

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: December 29, 2013

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

THE 14,000 INFANTS SLAIN BY HEROD AT BETHLEHEM

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, chapter 1, verses 11-19. It is found in our books on pp. 153.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 11-19: Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον. Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἰκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφήν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτῆς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἕτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα ἰστορήσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. Ἐτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 2, verses 13-23. It is found in our books on pp. 317-319.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαίου, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 13-23, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 316-318.

Today's *Apolytikon* (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Two:

When You descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And, when You, from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory [to You].

Ὅτε κατῆλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ ζωὴ ἢ ἁθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεώτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, δόξα σοι.

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 Cathedral's mailing list. Our children spoke to us last Sunday and will be speaking to us again, soon.

MNEMOSYNON Today's Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the soul of **John Fragakis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago.

COFFEE HOUR This morning's coffee hour is being offered by the family of **John Fragakis**.

SERVICES THIS WEEK Orthros will be celebrated on **Wednesday, January 1**, beginning at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. On January 1 we celebrate the Circumcision of our Lord and also the Feast Day of St. Basil the Great. It is, as well, the start of the civil New Year. (The Ecclesiastical New Year begins on September 1.) On **Friday, January 3**, we will celebrate the Great Hours in preparation for the Feast of Holy Theophany. The Hours will be read, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Αὐτὴ τῆ βδομάδα, ἡ Εκκλησία εορτάζει τὴν κατὰ σάρκα Περιτομὴν τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὅπως καὶ τὸν Μεγάλου Βασιλείου, Ἀρχιεπίσκοπο τῆς Καισαρίας, τῆς Καππαδοκίας. Εἶναι καὶ Πρωτοχρονιά. Τὴν Τετάρτη, 1 Ἰανουαρίου, ὁ Ὁρθρος θα τελεσθεῖ, 9 π.μ. καὶ στη συνέχεια ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου. Τὴ Παρασκευή, 3 Ἰανουαρίου, θα διαβασθοῦν Οἱ Μεγάλαις Ὁραὶ τῶν Θεοφανείων, 9 π.μ.

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 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.

GYM FLOORS BEING NEWLY REFINISHED No doubt, you've noticed that the gym and Kytherian Room floors have been refinished. Please make every effort to help keep the floors clean.

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, was sent to the Cathedral's parishioners and friends, in an effort to keep you informed about our progress. (Another update is about to go out this week.) 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 \$4.9 MILLION HAS BEEN RAISED DURING THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

The total raised during the Capital Campaign exceeds \$4.9 million (This does not include the Mountanos bequest, prior to the start of the Campaign). Of the \$4.9 raised, \$3.6 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. We are confident we will complete the interior, as well, iconography, pews and all. 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. Be excited...it's happening!



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