

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: May 24, 2015

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF HOLY PASCHA: COMMEMORATING THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL CCL.; SYMEON THE STYLITE

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 20, verses 16-18, 28-36. It is found in our books, pages 90-91. **Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 20, ἐδάφ. 16-18, 28-36:**

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, ἔκρινεν ὁ Παῦλος παραπλεῦσαι τὴν Ἐφεσον, ὅπως μὴ γένηται αὐτῷ χρονοτριβῆσαι ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ· ἔσπευδεν γάρ, εἰ δυνατόν ἦν αὐτῷ, τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς γενέσθαι εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα. Ἀπὸ δὲ τῆς Μιλήτου πέμψας εἰς Ἐφεσον μετεκαλέσατο τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας. Ὡς δὲ παρεγένοντο πρὸς αὐτόν, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, προσέχετε οὖν ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ, ἐν ᾧ ὑμᾶς τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον ἔθετο ἐπισκόπους, ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ κυρίου καὶ θεοῦ, ἣν περιεποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος. Ἐγὼ γὰρ οἶδα τοῦτο, ὅτι εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἀφίξίν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς, μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου· καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἀναστήσονται ἄνδρες λαλοῦντες διεστραμμένα, τοῦ ἀποσπᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς ὀπίσω αὐτῶν. Διὸ γρηγορεῖτε, μνημονεύοντες ὅτι τριετίαν νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν οὐκ ἐπαυσάμην μετὰ δακρύων νοσητῶν ἕνα ἕκαστον. Καὶ τὰ νῦν παρατίθεμαι ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, τῷ θεῷ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, τῷ δυναμένῳ ἐποικοδομῆσαι, καὶ δοῦναι ὑμῖν κληρονομίαν ἐν τοῖς ἡγιασμένοις πάσιν. Ἀργυρίου ἢ χρυσοῦ ἢ ἱματισμοῦ οὐδενὸς ἐπεθύμησα. Αὐτοὶ γινώσκετε ὅτι ταῖς χρεῖαις μου καὶ τοῖς οὐσιν μετ' ἐμοῦ ὑπήρτησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐταί. Πάντα ὑπέδειξα ὑμῖν, ὅτι οὕτως κοπιῶντας δεῖ ἀντιλαμβάνεσθαι τῶν ἀσθενούντων, μνημονεῦειν τε τῶν λόγων τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ, ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶπεν, Μακάριόν ἐστιν μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν. Καὶ ταῦτα εἰπὼν, θείσ τὰ γόνατα αὐτοῦ, σὺν πᾶσιν αὐτοῖς προσηύξατο.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John, chapter 17, verses 1-13. It is found in our books on pages 187-189. **Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 17, ἐδάφ. 1-13, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 186-188.**

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Six (Plagal 2):

When the angelic powers appeared at your tomb, those who guarded You became as though dead. And, standing by your sepulcher was Mary, seeking your pure and sacred body. You did vanquish Hades and, uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the Virgin bestowing the gift of life. From the dead You arose, O Lord: we give glory to You.

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνημᾶ σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου Σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεῖς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωροῦμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστάς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

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.

ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS TO VISIT ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL: His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America will visit the Annunciation Cathedral for the purpose of seeing the progress on our building project, this Saturday, May 30. His Eminence is in San Francisco presiding over meetings of the Archdiocesan Council, Wednesday, May 27 through Friday, May 29.

PSYHOSAVVATON AT THE CEMETERY: Father Niko will celebrate the Divine Liturgy and the memorial services following, this Saturday, May 30, at the Chapel of the Greek Orthodox Memorial Park, Colma, beginning at 10 a.m. The day before Holy Pentecost, which is tomorrow, is designated as "Saturday of the Souls." Ο π. Νικόλαος θα τελήσει τη Θεία Λειτουργία και Μνημόσυνο, με την ευκαρία του Ψυχοσαββάτου, το Σάββατο 30 Μαΐου, στο παρεκκλήσι του Ελληνικού Κοιμητηρίου, 10 π.μ.

HOLY PENTECOST: Next Sunday is the Feast of Pentecost—50 days after Easter. As we will hear from the Acts of the Apostles, while the disciples were huddled together pondering the meaning of the Resurrection and the Ascension, which had just occurred, suddenly they were empowered by the presence of the Holy Spirit: they saw "tongues as of flaming fire" hovering their heads and they found themselves able to proclaim the Resurrection to many people of cultures and languages beyond their own. Pentecost was an important feast in Judaism. It marked the 50th day of the wandering of the Israelites in the desert, after they fled Egypt, the day when Moses was given the 10 Commandments. Now, the Apostles understood their mission to be a universal one, empowered not by the precepts of the Law (the 10 Commandments), but by the new life in Christ, which was shown to them by the Holy Spirit.

SPECIAL LUNCHEON NEXT WEEK HONORING MOTHER-TO-BE PRESBYTERA STELLA BEKRIS: The event is being sponsored by the Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos and will take place immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Join us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION IN TWO WEEKS: On June 7, we will hold Sunday School promotion/graduation exercises, awarding certificates of perfect and near perfect attendance as well as certificates of promotion and graduation. Following, Sunday School will host its traditional end-of-the-year luncheon.

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 luncheon, donated and served by **Chick 'N Coop**, will follow. (An RSVP is not necessary, but we would like to know, by show of hands, how many will be attending, so that we may have enough food for everyone.)

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. Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἁγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι 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 on **Tuesday, June 9**. It will be held in the second floor conference room, beginning at 7 p.m. Join us.

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 25th 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 virtually all the steel in the transepts, the apse, including the apse half-dome, the 50-foot-diameter dome itself, and the towers. By June 14, 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).

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"The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified." (Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Ground breaking, November 6, 1997