

## Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: May 17, 2015

### SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

### THE APOSTLES ANDRONIKOS & JUNIA

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Epistle Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 16, verses 16-34. It is found in our books, pages 88-89.

**Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 16, ἐδάφ. 16-34:** Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, ἐγένετο δὲ πορευομένων ἡμῶν εἰς προσευχὴν παιδίσκην τινὰ ἔχουσαν πνεῦμα πύθωνος ἀπαντῆσαι ἡμῖν, ἣτις ἐργασίαν πολλὴν παρεῖχε τοῖς κυρίοις αὐτῆς μαντευομένη αὐτὴ κατακολουθήσασα τῷ Παύλῳ καὶ τῷ Σίλα ἐκράζε λέγουσα· οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι δοῦλοι τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ὑψίστου εἰσίν, οἵτινες καταγγέλλουσιν ἡμῖν ὁδὸν σωτηρίας, τοῦτο δὲ ἐποίει ἐπὶ πολλὰς ἡμέρας, διαπονηθεὶς δὲ ὁ Παῦλος καὶ ἐπιστρέψας τῷ πνεύματι εἶπε· παραγγέλλω σοι ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐξελθεῖν ἀπ' αὐτῆς, καὶ ἐξῆλθεν αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ. Ἴδόντες δὲ οἱ κύριοι αὐτῆς ὅτι ἐξῆλθεν ἡ ἐλπίς τῆς ἐργασίας αὐτῶν, ἐπιλαβόμενοι τὸν Παῦλον καὶ τὸν Σίλαν εἴλκυσαν εἰς τὴν ἀγορὰν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἄρχοντας, καὶ προσαγαγόντες αὐτοὺς τοῖς στρατηγοῖς εἶπον· οὗτοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἐκταράσσουσιν ἡμῶν τὴν πόλιν Ἰουδαῖοι ὑπάρχοντες, καὶ καταγγέλλουσιν ἔθῃ ἃ οὐκ ἔξεστιν ἡμῖν παραδέχεσθαι οὐδὲ ποιεῖν Ῥωμαίοις οὕσι καὶ συνεπέστη ὁ ὄχλος κατ' αὐτῶν, καὶ οἱ στρατηγοὶ περιρρήξαντες αὐτῶν τὰ ἱμάτια ἐκέλευον ῥαβδίσειν, πολλὰς τε ἐπιθέντες αὐτοῖς πληγὰς ἔβαλον εἰς φυλακὴν, παραγγείλαντες τῷ δεσμοφύλακι ἀσφαλῶς τηρεῖν αὐτούς· ὃς παραγγελίαν τοιαύτην εἰληφώς ἔβαλεν αὐτούς εἰς τὴν ἐσωτέραν φυλακὴν καὶ τοὺς πόδας αὐτῶν ἠσφαλίσατο εἰς τὸ ξύλον. Κατὰ δὲ τὸ μεσονύκτιον Παῦλος καὶ Σίλας προσευχόμενοι ὕμνον τὸν Θεόν· ἐπικροῶντο δὲ αὐτῶν οἱ δέσμοι. ἄφνω δὲ σεισμός ἐγένετο μέγας, ὥστε σαλευθῆναι τὰ θεμέλια τοῦ δεσμοτηρίου, ἀνεφύθησαν τε παρακρήμα αἱ θύραι πᾶσαι καὶ πάντων τὰ δεσμὰ ἀνέθη. ἔξυπνος δὲ γενόμενος ὁ δεσμοφύλαξ καὶ ἰδὼν ἀνεφωγμένας τὰς θύρας τῆς φυλακῆς, σπασάμενος μάχαιραν ἐμελλεν ἐαυτὸν ἀναιρεῖν, νομίζων ἐκπεφυγέναι τοὺς δεσμίους, ἐφώνησε δὲ φωνῇ μεγάλῃ ὁ Παῦλος λέγων· μηδὲν πράξεως σεαυτῷ κακόν· ἅπαντες γὰρ ἔσμεν ἐνθάδε, αἰτήσας δὲ φῶτα εἰσεπήδησε, καὶ ἔντρομος γενόμενος προσέπεσε τῷ Παύλῳ καὶ τῷ Σίλα, καὶ προαγαγὼν αὐτοὺς ἔξω ἔφη· κύριοι, τί με δεῖ ποιεῖν ἵνα σωθῶ; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· πιστεύσον ἐπὶ τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ σωθήσῃ σὺ καὶ ὁ οἶκός σου, καὶ ἐλάλησαν αὐτῷ τὸν λόγον τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ αὐτοῦ, καὶ παραλαβὼν αὐτοὺς ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ὥρᾳ τῆς νυκτὸς ἔλουσεν ἀπὸ τῶν πληγῶν, καὶ ἐβαπτίσθη αὐτὸς καὶ οἱ αὐτοῦ πάντες παρακρήμα, ἀναγαγὼν τε αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ παρέθηκε τράπεζαν, καὶ ἠγαλλίασατο πανοικίᾳ πεπιστευκῶς τῷ Θεῷ.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John, chapter 9, verses 1-38. It is found in our books on pages 181-187.

**Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 1-38, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 180-186.**

**PASCHAL TROPARION:** Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life. Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

**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@sneakmail.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.

**MNEMOSYNON:** This morning's memorial service is being held for the repose of the soul of our brother Demetrius G. Rally, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago. Today's coffee hour is being offered, in his memory, by his family.

**PARISH ASSEMBLY TODAY:** As mandated by the Archdiocese Regulations, the Parish is required to hold two Parish Assemblies each year. These afford input from all the parishioners in the management of the affairs of the Parish. They are also vehicles for information. As announced, the first Parish Assembly for 2015 will take place today following the Divine Liturgy. The agenda consists of:

**Opening Prayer: Father Stephen**

- 1. Election of Assembly Chair**
- 2. Reading/Approval of the Minutes of the October 26, 2014 Parish Assembly: Gus Vouchilas**
- 3. Treasurer's Report: Philippos Athanasiades**
- 4. Reports on: Stewardship (Gus Vouchilas), the 2015 Festival (Angie Leventis), Youth (Father Niko), the Metropolis Clergy Laity (Father Niko) (The Clergy Laity took place at St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center April 27-28)**
- 5. Report on Phase Two: Construction of the Cathedral/Capital Campaign (Ken Katen, Tom Nuris)**
- 6. Election of Nominating Committee (Parish Council elections will take place on Sunday, Dec. 13)**
- 7. Old Business**
- 8. New Business**
- Closing Prayer**

Members in good standing, as defined in the Archdiocese Regulations, are invited to attend and participate.

**SOUP KITCHEN THIS TUESDAY:** We welcome your participation and support, as the Cathedral holds its Soup Kitchcn this Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**DIVINE LITURGY THIS WEEK:** Thursday, May 21 marks the Feast of the Equal to the Apostles Constantine and Helen. It is also the Feast of the Ascension. The Divine Liturgy will be held at the Cathedral, beginning at 10 a.m. Με την ευκαιρία της Εορτής των Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης, επίσης και της Εορτής της Αναλήψεως, την Πέμπτη 21 Μαΐου, η Θεία Λειτουργία θα τελεσθεί, 10 π.μ.

**LOOKING AHEAD: STEEL SIGNING ON JUNE 14:** On Sunday June 14, 2015, a special "steel signing" will take place. On that day, following the Divine Liturgy, a Blessing of the Waters service (*agiasmos*) will be celebrated. Then, everyone will process out to the construction site, where donors and everyone else will have an opportunity to sign their names on the steel columns, thus forming a physical "connection" with the new Cathedral. Specially inscribed markers will be provided; you get to keep the markers. A light luncheon, provided by Chick 'N Coop, will follow. What exciting times for our community and for San Francisco: amid the biggest building boom in the City in decades, a house of worship is rising, and a Greek Orthodox Cathedral at that! And to think that we, in our own way, are contributing to the growth of our City by offering this sacred house of worship, for the glory of God, the God who says, "*Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you. Και ποιήσεις μοι ἄγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθῆσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*)." (LXX, Exodus 25:8).

**STILL LOOKING AHEAD: FOOD FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 18, 19, 20:** Please note it on your calendars. As noted, our coordinator and chairs are in place and the dates are set. This year's Festival will take place on our grounds, similar to last year, Friday through Sunday, September 18 through 20. The more volunteers we get the more we can save by not having to hire as many people. The festival is about making money to support the Cathedral's ministries but, even more importantly, about building community, both our own faith community, and the community at large. When we went before the Planning Department to submit our plans to rebuild the Cathedral, and the hearings that followed, we still recall how some neighbors just showed up in support of the project, saying things like "we love the Cathedral, which we got to know through its Food Festival, and we're here to speak in favor of its rebuilding." Talk about community building! A Food Festival meeting will be taking place this Tuesday, May 19. It will be held in the second floor conference room,

**STEEL RISING AND RISING!** You have only to look through the front gates or the gallery doors to see the Cathedral rising. We've been busy since March 25<sup>th</sup> laying the vertical or "red-iron steel" (called "red-iron" because of its protective orange-red coating, similar to that of the Golden Gate Bridge). Some 1,000 pieces of red iron steel will form the "skeleton" of the Cathedral. To date, we've erected the steel in the transepts, the apse, including the apse half-dome, the 50-foot-diameter dome itself, and the northeast tower. By June 14, the remaining tower, the choir loft and narthex steel will all be in place. Passersby are wowed, stopping to take photos. It's shaping up to be a magnificent Cathedral!

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Our goal is to complete the exterior and also have a fully operational parking structure this time next year, even as work on the interior begins. From start to finish, depending upon fund raising, the work on the interior, including iconography and furnishings, could take another year.

As for the money required to complete the project, surely there are people "out there" who have waited for this moment before making their contribution, be it \$1000 or be it \$1 million. We pray the Holy Spirit inspires you to put your hand to your checkbook, joyfully, for, as Scripture says, "let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9.7).

These are exciting times our community and for San Francisco. Amid the biggest building boom in the City in decades, a house of worship is rising, and a Greek Orthodox Cathedral at that! And to think that we, in our own way, are contributing to the growth of our City by offering a sacred house of worship, for the glory of God, the God who says, *"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you. Και ποιήσεις μοι*



*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.*