

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: March 30, 2014

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT LENT:

ST. JOHN OF SINAI, AUTHOR OF THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 6, verse 13-20. It is found in our books on pages 144.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, πρὸς Ἑβραίους ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 13-20: Ἀδελφοί, τῷ Ἀβραὰμ ἐπαγγειλάμενος ὁ θεός, ἐπεὶ κατ' οὐδενὸς εἶχεν μείζονος ὁμόσαι, ὥμοσεν καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων, Ἥ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε, καὶ πληθύνων πληθυνῶ σε. Καὶ οὕτως μακροθυμήσας ἐπέτυχεν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας. Ἄνθρωποι μὲν γὰρ κατὰ τοῦ μείζονος ὁμνύουσιν, καὶ πάσης αὐτοῖς ἀντιλογίας πέρας εἰς βεβαίωσιν ὁ ὅρκος. Ἐν ᾧ περισσώτερον βουλόμενος ὁ θεὸς ἐπιδειξάτω τοῖς κληρονόμοις τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τὸ ἀμετάθετον τῆς βουλῆς αὐτοῦ, ἐμεσίτευσεν ὅρκῳ, ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων, ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι θεόν, ἰσχυρὰν παράκλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένης ἐλπίδος· ἦν ὡς ἄγκυραν ἔχομεν τῆς ψυχῆς ἀσφαλῆ τε καὶ βεβαίαν, καὶ εἰσερχομένην εἰς τὸ ἐσώτερον τοῦ καταπετάσματος· ὅπου πρῶτος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν εἰσηλθεν Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ ἀρχιερεὺς γενόμενος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 9, verses 17-31. It is found in our books on pp. 295-299.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 17-31, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 294-298.

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

O Lord, by your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at your command—that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing your mercy on the world evermore.

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέωξας τῷ ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας. Ὅτι ἀνέστης, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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 (Mary 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 asap

ELLINIKO HORIO: A wonderful Greek Language immersion camp will be held at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, for young people ages 7-15, June 21-18. For an application and further information, please go to www.ourgreekvillage.org

MNEMOSYNON: This morning's Memorial Services are being held for the repose of the soul of our sister Evangeline (Εὐαγγελία) Lagios, who fell asleep in the Lord one year ago.

PARISH ASSEMBLY TODAY: This first Assembly of 2014, for which an Agenda may be found in the March Herald, p. 9 (and copies of which are on the tables in the Korinthias Hall) will take place following this morning's Divine Liturgy. Following the election of an Assembly Chair, and approval of the November 10, 2013 minutes, reports will be offered by the: 1. Treasurer and 2. Stewardship Chair, Reports will also be offered on the: 3. 2014 Festival, 4. Youth, 5. Rebuilding of the Cathedral, and 6. Board of Auditors. Then, 7. Election of representatives to the Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Congress (Philadelphia, PA July 6-9), and 8. Election of a Nominating Committee (Parish Council elections will take place on Sunday, December 14).

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2: An important meeting of the Capital Campaign Committee will take place this Wednesday evening, April 2. As we go forward to raise the money to finish the building of the Cathedral, the committee is making a concerted effort to contact parishioners and friends of the Cathedral who have not yet pledged to the Campaign and try to reach a cumulative goal of \$100,000 for the month. Each committee member is asked to establish a personal goal for the month, which includes how many people he or she will try to contact and how much we can secure in pledges, which can be paid all at once or over as many as five (5) years.

AKATHIST SERVICES THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 4: 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 Ypermachō* was composed. All four stanzas will be sung together this Friday evening, when people normally stand, hence “akathist.” Services are at 7 p.m.

APRIL 6 GODPARENT'S SUNDAY: A wonderful tradition at the Cathedral, Godparent's Sunday is a unique opportunity for Godparents and Godchildren to worship together, to renew our baptismal vows together, and to receive Holy Communion together. Sunday School children are asked to bring their Godparent to Sunday School with them for a special project, before coming down to participate in the Divine Liturgy. At the end of the service, everyone is invited to join in a communal meal in the Korinthias Hall, again lovingly offered by Mrs. Georgia Vouchilas. So, what if your Godparent has fallen asleep in the Lord, or lives far away? By all means, approach someone else in the community and ask that person whether he or she would like to be your “honorary” Godparent for the day. Chances are, they would be honored. In this way, everyone can worship together on this day, together with your Godparent, in fact, or with an “honorary sponsor.”

ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF SALUTATIONS: Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the meeting of Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras and Pope Paul VI, the service will take place on Tuesday, April 8 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont, at 7 p.m. All are invited.

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*