

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Hebrews Chapter 6, Verse 13 - 20:** BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark Chapter 9, Verses 17-31:** At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

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

Τὸ φαιδρὸν τῆς Αναστάσεως κήρυγμα ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου μαθήτριά, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμενοι ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἡγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** Today's Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the souls of **Ilias Frangos**, 7 years since his passing, and **Hariklia Frangos**, 22 years since her passing.. May their memory be eternal! Αἰωνία ἡ μνήμη!

**COFFEE HOUR:** Today's Coffee Hour is being hosted by the Fousekis Family, in memory of Ilias and Hariklia Frangos. They invite you for refreshments following Divine Liturgy today. We thank them for hosting.

**LENTEN SERVICES THIS WEEK:** Salutations, Friday April 12 at 6pm. We look forward to worshipping with you.

**GOYA IS BACK:** The Youth Committee is happy to announce that we are restarting GOYA! Our first GOYA event will be Make Your Own Pizza Night at the Cathedral on Friday, April 26. This event will also include a discussion with the kids led by Christo on the importance and significance of fasting during Lent. If your child is interested in joining, please email **Vicky Spachis** at [Vicky.Spachis@annunciation.org](mailto:Vicky.Spachis@annunciation.org)

**AN INVITATION TO HOST COFFEE HOUR:** As part of our revitalized coffee hour program, we're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours over the course of the year. We'll supply the coffee/ cream/ sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (e.g., pastries, donuts, bagels & cream cheese, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable/cheese platters and assorted dips, or other similar items). We're currently seeking hosts for the following Sundays in May: the 12<sup>th</sup>, and in June: the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 9<sup>th</sup>, and the 16<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to Irene Melitas ([irene.melitas@annunciation.org](mailto:irene.melitas@annunciation.org), or, 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

**STEWARDSHIP CALL:** We are all blessed with certain gifts. It is important to develop these gifts, multiply them and offer them back to God. Please take a moment to fill out your annual Pledge card and don't forget to fill out the back offering your skills and talents!

**PHILOTOCHOS UPDATES:** 1)**Epitaphios**-We are collecting donations that will go toward the purchase of flowers for the Epitaphios. 2)**Easter Bake Sale**-Place orders for koulourakia and tsoureki by April 19th. Pick up date is Palm Sunday, April 28th, 12-2p. 3)**Palm Sunday April 28th**-Join us for a lenten buffet after the conclusion of Liturgy. \$20 adults, \$10 for children aged 10 and under. 4)**Mother's Day Luncheon**-Make your reservations for this wonderful annual event to be held on May 11th at the Crystals Springs Golf Course in Burlingame. The cost is \$85/person, \$65/children ages 4-10. 5)**Father's Day** June 16th Coffee Hour

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP SAVE THE DATE:** Our next Men's Fellowship gathering will take place Thursday, May 23rd. Social hour at 6pm followed by dinner at 7pm. Please email Jim Rakos to RSVP if you would like to attend. There is no cost. [jim.rakos@annunciation.org](mailto:jim.rakos@annunciation.org)

