

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: February 22, 2015

CHEESE FARE/FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, chapter 13, verse 11 through chapter 14, verse 4. It is found in our books, page 137.

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 13, ἐδάφ. 11 – κεφ. 14, ἐδάφ. 4:

Ἀδελφοί, νῦν ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἢ ὅτι ἐπιστεύσαμεν. Ἡ νύξ προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν· ἀποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ σκότους, καὶ ἐνδυσώμεθα τὰ ὄπλα τοῦ φωτός. Ὡς ἐν ἡμέρᾳ, εὐσχημόνως περιπατήσωμεν, μὴ κώμοις καὶ μέθαις, μὴ κοίταις καὶ ἀσελγείαις, μὴ ἔριδι καὶ ζήλῳ. Ἀλλ' ἐνδύσασθε τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιήσθε, εἰς ἐπιθυμίᾳς. Τὸν δὲ ἀσθενοῦντα τῇ πίστει προσλαμβάνεσθε, μὴ εἰς διακρίσεις διαλογισμῶν. Ὅς μὲν πιστεύει φαγεῖν πάντα, ὁ δὲ ἀσθενῶν λάχανα ἐσθίει. Ὁ ἐσθίων τὸν μὴ ἐσθίοντα μὴ ἐξουθενείτω, καὶ ὁ μὴ ἐσθίων τὸν ἐσθίοντα μὴ κρινέτω· ὁ θεὸς γὰρ αὐτὸν προσελάβετο. Σὺ τίς εἶ ὁ κρίνων ἀλλότριον οἰκέτην; Τῷ ἰδίῳ κυρίῳ στήκει ἢ πίπτει. Σταθῆσεται δέ· δυνατὸς γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ θεὸς στήσαι αὐτόν.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according Matthew, chapter 6, verses 14-21. It is found in our books on page 285.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 6, ἐδάφ. 14-21, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 284.

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

Introduction to Orthodoxy (*Sundays, 9.a.m., upstairs*). This class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey, but it is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. We explore Christian theology and practice through reading selections of Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover), week after week, why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact Alexandros Kozák at orthodoxy@agkozak.com.

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del Mal.

DISCOVERY OF THE RELICS OF THE MARTYRS AT EGUGENIOS

TODAY'S *MNEMOSYNA*: Memorial prayers are being offered for the repose of the souls of Yota Gofas and Elaine Kourkoutakis, each of whom fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago. Today's coffee hour is being offered in memory of Yota.

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS IN BELMONT TODAY: The Vespers will be celebrated at the Church of the Holy Cross today, beginning at 6 p.m. Father Tom Zaferes will be the homilist. A reception will follow.

BASKETBALL GAMES AT ANNUNCIATION TODAY: The following teams will play: Boys Elementary School, **Annunciation and Ascension 1**, at 2:00 p.m.; Boys Middle School, **Annunciation and St. Gregory**, at 3:00 p.m.; Boys Middle School, **St. Nicholas 2 and Holy Trinity**, at 4:00 p.m.; and Boys Middle School, **St. Nicholas 1 and Ascension 1** at 5:00 p.m. Meanwhile, Playoffs will be played on Saturday, February 28, and the Championships on Sunday, March 1.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: The *Apodeipnon* Serice (Great Compline) will be celebrated tomorrow, at 4 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m., and the First Salutations on Friday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.

SERVICES THIS SATURDAY: This Saturday, February 28, sometimes called the third *Saturday of Souls*, is a day of commemoration, of the miracle revealed to St. Theodore the Great Martyr, involving boiled wheat. Father Niko Bekris will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy, which will take place at the Chapel of the Living Spring, Greek Orthodox Memorial Park, Colma. Meanwhile, Father Stephen will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral. The Liturgy at the Cathedral and at the cemetery chapel will begin at 10 a.m.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: Basketball practice, as scheduled, will take place in our gym on Tuesday, February 24 and on Thursday, February 26, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.,.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS NEXT SUNDAY: Sunday, March 1 is the first Sunday in the Great and Holy Lent. As is our custom throughout the United States, Orthodox of various jurisdictions meet to celebrate the restoration of icons, beginning with the Seventh Ecumenical Council in 787 AD and culminating in imperial decree in 843 AD. This Year's Sunday of Orthodox Vespers will take place at the **Protection of the Holy Virgin/St. St. Seraphim Orthodox Church, 90 Mountain View Avenue, Santa Rosa**, beginning at 6 p.m. A reception will follow.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SUNDAY, MARCH 8: On Sunday, March 8, the Cathedral will host a Lenten Retreat entitled "Spiritual Food for Thought: A history of the prayer rope (*komboskini*) in the Orthodox Church." Our speaker will be Fr. Antony Balnaves. A native of Australia, he converted to Orthodoxy in 1986 and lived for a number of years on Mount Athos. The talk will take place in our Korinthias Hall, following the Divine Liturgy. Dr. Katina Kostoulas is chair of the Cathedral's retreat program. The program is a part of OIKOS (*Orthodox in Koinonia Outreach Services*).

YOUR 2015 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE: The March *Herald* will feature an honor roll of all who have sent in a 2015 Stewardship pledge. This will give us an opportunity to publicly thank you for making a financial commitment to support the ministries of the parish during 2015. To date, 200 of you have sent in your 2015 Stewardship. Our mailing list, however, has some 700 names. Our goal is to have all 700 be supporting Stewards of the Cathedral in 2015 and, so, our 2015 Stewardship Campaign continues. We need to get our parish back on track and we appeal to all of you to help in this effort. Putting the parish on a sound financial footing depends on each and every parishioner. Therefore, we exhort you, in the words of Scripture: *Give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* (2 Cor. 9:7). Please note that your 2015 Stewardship pledge supports the ongoing ministries of the Cathedral. It is separate from the Building Fund, which is used for the rebuilding of the Cathedral. If you have not submitted your 2015 Stewardship and have misplaced your 2015 Stewardship pledge card, all you have to do is ask Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Committee chair, for another card or, if you prefer, you may obtain one by calling the Cathedral office at 415 864-8000, and one will be mailed to you.

WE MADE IT TO \$1 MILLION AND BEYOND/THE DECK IS NOW COMPLETE. Together with the most recent pledge to the Capital Campaign of our Ladies Philoptochos, we made it to \$1 million and more! That's \$1 million given and pledged since the October 17, 2013 issuance of our building permit—25 years to the day of Loma Prieta. What an accomplishment! However, we do not stop here. We continue the Campaign until we have completed the building and paid it off.

Meanwhile, the deck is now complete. The perimeter walls were finished two weeks ago. The garage ramp was poured last week. In mid-March, we will watch the vertical steel being erected. Our immediate goal is to get the parking structure up and running as soon as possible, certainly by this time next year. Then, we will begin work on the interior, depending upon the success of our fund raising efforts. **We thank you your continued monetary support and we need your prayers.** As noted, all the donors' names (\$1,000 gift minimum) will eventually be inscribed on the dedication wall in the new Cathedral, where prayers will be constantly offered "for the blessed and ever-memorable founders and benefactors of this Holy Church." Your children and their children will be able to look up one day and see your names on the dedication wall.

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 are keeping this "immovable before our eyes," as Deut. 6:8 exhorts, even as we rebuild the Cathedral to God's glory, to serve our faithful and all God's people in this blessed dynamic heart of San Francisco.



*The Church is here to heal,
To reconcile,
To connect with Christ,
To become partakers of the
divine glory,
To worship God,
To proclaim the Gospel, in the
original Christian way,
That the world may be saved.*