

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: December 22, 2013

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

ANASTASIA, THE POTION-DELIVERER; CHRYSOGONA & THEODOTA

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

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 11, ἐδάφ. 9-10, 32-40: Πίστει παράκησεν εἰς γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοῦ θεμελίου ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ θεός. Καὶ τί ἐτι λέγω; ἐπιλείψει με γὰρ διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ, Σαμψών, Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρης, ἐδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἐκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοῦ νεκροῦ αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἐτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρης ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐπὶ ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τὴν προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν.

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 pp. 311-315.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-25 εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 310-316.

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.

OUR CHILDREN ARE TALKING: ANNUNCIATION SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

One of the most wonderful things that has happened as a result of the start of construction is that our children are expressing their feelings about building our new church, in pictures and in words. A few Sundays ago, children from our pre-school and kindergarten came down the aisle singing, *yes we can build Annunciation*, as they waved banners and an icon of the Annunciation, which they had colored. We featured a photo of the children on our latest *Building Update*, which was recently mailed to all households on the

MNEMOSYNA Today's Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the souls of: **Georgia Karas, Steven Karas,** and **John Karas**, who fell asleep in the Lord 12 years, 10 years, and 25 years, respectively.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Services this week will be held as follows: **The Great Hours** will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 24, 9-10 a.m. This will be followed by a **Vesperal Liturgy** (a portion of Vespers and most of the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great). On Christmas Day, December 25, the **Orthros** will be celebrated, beginning at 9:00 a.m., followed by the **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated by **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco**. Afterwards, we will join in the singing of traditional Christmas carols.

Αυτὴ τῆ βδομάδα, ἡ Εκκλησία πανηγυρίζει τὴν κατὰ σάρκα Γέννηση τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Τὴ παραμονή (δηλαδή τῆ Τρίτη, 24 Δεκεμβρίου) θὰ τελεσθοῦν οἱ Μεγάλαις Ὁραῖς, σὺς 10 π.μ. Στὴ συνέχεια θὰ τελεσθεῖ ὁ Ἑσπερινός μετὰ τῆς Θεῆς Λειτουργίας τοῦ Ἁγίου Βασιλείου. Ἀνήμερα (δηλαδή τῆ Τετάρτη, 25 Δεκεμβρίου), ἀφοῦ τελεσθεῖ ὁ Ὁρθρος, σὺς 9 μ.μ., θὰ τελεσθεῖ ἡ Θεῖα Λειτουργία Ἰωάννου τοῦ Χρυσσοστόμου. Τὴ Θεῖα Λειτουργία θὰ τελεεῖ ὁ Σεβασμιώτατος Μητροπολίτης Ἁγίου Φραγκίσκου, κ. Γεράσιμος. Στὸ τέλος θὰ ψάλλουμε τὰ παραδοσιακὰ κάλαντα.

BUILDING, BUILDING, AND MORE BUILDING

Sunday after Sunday people peer through the holes in the plywood, along the gallery, on their way to the chapel, and watch the progress being made. It's slow at first. For the last several weeks, the construction company has been stabilizing the soil, so that the ground on which the garage floor lies will be as strong and stable as possible. This is a painstaking process, as is the excavation of some 2,500 tons of soil and the delivering of that soil to various dump sites. Some of the soil, which was found to have lead, from fill that was put in there from the 1906 earthquake, was even taken out of state (an expensive, but required way of disposing of this soil). Once the excavation is complete, the parking garage and foundation walls and mat slab will be laid, with reinforcing steel. Then, in the spring, when all this is done, and the plumbing and electrical is in place, we will be able to see some above ground construction.

Meanwhile, all this costs money. And from where does this money come? It comes from you, the Cathedral's parishioners and friends. Or, rather, it comes from God, who has blessed you, the Cathedral's parishioners and friends, with a lots of gifts, including the gift of money. We need to raise a total of \$5 million to finish the Cathedral, inside and out, complete with pews and iconography. Working together, we can do it. The money is there. And you don't have to think of money as only cash you have on hand. It's also in appreciated assets you may own. It's in stocks or other securities you may have acquired years ago, which is now worth a lot more. Do you know that, if you give stock or other securities, you **do not pay gains on the appreciation**. Currently, capital gains taxes, federal plus state, are about 40% at the highest tax bracket. By giving stock or other securities, you are actually **giving more**, which cost you less, and you can derive a benefit in the form of a **tax deduction**.

Here's an example: Suppose I bought a stock for \$10,000 in 2011. Suppose now it is worth \$13,000. If I give it to the church as a gift, I get an income tax deduction of \$13,000 (not of \$10,000 that I actually paid for it). The church then sells the stock for \$13,000 but does not pay taxes (because it is tax-exempt). If, instead, I sold the stock today, I would have to pay 40% tax on the \$3,000 of capital gains, which is a tax of \$1,200. Besides the tax advantages, you have the satisfaction of making a more substantial gift. Πιάνει τόπο, as we say. Of course, please do not let what we said here sway you one way or the other. Check with your accountant or financial officer for advice before deciding to make a gift of stock or other securities to help rebuild the Cathedral. You may wish to do this soon, to take advantage of a significant tax deduction for calendar year 2013.

2014 CALENDARS Hopefully, you've received yours. If not, please contact the Cathedral office at 415 864-8000.

BUILDING UPDATE ON ITS WAY TO YOUR HOMES:

A building update, featuring our children on the cover, and a narrative of our building project on the inside, is about to be received by the Cathedral's parishioners and friends, in an effort to keep you informed about our progress. The great news is that *construction has begun!* We started construction 24 years (to the day) of Loma Prieta, the earthquake which claimed the old Cathedral. We're building, *because God has asked us to!*

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 ἁγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). We've quoted this at least since the start of the Capital Campaign. And we can't stress it enough: *we're building the Cathedral because God has asked us to.* In His infinite wisdom, the Lord knows what he has in store for us and for the future of our Faith, in this dynamic corridor of San Francisco's inner city.

MORE GOOD NEWS: OVER \$4.75 MILLION HAS BEEN RAISED DURING THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

The total raised during the Capital Campaign exceeds \$4.75 million (This does not include the Mountanos bequest, prior to the start of the Campaign). Of the \$4.75 raised, \$3.62 has been received; \$1.3 million is receivable (from parishioners who are paying over a number of years, in some cases, up to five years.) The total cost for completion, inside and out, is just over \$12 million. However, the contract we signed with McNely Construction is a not-to-exceed \$10.7 million. This gets us the parking structure and a complete exterior. However, when you open up the doors, you will see that we will need to complete the interior, down to the pews and the iconography. We have faith that we will get there and that the new Cathedral will be consecrated to the glory of God. You will see it. You will be a part of it. Through your prayers, your faith, and your giving.



*We at the Annunciation
Cathedral
will grow
The Orthodox Christian Faith
in San Francisco through:
Stewardship, Worship,
Education, Evangelism and
Philanthropic Outreach*