

## ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL SUNDAY BULLETIN: DECEMBER 18, 2016

### SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

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

**Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, πρὸς Ἑβραίους ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 11, ἐδάφ. 9-10, 32-40:** Ἀδελφοί, πίστει παρώκησεν Ἀβραάμ εἰς τὴν γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἄλλοτριαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοὺς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ τί ἐτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείπει γὰρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψών καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυῖδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἐκκλιναν ἄλλοτριῶν· ἔλαβον γυναικὲς ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προοδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἐτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόβῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄπαις τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσι.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 *Apolitikion* (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.

**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.

### SAINT SEBASTIAN THE MARTYR; FLOROS OF AMISSOS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TODAY:** Today, at 11:30 a.m., at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and in lieu of a sermon, our Sunday School will offer its Christmas program. The program will take place in the chapel. Immediately following, the children will offer their toys to other area children, through the SFFD's toy drive program. A luncheon will follow in the Korinthias Hall.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY:** The Parish Council will hold its December meeting today, in the second floor conference room, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

**DANCE PRACTICE:** Dance practice will be held today, as scheduled.

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY:** Last Sunday was Stewardship Sunday, the day when we bring our Stewardship Commitments for 2017 to church with us and deposit them in the appropriate basket. We thank you for your Stewardship Commitments for 2017, for your commitments are what enables our parish to operate and to fund its various ministries. An honor roll of 2017 Stewards will appear in the February *Herald*.

**DIVINE LITURGY THIS WEEK:** Saturday, December 24 is Christmas Eve. It is, as well, the feast of St. Eugenia of Rome, who was martyred during the reign of Valerian 253 - 260. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated, beginning at 10 a.m. On Christmas Day (next Sunday) the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the regular time of 10:30 a.m., preceded by Orthros, at 9 a.m. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco will be the celebrant.

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS LAST SUNDAY:** As noted, seven individuals were candidates for election to a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2017. They are: **George Ambadiotakis Ambuis, S. Christopher Kyriacou, Vassiliki Moulas, Dean Nicolakakis, Manoli Nuris, Nick Rally, and Christopher Ramos.** Together with Father Stephen and the eight who were elected last year, they compose the Parish Council for 2017. The eight who were elected last year are: **Philippos Athanasiades, George Gavros, Deno C. Konstantinidis, Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., Thomas A. Nuris, Paul P. Sogotis, Nicholas Svetcoff, and James D. Vorrises.** The oath of office will be administered on Sunday, January 8, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Immediately thereafter, they will convene to elect officers for 2017. The Parish will also celebrate its *Vasilopita* on January 8, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos.

**BASKING IN THE GLOW OF THE GALA:** For some time, we will be basking in the glow of our 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, held on November 5. It was a spectacular event. People will be talking about it for a long time. Photos and a video of the evening is available by clicking on the following link: [www.kostasphotography.com/Gala2016](http://www.kostasphotography.com/Gala2016)

**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](mailto:orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com).

**ALMOST THERE**, with respect to the outside of the Cathedral. Now that the scaffolding is down, one can see this magnificent landmark which you are creating--the center of our Greek Orthodox faith in the heart of the City. You should be very proud of your accomplishments. You should share the good news with your friends, relatives and neighbors. Invite them to come and see what you are doing to respond to the invitation, *“Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.”* (Translated from the Septuagint: *Και ποιήσεις μοι ἁγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). Meanwhile, the contractor is completing waterproofing of the exterior, especially around the garage. He is also building the entrenchment drain, the housing for the garage exhaust ducts, and building and restoring the archways. Connection to the sewers, on the Stevenson Street side, took place yesterday. On the Valencia Street side, they will take place on January 11.

As for the interior, we hope to complete much of it by the end of 2017, as your generosity permits. We need your prayers and your continued financial support. Now would be a good time to make that end-of-the year gift, resulting in a tax deduction for you and enabling the Cathedral to continue building. We hope to be done with the outside by March and to start using the garage by April, as work begins on the interior. We hope to consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God to coincide with our 100<sup>th</sup> 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! Again, you all should take great pride in rebuilding the Cathedral: It is your legacy to future generations. Now, let’s move full speed ahead to complete what we’ve begun.



*“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)