

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL SUNDAY BULLETIN: JUNE 19, 2016

HOLY PENTECOST

THE GREAT AND HOLY COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCHES BEGINS TODAY ON CRETE AND CONCLUDES JUNE 26

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2, verses 1-11; it is found in our books on pages 92.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 1-11: Ἐν τῷ συμπληροῦσθαι τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς, ἦσαν ἅπαντες ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτό. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἄφνω ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἦχος ὥσπερ φερομένης πνοῆς βιαίας, καὶ ἐπλήρωσεν ὅλον τὸν οἶκον οὗ ἦσαν καθήμενοι. Καὶ ὤφθησαν αὐτοῖς διαμεριζόμεναι γλῶσσαι ὡσεὶ πυρός, ἐκάθισέν τε ἐφ' ἓνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν ἅπαντες πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἑτέροις γλώσσαις, καθὼς τὸ πνεῦμα ἐδίδου αὐτοῖς ἀποφθέγγεσθαι. Ἦσαν δὲ ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ κατοικοῦντες Ἰουδαῖοι, ἄνδρες εὐλαβεῖς, ἀπὸ παντὸς ἔθνους τῶν ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν. Γενομένης δὲ τῆς φωνῆς ταύτης, συνήλθεν τὸ πλῆθος καὶ συνεχύθη, ὅτι ἤκουον εἰς ἕκαστος τῆ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ λαλούντων αὐτῶν. Ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐθαύμαζον, λέγοντες πρὸς ἀλλήλους, Οὐκ ἰδοῦ πάντες οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ λαλοῦντες Γαλιλαῖοι; Καὶ πῶς ἡμεῖς ἀκούομεν ἕκαστος τῆ ἰδίᾳ διαλέκτῳ ἡμῶν ἐν ἣ ἐγεννήθημεν; Πάρθοι καὶ Μήδοι καὶ Ἐλαμίται, καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν, Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ Καππαδοκίαν, Πόντον καὶ τὴν Ἀσίαν, Φρυγίαν τε καὶ Παμφυλίαν, Αἴγυπτον καὶ τὰ μέρη τῆς Λιβύης τῆς κατὰ Κυρήνην, καὶ οἱ ἐπιδημοῦντες Ῥωμαῖοι, Ἰουδαῖοι τε καὶ προσήλυτοι, Κρήτες καὶ Ἄραβες, ἀκούομεν λαλούντων αὐτῶν ταῖς ἡμετέροις γλώσσαις τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ θεοῦ.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 7, Verses 37-52 through Chapter 8, verse 12. It is found in our books on pages 191-193.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 7, ἐδάφ. 37-52, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 12. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 190-192.

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@sneakemail.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.

FATHER'S DAY COFFEE HOUR TODAY: The Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos is hosting a special coffee hour following today's Divine Liturgy and Pentecost services, in honor of all our Annunciation fathers. Please join us.

IT HAS NOT OCCURRED IN 1200 YEARS: A GREAT AND HOLY COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH: Note, above, it says "Churches." While there is one Orthodox Church (its official name is "One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church"), there are 14 autocephalous Churches. That is, they govern themselves, but are in communion with one another and agree in all matters of faith and morals. These Churches are: The Church of Constantinople (Ecumenical Patriarchate), the Church of Alexandria, the Church of Antioch, the Church of Jerusalem, the Church of Moscow, the Church of Serbia, the Church of Romania, the Church of Bulgaria, the Church of Georgia, the Church of Cyprus, the Church of Greece, the Church of Poland, the Church of Albania, and the Church of All Czech Lands and Slovakia. The call for a Great and Holy Council came in 1902. Meanwhile, a number of preparatory Synods were convened to obtain consent for such a Council and to establish an agenda. Ten agenda items were adjusted by the Primates of the Autocephalous Churches, which convened at Chambesy in January 2016, primarily because consensus could not be reached on their outcome: namely, the question of autocephaly and the manner of its proclamation, as well as the question of the diptychs. The Synaxis of the Primates even decided to remove the issue of the calendar from the agenda because some local Orthodox Churches have stated they do not desire and are not ready for a calendar reform. Moreover, the Synaxis reworked the text on the impediments to marriage that is now entitled "The Sacrament of Marriage and its Impediments." Finally, two texts, one on the Relationship of the Orthodox Church to the Ecumenical Movement and the other on the Relationship of the Orthodox Church with the rest of the Christian world, were combined into one agenda item. The Great and Holy Council, therefore, will consider six agenda items. These are:

