

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: January 5, 2014

EVE OF THEOPHANY (A DAY OF FASTING)

THE MARTYR THEOPEMPTOS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from Saint Paul's First Letter to Timothy, chapter 4, verses 5-8. It is found in our books on p. 154.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον πρώτης ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 5-8: Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγωνίσαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπόν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτῆς· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἡγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 1, verses 1-8. It is found in our books on pp. 319-321.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-8, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 318-320.

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

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death, and first-born of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιτίας Ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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. We still remember, with emotion and a great deal of pride, the children from our pre-school and kindergarten coming 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 will be speaking to us again this morning. We look forward to their continued encouragement and message of faith and hope.

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.

OATH OF OFFICE/ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2014

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, those eight individuals who were elected on December 15, 2013 to the Parish Council for 2014-2015, namely, **James D. Vorrises, Thomas A. Nuris, Gus Vouchilas, George G. Vlahos, Deno C. Konstantinidis, Angie Leventis, Philippos Athanasiades, and Nicholas Svetcoff**, will receive their oath of office. Immediately following, they will convene, together with the seven who were elected to a two-year term in 2012, to elect Parish Council officers for 2014.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Orthros will be celebrated tomorrow, **January 6**, beginning at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Blessing of the Waters, at 10:00 a.m., and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, at 10:30 a.m. On January 6 we celebrate the Feast of Holy Theophany. Commemorating the Baptism of our Lord, it is one of the Great Feasts of the Church. On **Tuesday, January 7**, we will celebrate the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 10 a.m.

Αὐριο ἡ Εκκλησία εορτάζει τὰ ἅγια Θεοφάνεια τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία θα τελεσθεῖ στις 10:30 π.μ., ἀφοῦ πρῶτα τελεσθεῖ ὁ Ὁρθρος, στις 9 π.μ., καὶ στη συνέχεια ὁ Μεγάλος Ἀγιασμός, στις 10 π.μ.. Τη Τετάρτη, Σύναξις τοῦ Προδρόμου, ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία θα τελεσθεῖ στις 10 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. They see digging, placement of pipes all over, and moving of earth. 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 12,500 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). After the soil stabilization and, once the excavation is complete, the parking garage and foundation walls and mat slab will be laid, with lots of 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. Keep peering and take lots of pictures, for this is a wonderful thing to watch—the development of the new Cathedral and the parking component below.

Meanwhile, all this costs money. 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. The money is there—you have it—not only as cash 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, rather than cash, you **do not pay gains on the appreciated value?** 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. (That's if I'm in the 40% bracket.) 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. Even though we are in calendar year 2014, speak with your financial advisor, as you may still be able to take advantage of a significant tax deduction for calendar year 2013.

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 ἅγίασμα, 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 (Over \$500,000 of this was raised since we began construction on October 17.) 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*