

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: March 22, 2015

FOURTH SUNDAY IN THE GREAT LENT: ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

BASIL OF ANCYRA; KALLINIKI & VASSILISA THE MARTYRS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 6, verses 13-20. It is found in our books, pages 144.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 13-20:
Ἀδελφοί, τῷ Ἀβραάμ ἐπαγγειλάμενος ὁ θεός, ἐπεὶ κατ' οὐδενός εἶχεν μείζονος ὁμόσαι, ὥμοσεν καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων, Ἡ 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 θεὸς 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 πρὸδρομος 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 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 Apolytikion (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 κατήλθες, ὁ Εὐσπλαχνος, ταφὴν 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, 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.

MARCH 25th PROGRAM BY THE GREEK SCHOOL TODAY, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY: This will take place in the chapel at the conclusion of this morning's Divine Liturgy. Poems and songs will be recited in celebration of the struggle for freedom, which began on March 25, 1821.

STEEL RISING: Beginning tomorrow, passersby will be able to watch the red-iron steel going up. It is called "red-iron" because it has a red protective coat. The steel will be delivered and erected by a special crane which will sit, for most of the six weeks needed for this phase of construction, on the site, by the baptismal font. As announced last Sunday, at the conclusion of today's services and program, we will go up to the bridge way, where **Ken Katen** will point out various features of the new Cathedral and tell us what we can expect to see in the weeks and months ahead.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: "Today is the Fountainhead of our Salvation," as the Apolytikion for the Feast of the Annunciation puts it. This Feast, which is also the "name day" of the Annunciation Cathedral, falls on Wednesday, March 25th. The Orthos will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy, which will be celebrated by **His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia**. Afterwards, a luncheon, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos, will take place in our Korinthias Center. (Donation \$20.) On the eve of the Feast, Tuesday, March 24, the Office of Great Vespers will be celebrated, beginning at 7 p.m., with His Grace presiding and area clergy participating. Afterwards, those present will be invited to dinner, which will be held in our Korinthias Center. The meal will be provided by **Angelo Koutoulas** of Chick 'n Coop, as a gift on the occasion of his name day. The Presanctified Divine Liturgy will not be celebrated on Wednesday.

THE AKATHIST: This intercessory prayer service to the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, is celebrated in its entirety on the fifth Friday of Great Lent. Combined with the smaller compline service, it consists of «greetings» to Mary, composed, along with the triumphal hymn «Ti Ipermahō», following the miraculous saving of Constantinople in the year 626, when the city was besieged by Avars (a Eurasian group of equestrian warrior nomads). These greetings are divided into four sections, each sung beginning with the first Friday in the Great Lent: the first section has as its theme the Annunciation; the second, the Nativity of Christ; the third, the Ministry of Christ, including His Death and Resurrection; and the fourth, the exalted place of Mary in the Church. On the last Friday, March 27th, all four Stanzas are sung, with people standing, hence the word «Akathist» i.e. «not sitting.» 7 p.m. Ὁ Ἀκάθιστος, τὴν Παρασκευὴ, 27 Μαρτίου, 7 μ.μ.

NEXT SUNDAY IS "GODPARENTS SUNDAY": For almost thirty years, the Cathedral has been observing "Godparents Sunday" the Sunday before Palm Sunday. As Palm Sunday falls on April 5, next Sunday is "Godparents Sunday." It is a special opportunity for you to call your Godparents, or your Godchildren, and invite them to some and worship together. We will recite our Baptismal vows ("Do you renounce Satan? I do," "Have you renounced Satan? I have," "Do you join Christ? I do," "Have you joined Christ? I have," and "Do you believe in Him? I believe in Him as Lord and as God." And, following the dismissal, we are all invited to break bread together in our fellowship hall. The meal is, once again, the offering of **Gus and Georgia Vouchilas**.

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 chair or would like to assist, please see either of our clergy or speak with **Chris Kyriacou**, Parish Council President.

**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 has been completed and will accommodate the crane that will start erecting the vertical, or red-iron, steel. The steel work will begin tomorrow and will last 6 weeks. Following today's Liturgy and program by the Greek School (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 are working 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 is being built, 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.*