

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: March 23, 2014

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT LENT: THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 4, verse 14 – chapter 5, verse 6. It is found in our books on pages 142-143. **Ο Ἀπόστολος, πρὸς Ἑβραίους ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 14 - κεφ. 5, ἐδάφ. 6:** Ἀδελφοί, ἔχοντες οὖν ἀρχιερέα μέγαν, διεληλυθότα τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν τῆς ὁμολογίας. Οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα μὴ δυνάμενον συμπάθῃσαι ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν, πεπειραμένον δὲ κατὰ πάντα καθ' ὁμοίτητα, χωρὶς ἁμαρτίας. Προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρορησίας τῷ θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον, καὶ χάριν εὐρωμεν εἰς εὐκαιρον βοήθειαν. Πᾶς γὰρ ἀρχιερεὺς, ἐξ ἀνθρώπων λαμβανόμενος, ὑπὲρ ἀνθρώπων καθίσταται τὰ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, ἵνα προσφέρῃ δῶρά τε καὶ θυσίας ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν· μετριοπαθεῖν δυνάμενος τοῖς ἀγνοοῦσιν καὶ πλανωμένοις, ἐπεὶ καὶ αὐτὸς περικείται ἀσθένειαν· καὶ διὰ ταύτην ὀφείλει, καθὼς περὶ τοῦ λαοῦ, οὕτως καὶ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ, προσφέρειν ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ οὐχ ἑαυτῷ τις λαμβάνει τὴν τιμὴν, ἀλλὰ καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, καθάπερ καὶ Ἀαρῶν. Οὕτως καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασεν γεννηθῆναι ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ' ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν, Υἱὸς μου εἶ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε. Καθὼς καὶ ἐν ἑτέρῳ λέγει, Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 8, verses 34-38 – chapter 9, verse 1. It is found in our books on pp. 293-295. **Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπή ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 34-38 - κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 1, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 292-294.**

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn of the Holy Cross) is that of Tone One:

Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance; give victory to your sovereigns over barbarians, by your Cross guarding your commonwealth.

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου, καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου· νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσιν κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος, καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION: As we commemorate the Holy and Life-giving Cross on this day, as parish partner, our second collection will be taken in support of our Holy Cross School of Theology and its mission. Checks may be made payable to: Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

PARISH ASSEMBLY NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 30: This first Assembly of 2014, for which an Agenda may be found in the March *Herald*, page 9, will take place next Sunday, March 30, following the Divine Liturgy.

BASKETBALL GAMES TODAY AT ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL: Annunciation 3 and Holy Trinity 2 at 2 p.m.; Annunciation 1 and St. James at 3 p.m.; St. Gregory and St. Nicholas 1 SF at 4 p.m.; St. Nicholas SF (A) and Holy Trinity (A) at 5 p.m.; and St. Nicholas 2 SF and Nativity at 6 p.m.

ERITREAN BIBLE STUDY: The Eritrean Bible Study will meet today, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SUMMER CAMP AT ST. NICHOLAS: This exciting program is open to children 8 years of age (or entering 3rd grade in the fall) to 18 years of age (or graduating from high school this year). There will be three sessions this year. Session I: July 6-12; Session II: July 13-19; and Session III: July 26-26. The cost is \$450 for those who register during March (March 1-March 31). For those who register in April (April 1-April 30) the cost is \$475. And, for those who register late (May 1-May 31) the registration is \$500. (All siblings receive a \$25 discount). You are invited to take advantage of early registration pricing by going to www.gosfyouth.org a.s.a.p.

THE CENTRALITY OF THE CROSS: Today is the third Sunday of the Great Lent. As it is the midpoint or "crossroads" of Lent, the Church emphasizes the centrality of the Cross: this is why we are fasting and praying during the Great and Holy Lent, precisely because of what Christ did for us on the Cross: *He saved us*. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, there is a simple procession around the church. When we reach the soleas, the priest intones: we venerate your Cross, o Christ, and we glorify your Resurrection. Flowers are then passed out to the congregants, as they pass by and reverence the cross.

TODAY'S MNEMOSYNA: This morning we pray for the repose of the soul of our brother **Nichols Kokalis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 28 years ago, and for the repose of the soul of our brother **John Sarikakis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 12 years ago. The coffee hour, following the Divine Liturgy, is being offered by their families. Memorial prayers are also being offered for the repose of the souls of **Nicos Fanourgiakis, Penelope Fanourgiakis, Artemis Papadakis and Kathy Preach**, who fell asleep in the Lord 8, 59, 49 and 1 year ago, respectively.

MARCH 25th, THE ANNUNCIATION: The Annunciation is one of the great Feasts of the Church for, as the Apolytikion of the Feast puts it "Today is the fountainhead of our salvation." With the announcement by Gabriel to Mary that God wills her to be the Bearer of God in the flesh, and with Mary's assent ("Be it done to me according to thy word"), the Logos becomes incarnate: the Son of God takes on human flesh and human nature in Mary's womb. The Annunciation is the Feast Day of the Cathedral. We pray you will be with us this week to celebrate the Feast Day of your parish. **Great Vespers** will take place tomorrow evening, beginning at 7 p.m. **Orthros** will be celebrated on Tuesday morning, beginning at 9 a.m., to be followed by the Divine Liturgy, at 10 a.m. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the Ladies Philoptochos invites you to join us in the Korinthias Center for a luncheon celebrating the Feast. The donation for the luncheon is \$20. Finally, the war for the independence of Greece from the Ottomans began on March 25th, giving the Feast added significance, underscoring the Biblical concept of human freedom. After all, God endowed Adam with His own image and likeness, granting him free will. How can a human being exercise free will unless he is free from bondage? Mindful of its significance, we salute the heroes of 1821 and pray we ourselves can be found worthy of their lofty ideals.

DIVINE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26: 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 (yesterday), on which the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated, the normal Liturgy is not celebrated during Great Lent, underscoring its solemnity and mournful character.

4TH SALUTATIONS SERVICES THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 28: 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, along 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.

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, has been sent to all of you, in an effort to keep you informed about our progress. The great news is that *excavation has been completed and the slab and walls, complete with waterproofing, will be poured soon!* We're moving ahead 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 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 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*