

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: March 15, 2015

THIRD SUNDAY IN THE GREAT LENT: VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

AGAIOS THE MARTYR; ARISTOVOULOS THE APOSTLE

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 4, verses 14-16; chapter 5, verses 1-6. It is found in our books, pages 142-143.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 14-16, κεφ. 5, ἐδάφ. 1-6: Ἀδελφοί, ἔχοντες οὖν ἀρχιερέα μέγαν, διεληλυθότα τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν τῆς ὁμολογίας. Οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα μὴ δυνάμενον συμπαθεῖν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν, πεπειραμένον δὲ κατὰ πάντα καθ' ὁμοιότητα, χωρὶς ἁμαρτίας. Προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρηγορίας τῷ θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον, καὶ χάριν εὐρωμεν εἰς εὐκαιρον βοήθειαν. Πᾶς γὰρ ἀρχιερεὺς, ἐξ ἀνθρώπων λαμβανόμενος, ὑπὲρ ἀνθρώπων καθίσταται τὰ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, ἵνα προσφέρῃ δῶρά τε καὶ θυσίας ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν· μετριοπαθεῖν δυνάμενος τοῖς ἀγνοοῦσιν καὶ πλανωμένοις, ἐπεὶ καὶ αὐτὸς περικείται ἀσθένειαν· καὶ διὰ ταύτην ὀφείλει, καθὼς περὶ τοῦ λαοῦ, οὕτως καὶ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ, προσφέρειν ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ οὐχ ἑαυτῷ τις λαμβάνει τὴν τιμὴν, ἀλλὰ καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, καθάπερ καὶ Ἀαρῶν. Οὕτως καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασεν γεννηθῆναι ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ' ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν, Υἱός μου εἶ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε. Καθὼς καὶ ἐν ἑτέρῳ λέγει, Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according Mark, chapter 8, verses 34-39, chapter 9, verse 1. It is found in our books on pages 293-295.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 34-39, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 1, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 292-294.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Seven (Grave):

O Lord, by your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at your command—that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing your mercy on the world evermore.

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέωξας τῷ ληστή τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρῆνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Αποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας. Ὅτι ἀνέστης, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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@agkozak.com.

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.

SUNDAY OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: As we are now midway through the Great Lent, the Church places the Cross before us, both for veneration and for contemplation. The Cross is as much the Symbol of our salvation (for our Lord was crucified on it), as it is a Signpost (it points the way forward). As the Lord says in today's Gospel reading from St. Mark, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). In other words, self-negation and obedience enable our way forward. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, a brief service will take place: we process around the church with tray of flowers (representing life); on the flowers is a cross (representing the Source of life). People take a flower home with them and place it among their icons.

TODAY'S ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL: In lieu of a sermon, the "word" will come to us through the mouths of our Sunday School children, who will be participating in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. The younger children are not competing, as the older children are. Nevertheless, they will share their faith with the same fervor. We commend all our participants for their willingness, faith and enthusiasm, and wish them well in the district festival, which will take place at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont on April 19, as well as at the Metropolis Festival on May 9. Hopefully, one will make it to the National finals, to take place in Pasadena, CA on June 6.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: Presanctified Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday, March 18, 10 a.m., and the Third Salutations Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m. Προηγιασμένη, την Τετάρτη, 10 π.μ., Χαίρετισμοί την Παρασκευή, 7 μ.μ.

LOOKING AHEAD, MARCH 25th PROGRAM BY THE GREEK SCHOOL: This will take place in the chapel next Sunday, March 22, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Meanwhile, today, a brief program will take place in the community center during coffee hour. The program will highlight American heroes who took part in the Greek War for Independence in 1821.

YOUR 2015 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE: The March *Herald* features an honor roll of all who have sent in a 2015 Stewardship pledge. This gives us an opportunity to publicly thank you for making a financial commitment to support the ministries of the parish during 2015. To date, about 275 of you have made your 2015 Stewardship commitment. (Our mailing list, however, has some 700 names. Our goal is to have all 700 be supporting Stewards of the Cathedral in 2015. A third and final reminder will go out this week. We need to get our parish back on track and we appeal to all of you to help in this effort. Putting the parish on a sound financial footing depends on each and every parishioner. Therefore, we exhort you, in the words of Scripture: *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. If you have not submitted your 2015 Stewardship and have misplaced your 2015 Stewardship pledge card, all you have to do is ask Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Committee chair, for another card or, if you prefer, you may obtain one by calling the Cathedral office at 415 864-8000, and one will be mailed to you.

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES: At its January 27th meeting, the Parish Council appointed the following committee chairs: Stewardship: Gus Vouchilas, Capital Campaign: Tom Nuris, Retreats: Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Technology: Nick Rally & Deno Konstantinidis, Pangari: Dustin Novo, Coffee hours/Parish Life: Dr. George Ambus Ambadiotakis, Strategic Planning: Dean Nicolacakis. At its February 24th meeting, the Parish Council added a Youth Council, chaired by Maria & Dean Nicolacakis, and a Legacy & Endowment Committee, chaired by Tom Nuris. If you would like to serve on any of the above committees, please speak to the respective chairs.

LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Meanwhile, we are looking for Festival chair(s). A major undertaking, the Festival annually accounts for a major portion of the Cathedral's operating budget. More importantly, it fosters community, inviting the community at large to share in our faith and culture. If you think you would like to become a

**WE MADE IT TO \$1 MILLION AND BEYOND;
WATCH FOR THE VERTICAL STEEL.** Including the most recent gift of \$55,000. to the Capital Campaign by our Ladies Philoptochos, we surpassed \$1 million and are working on our second million! (That's over \$1 million given and pledged since the October 17, 2013 issuance of our building permit—25 years to the day of Loma Prieta.) We keep moving ahead: the Campaign continues until we have completed the building and paid it off.

Meanwhile, the shoring of the deck will be completed this week to accommodate the crane that will start erecting the vertical, or red-iron, steel. The steel work will begin next Monday, March 23 and will last 6 weeks. Following next Sunday's Liturgy (weather permitting), we will go up to the outdoor space on the second floor, over the gallery, where we will view the project site. (For safety reasons, we cannot yet go out onto the site, as it's still a construction site.) Ken Katen and/or Father Stephen will point out some of the salient features.

Looking ahead, we want to get the parking structure up and running; that's our first priority. We expect we will be using the parking component this time next year, when the exterior of the Cathedral will be complete. Work will then begin on the interior. Through your prayers, your vision, and your giving, this Cathedral church will be built and dedicated to the glory of God.

In the Book of Exodus (25:8) God says: "Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you." (Translated from the Septuagint: *Και ποιήσεις μοι ἅγιασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). We've quoted this at least since the start of the Campaign, and we are keeping this "immovable before our eyes," as Deut. 6:8 tells us to, 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.*