. 9:7). Please note that your 2015 Stewardship pledge supports the ongoing ministries of the Cathedral. It is separate from the Building Fund, which is used for the rebuilding of the Cathedral. So, please don't put it off for "another day." That "other" day never seems to come.

**WE MADE IT TO \$1 MILLION!** Together with the most recent gift to the Capital Campaign of our Ladies Philoptochos, we made it to \$1 million. That's a million dollars given and pledged since the October 17, 2013 issuance of our building permit—25 years to the day of Loma Prieta! What an accomplishment! If we keep doing this year after year, we will finish and pay off our building in no time.

Meanwhile, the first of two pours of concrete took place on Thursday, December 18. Currently, the tension cables are being strengthened to the proper PSI. The second pour of concrete will take place on or about January 5, 2015, thus completing the parking structure ceiling, which is also the Cathedral floor deck. Beginning in mid-January, the vertical steel will start going up. Our goal is to get the parking structure up and running first, as we complete the Cathedral exterior. In the current Herald (as in last month's), we featured photos of the dome steel. The day the dome goes up will be an historic day, indeed. However, for all this to happen, we need your monetary support and we need your prayers. To date, we have just over 300 donors. This list needs to grow to at least 500. All the donors' names (\$1,000 gift minimum) will eventually be inscribed on the dedication wall in the new Cathedral, where prayers will be constantly offered "for the blessed and ever-memorable founders and benefactors of this Holy Church." We want to see everyone's name up on the dedication wall.

**In the Book of Exodus (25:8) God says: "Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you." (Translated from the Septuagint: *Kai ποιήσεις μοι ἅγιασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*).** We've quoted this at least since the start of the Capital Campaign, and we are keeping this "immovable before our eyes," as Deut. 6:8 states, as we rebuild the Cathedral to God's glory, to serve our faithful and all God's people in this blessed dynamic heart of San Francisco.



*The Church is here to heal,  
To reconcile,  
To connect with Christ,  
To become partakers of the  
divine glory,  
To worship God,  
To proclaim the Gospel, in the  
original Christian way,  
That the world may be saved.*