

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: March 29, 2015

FIFTH SUNDAY IN THE GREAT LENT: MARY OF EGYPT

MARK OF ARETHUSA; CYRIL THE DEACON

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 9, verses 11-14. It is found in our books, page 145.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 11-14:

Ἀδελφοί, Χριστὸς δὲ παραγενόμενος ἀρχιερεὺς τῶν μελλόντων ἀγαθῶν, διὰ τῆς μείζονος καὶ τελειοτέρας σκηνῆς, οὐ χειροποιήτου, τοῦτ' ἔστιν, οὐ ταύτης τῆς κτίσεως, οὐδὲ δι' αἵματος τράγων καὶ μόσχων, διὰ δὲ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος εἰσηλθεν ἐφάπαξ εἰς τὰ ἅγια, αἰωνίαν λύτρωσιν εὐράμενος. Εἰ γὰρ τὸ αἷμα ταύρων καὶ τράγων, καὶ σποδὸς δαμάλεως ῥαντίζουσα τοὺς κεκοινωμένους, ἀγιάζει πρὸς τὴν τῆς σαρκὸς καθαρότητα, πόσω μᾶλλον τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὃς διὰ πνεύματος αἰωνίου ἑαυτὸν προσήνεγκεν ἄμωμον τῷ θεῷ, καθαριεὶ τὴν συνείδησιν ὑμῶν ἀπὸ νεκρῶν ἔργων, εἰς τὸ λατρεύειν θεῷ ζῶντι;

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according Mark, chapter 10, verses 32-45. It is found in our books on pages 299-301.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 10, ἐδάφ. 32-45, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 298-300.

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

The stone that had been sealed before your tomb by the Jews, and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory unto our resurrected Christ, glory unto your Kingdom, glory to your Dispensation, O You who alone love mankind.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντον σου Σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτὴρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν. Διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι, Ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῇ Ἀναστάσει σου, Χριστέ· δόξα τῇ Βασιλείᾳ σου· δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

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.

MNEMOSYNON: Today's memorial service is being offered for the repose of the soul of our brother George Petsas, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago.

TODAY IS "GODPARENTS SUNDAY": For almost thirty years, the Cathedral has been observing "Godparents Sunday" on the Sunday before Palm Sunday. As Palm Sunday falls on April 5 (next Sunday), today is "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 Σατανᾷ; Ἀποτάσσομαι.**
- 2. Have you renounced Satan? R: I have renounced Satan. Ἀπετάξω τῷ Σατανᾷ; 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 Βασιλεῖ καὶ Θεῷ.**

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, we are all invited to break bread together in our fellowship hall. The meal is, once again, the offering of Gus and Georgia Vouchilas.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: DIVINE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS: This Divine Liturgy (called "Presanctified" because the Eucharist is prepared at today's Divine Liturgy—the consecration of the gifts does not take place weekdays during the Great Lent, underscoring its penitential character) will be celebrated this Friday evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday morning, April 4 (St. Lazaros), the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated beginning at 10 a.m. Προηγιασμένη, τὴν Παρασκευή, 6 μ.μ., ἢ δὲ Θεῖα Λειτουργία τὸ Σάββατον, 4 Ἀπριλίου (τοῦ Λαζάρου), 10 π.μ.

FOOD PANTRY: As an ongoing component to our monthly soup kitchen, the Cathedral has begun gathering non-perishable foods on a year-round basis. We invite everyone to participate in this beautiful ministry by remembering to bring any cans, boxes, or jars of food and leaving them in the marked bins by the main entrance. If you have any questions, please contact **Maryann Boosalis** at maryann.boosalis@gmail.com.

PHILOPTOCHOS EASTER BAKE: Our Philoptochos Ladies are happy to bake your *koulourakia* and *tsourekia* for Pascha and also to dye your Easter eggs. The donation is \$8 per dozen of *koulourakia*, \$15 for each *tsoureki* (Easter bread), and \$6 for red colored eggs per dozen. To place your order, please return the form that was mailed to you recently or call the Cathedral office at 415-800. Your items will be ready to be picked upon Holy Friday, April 10, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL PHILOPTOCHOS 56TH ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW: TIMELESS ELEGANCE: This year, the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos will be honoring **Annette Chiappari** and **Niki Kastoras** as the 2015 Mothers of the Year. Congratulations! The Mother's Day Luncheon and Fashion Show will take place in the Cathedral's Korinthias Hall on **Saturday, May 9**, beginning with a Cocktail Reception at 12:00 noon and followed by Luncheon at 12:45 p.m. The donation is \$55 for adults, \$25 for children. Parking is available at the lot behind the Cathedral, at 14th and Stevenson Streets. For more information, please call **Foula Vasilogiorgis**, 415 378-7200, or contact **Irene Kyriacou**: sassygrk@aol.com; **Angie Leventis**: aleventis3@comcast.net; or **Foula Vasilogiorgis**: foulaki8@gmail.com.

BELMONT'S CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS PHILOPTOCHOS INVITES YOU TO ITS FASHION SHOW: The event will take place Saturday, April 25, at 11:30 am, at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 900 Alameda de las Pulgas, in Belmont. For more information: Laura Jadelrab, (650) 678-0336 or laura.jadelrab@gmail.com. We hope you will do us the honour of attending!

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH, RISING! As you come to church and peer in, beyond the gates, you are watching the reconstruction of the Annunciation Cathedral, lost to the 1989 earthquake known as Loma Prieta. Piece by piece, for the next 6 weeks, the red-iron steel will be positioned and welded in place. Like Constantinople's Hagia Sofia and Hagia Eirine, with a 50-foot-diameter dome over the center of the church, rising to 65 feet. The dome symbolizes heaven, the realm of the Divine; the cross represents us, who have been called through Baptism. The place where the dome and the cross intersect symbolizes the place where heaven and earth align. You may call it the Kingdom of Heaven. You may call it Eternal Life. You may call it Salvation. And, you may call it "Home," for this is the goal of human life—to return home, to be sanctified.

Orthodox Christianity teaches the doctrine of theosis, whereby humans take on divine properties. A key scripture supporting this is 2 Peter 1:4. In the 4th century, Athanasius the Great taught that God became Man that Man might become God. Essentially, Man does not become divine, but in Christ can partake of divine nature. Our understanding of salvation involves the restoration of God's image in us. In turn, this leads to release from mortality caused by desires of the world. Be this as it may, our purpose for rebuilding the Cathedral is not so that we may keep this to ourselves, but so that we may invite the world in, that Christ may be all and in all (1 Corinthians 15:28).

Now, then, when will it be ready? We expect the exterior will be completed and we will be using the parking component this time next year, even as work begins on the interior. Thanks be to God, Who wills the rebuilding, and thanks be to you for your prayers, and for your generosity, making the rebuilding possible.

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 passage 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.*