

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: March 1, 2015

FIRST SUNDAY IN THE GREAT LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

EUOKIA THE RIGHTEOUS; MARKELLOS & ANTONINA

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 24-26 and 32-40. It is found in our books, pages 138-139.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 11, ἐδάφ. 24-26, 32-40: Ἀδελφοί, πίστει Μωϋσῆς μέγας γενόμενος ἠρνήσατο λέγεσθαι υἱὸς θυγατρὸς Φαραῶ, μᾶλλον ἐλόμενος συγκακουχεῖσθαι τῷ λαῷ τοῦ θεοῦ ἢ πρόσκαιρον ἔχειν ἀμαρτίας ἀπόλαυσιν· μείζονα πλοῦτον ἠγησάμενος τῶν Αἰγύπτου θησαυρῶν τὸν ὀνειδιζόμενον τοῦ Χριστοῦ· ἀπέβλεπεν γὰρ εἰς τὴν μισθαποδοσίαν. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείπει γὰρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεὼν, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψὼν καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν· οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων. Ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τούτων νεκρῶν αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστιγῶν πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον· περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι - ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος - ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες, μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως, οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττονι τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according John, chapter 1, verses 43-51. It is found in our books on pages 289-291.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 43-51, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 288-290.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Five (Plagal 1):

Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful, we both praise and worship Him for, in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure, and the dead He raised unto life though His all-glorious Resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκὶ ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγειρῆσαι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

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.

TODAY'S MNEMOSYNA: Memorial prayers are being offered for the repose of the souls of Eleni Giza, who fell asleep in the Lord 3 years ago; and of all the departed members of the Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS TODAY: Today, the first Sunday of the Great Lent, is also known as the "Sunday of Orthodoxy." 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. In this way, we proclaim our Orthodox unity, even though we are comprised of a number of jurisdictions. 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.

JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY FOR AN OIKOS PROGRAM: Have you ever wondered about the *komboskini* (prayer rope), what it is, how it came to be, what it has to do with prayer, especially during Great Lent. Well, on Sunday, March 8, you will find out, as the Cathedral hosts 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 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*).

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL: On Sunday, March 15, the Annunciation Cathedral will hold its St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, under the auspices of the Sunday School. Students, grades 4 through high school, will participate. As Sunday, March 15 is also the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, we will hear from our children first (in lieu of the regular sermon) and conclude with the procession and veneration of the Cross.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: Presanctified Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday, March 4, 10 a.m., and the Second Salutations Friday, March 6, at 7 p.m. Προηγουμένη, την Τετάρτη, 10 π.μ., Χαιρετισμοὶ την Παρασκευή, 7 μ.μ.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY: The Stewardship Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 4, at 7 p.m. in the second floor conference room.

REMEMBERING THOSE AMERICANS WHO HELPED GREECE WIN ITS WAR OF INDEPENDENCE: A short program will take place on Sunday, March 15, in the hall following the Oratorical Festival.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: Basketball practice, as scheduled, will take place in our gym on Tuesday, March 3 and on Thursday, March 5, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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;
WATCH FOR THE VERTICAL STEEL.** 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. However, we do not stop here. The Campaign continues until we have completed the building and paid it off.

Meanwhile, the deck is now complete. It has been shored up to accommodate the crane that will start putting the vertical, or red-iron, steel. In the March *Herald* we noted the Dean's List (\$100,000 plus) donation of the re-bar steel by Mr. and Mrs. Isidoros Garifalakis of Omega-Industries. (God is, indeed, blessing the rebuilding of the Cathedral!)

Our immediate goal is to get the parking structure up and running, as we complete the building's exterior. 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."

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 Campaign, and we are keeping this "immovable before our eyes," as Deut. 6:8 tells us to, 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.*