1. The mission of the Orthodox Church in the contemporary world
2. The Orthodox diaspora
3. Autonomy and the manner of its proclamation
4. The Sacrament of Marriage and its impediments
5. The importance of fasting and its observance today, and
6. The relationship of the Orthodox Church with the rest of the Christian world.

The Synaxis also adopted the text of the [Regulation of the organization and operation of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church](#). This text states that the official languages of the Council will be Greek, Russian, French and English as well as Arabic as a working language. Furthermore, it establishes a Pan-orthodox Council Secretariat, specifies the role of advisors and observers, and delineates the consensus method, as this would assure the manifestation of the unity of the Orthodox Church. Items not discussed at the Council may be discussed at subsequent Councils. Be this as it may, this is a historic occasion: for the first time in 1200 years, the heads of the autocephalous Churches are meeting, beginning on the Feast of Pentecost, no less, to face the challenges of the modern world and to foster the unity which already exists in matters of faith and morals! For this, Orthodox believers should pray that the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, inspire and direct the Fathers of the Council, as it did the Apostles on the first Pentecost (see Acts 2:1-31). That is why the Primates, meeting at the Synaxis in January 2016 in Chambesy "**humbly invoke the grace and blessing of the Holy Trinity and ardently invite to prayer the fullness (pleroma) of the Church, clergy and laity, during the period leading to the Holy and Great Council and during it**" (press release of 27 January 2016). For further information on the Great and Holy Council, please see www.holycouncil.org

THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL: Tuesday, June 21: Soup Kitchen, 6:30 p.m., Gala Committee meeting, 7 p.m.; Wednesday, June 22: Construction meeting, 10 a.m.; Friday, June 24: Festival Cooking: Koulourakia, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

FATHER STEPHEN AWAY JUNE 26, JULY 10: As noted in the June-July *Herald*, Father Stephen will be away Sunday, June 26 and Sunday, July 10. Father Tom Paris will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral on those two Sundays. Meanwhile, should a priest be needed for an emergency during the week, please call the Cathedral office at 415 864-8000 (note that the office is covered 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.) or the Metropolis office at 415 753-3075 (that office is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

THE CROSS: SYMBOL OF GOD’S SACRIFICIAL LOVE, SYMBOL OF HOPE:

The raising of the cross has been a big deal for us, as it marks the firm “planting” of our Orthodox Christian faith, here in the heart of this great City. We are reminded of the words of St. Paul: “We preach Christ crucified...” (1 Cor. 1:23). Some may say, “don’t we emphasize the Resurrection?” As Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos has said, “the Cross and the Resurrection go hand in hand.” Yes, we are people of the Resurrection—we affirm Christ is Risen. But risen from what? From death. And death from what? From the Cross. The Cross, therefore, is a symbol of God’s sacrificial love, for He voluntarily died in the flesh, out of love for us. The Cross is the symbol of our salvation and the symbol of hope for the world. As for the building itself, we are one step closer to completing the exterior and to having our parking structure operational. To mark this achievement, and to celebrate our 95th year as a community, we will hold a **Gala event on November 5. Look the particulars.** As for the interior of the Cathedral: with God’s help, we hope to be able to complete it by the end of 2017, and to consecrate the Cathedral to the glory of God to coincide with our 100th anniversary in 2021. God will bless us, indeed, if it is His Will that His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who laid the cornerstone back in 1997, also consecrates it to God’s glory in 2021!

May God enable our undertaking, protecting His Commonwealth, unto the ages. Amen.
May God continue to inspire you and generations to come through this landmark house of worship, which you are building to glorify His holy Name.



“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.”

(Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew, Ground breaking,
November 6, 1997)