

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: March 9, 2014

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

THE 40 HOLY MARTYRS, WHO WERE MARTYRED AT LAKE SEBASTE

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 12, verses 1-10: BRETHREN, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, πρὸς Ἑβραίους ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 12, ἐδάφ. 1-10.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter 1 verses 43-52. It is found in our books on pp. 289-291.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 43-52, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 288-290.

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

When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished evermore, and Christ our God has risen from the dead, and granted to the world His great mercy.

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

A NOTE ON THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY: The first Sunday of the Great and Holy Lent celebrates the victory of the iconodules (those who believe in the legitimacy of icons) and the iconoclasts (those who do not), by the decision in 787 A.D. of the Seventh Ecumenical council, which was held in Nicaea (where the First Ecumenical Council took place, in 325 A.D.) The service commemorates the icons for use in services and in our private devotional life. An icon is what? A symbolic image of a saint or saints, or a biblical event. By looking at an icon our minds are drawn to the prototype, that is, to whom or what the icon represents. By venerating an icon, i.e. bowing before it and kissing it, we are venerating the prototype. For us, it is a form of respect and affirmation of God, who is the Creator of the material as well as the spiritual world. Non-believer sometimes accuse us of "idolatry," i.e. worshiping the image itself. But this is not the case. The Church has clarified for us the rightful place of sacred images and the role they play in our spiritual formation.

MNEMOSYNON: This morning's memorial service is being offered for the repose of the soul of our brother Frank Fotenos, who fell asleep in the Lord 5 years ago. We also pray for the repose of the souls of Ioannis and Sappho Caloyanides, who fell asleep 48 and 69 years ago, respectively.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY: As this is the Sunday of Orthodoxy (see the note on the previous page), a portion of the Vespers of the Sunday of Orthodoxy is celebrated at the conclusion of the Liturgy, with our Sunday School children participating in the procession of icons.

DIVINE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12: The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is so called because the Gifts are consecrated as Body and Blood of Christ at the previous Sunday Divine Liturgy. Except for the Feast of the Annunciation, which falls on March 25, and on which the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated, the normal Liturgy is not celebrated during Great Lent, thus underscoring its solemnity and mournful character.

SECOND SALUTATIONS SERVICES THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 14: The *Akathist* is a special devotional, a four-part salutation, dedicated to the Theotokos. Its origin is attributed to the year 626, when in the reign of Heraclius Constantinople was attacked by the Persians and Scythians, but saved through the intervention of the Theotokos: a sudden hurricane dispersed the fleet of the enemy, casting the vessels on the shore near the great church at Blachernae, on the shores of the Golden Horn, whereupon the hymn *Ti Ypermacho* was composed. A fourth of the salutations portion is sung on the first four Fridays of Lent, all stanzas being sung together on the fifth Friday, when people normally stand, hence "akathist." Services are at 7 p.m.

WELCOME, NIKO PETROGEORGE OF FOCUS NORTH AMERICA, NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 16: Focus is an Orthodox Christian charity that serves the working poor and homeless in the United States by providing jobs, housing, and other sustainable programs that help lift Americans out of poverty. It endeavors to fulfill Christ's commandment to help those in need by engaging Orthodox Christians, leveraging their time and talents to improve local communities in practical hands-on activities. For further information, log onto www.focusna.org or call 866 267=3083.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 16: We are very pleased that, as part of its curriculum, our Sunday School annually prepares young people to participate in the St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. This year's Festival will take place next Sunday, March 16. In lieu of a sermon, our young people will be delivering talks on a topic of their choosing, having to do with their faith, a passage of scripture, a contemporary moral issue, or the life of a Church saint. They will speak before the congregation, as well as a panel of judges, who will grade them (the participants in the junior division) and recommend them to go on to the regional Festival, which will take place at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont on March 30, and, as the case may be, to the Metropolis Festival, at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center on May 3. This year, we are pleased that 8 young people will participate in the Elementary Division, and 3 in the Junior Division. Many thanks go to Denise Yeilding, our Sunday School Principal, for her oversight of the program, as well as to our teachers, for preparing, inspiring, and mentoring our young people.

ANOTHER BUILDING UPDATE ON ITS WAY TO YOU:

The March building update, again featuring our children on the cover, and a narrative of our building project on the inside, is being sent to all of you, in an effort to keep you informed about our progress. The great news is that *excavation is nearing completion (the 850 yards left are clean soil!) and the mud slab will be poured in March!* We're proceeding with the rebuilding of the Cathedral, *because God has told us to do so!*

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 told us to do so*. 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 \$5.3 MILLION HAS BEEN RAISED DURING THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

The total raised during the Capital Campaign exceeds \$5.3 million (Over \$700,000 of this was raised since we began construction on October 17!) Of the \$5.3 raised, \$4.1 has been received; \$1.2 million is receivable (from those 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 (what we are building now) is a not-to-exceed \$10.7 million. This gets us the parking structure and a complete exterior, by year-end 2014 or the beginning of 2015. We are confident we will complete the interior in 2015, including iconography, pews and all interior appointments. This, at a projected cost of \$2 million. We have faith that we will get there and that the new Cathedral will soon be consecrated to the glory of God.



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