

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL SUNDAY BULLETIN: NOVEMBER 8, 2015

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS MICHAEL AND GABRIEL AND ALL THE HEAVENLY HOSTS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 2, Verses 2-10: BRETHREN, if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will. For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou carest for him? Thou didst make him for a little while lower than the angels, thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for every one. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 2 – 10.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 8, verses 41-56. It is found in our books, pages 253-257.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 41-56. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 252-257.

2015 Philoptochos Angel Tree Project to Benefit Foster Children

This Christmas season the Philoptochos is supporting the "Sleep Train Foster Kids" charitable program. This program provides a positive impact on the lives of thousands of foster children by providing them with everyday essential items. We are looking to provide gifts of pajamas and or winter coats to at least 50 foster children between the ages of 5 to 17.

These items will be distributed to foster children in the San Francisco and San Mateo areas. The Christmas tree with gift tags will be ready to go this Sunday, November 1st. Choose a tag for a specific age and gender. All unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by December 6th. Thank you for the generosity you have given over the past years. Contact Vivian Curd at 650-873-6055 with any questions.

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@sneakemail.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.

WELCOME, OUR NEW HELLENIC COLLEGE/HOLY CROSS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY PRESIDENT: The Cathedral welcomes the **Very Reverend Christopher T. Metropoulos, D.Min.**, newly named President of HC/HC. Father Metropoulos is participating in today's Divine Liturgy and will offer the homily. The Divine Liturgy is being celebrated by **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco**. This is the tenth anniversary of the Archpastorate of His Eminence as Metropolitan of San Francisco. *Eis polla eti, Despota.*

LUNCHEON TODAY HONORING FATHER NIKO AND PRESBYTERA STELLA. As announced, **Father Niko Bekris** has been named Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection, Castro Valley. Today is his last Sunday serving at the Cathedral. He will be at the Cathedral for the duration of this week and will take up his new duties next Sunday. Today's Luncheon, which follows the Divine Liturgy, honors him for his work here, and wishes him well in his new assignment. *Axios!*

Granted, this is a bittersweet moment for the Annunciation Cathedral community, where **Father Niko and Presbytera Stella** have served for the last seven years. In addition to mentoring our youth and, especially, our young adults, **Father Niko** began the Soup Kitchen and other urban church ministries. He has been a seminal part of our Capital Campaign, and was influential in the rebuilding of the Cathedral on our present site. While we will feel the loss, we wish **Father Niko** Godspeed as he takes up his new pastoral duties. At today's luncheon, we will have the opportunity to congratulate and extend best wishes to **Father Niko and Presbytera Stella**. The donation is \$20 per person, \$10 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will go to the Building Fund, in honor of **Father Niko, Presbytera Stella and Baby Christo**.

FATHER NIKO, In the Words of Scripture (Psalm 44:4 LXX): Ἐντεινε, καὶ κατευοδοῦ, καὶ βασιλευε, ἔνεκεν ἀληθείας, καὶ πραότητος, καὶ δικαιοσύνης, καὶ ὀδηγήσει σε θαυμαστῶς ἢ δεξιὰ σου...**Go forth and prevail in the cause of truth, gentleness and justice, and may your right hand lead you to wondrous deeds, all the days of your life!**

IOCC REMEMBERING HOME FUND RAISER THIS EVENING: The event will take place at the Ascension Cathedral, Oakland. The donation is \$65 per person. This is a unique opportunity to show your support of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and their work at home and abroad, especially in war-torn countries, those hit by famine or any number of natural disasters. For reservations, please call 510 531-3400.

2015 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD: **Annette Chiappari, Kalliope Fousekis, and Annamarie Balian** will be on hand beginning today, collecting names for this year's Christmas Card. No doubt, you will want to be listed, as the community extends greetings and best wishes to one another on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year. The donation is, as it has been for years, \$25.

PARISH ASSEMBLY ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22: Our second Parish Assembly for 2015 will take place on Sunday, November 22, following the Divine Liturgy. The agenda is as follows: Opening Prayer 1. Election of Assembly Chair 2. Reading/Approval of the May 17, 2015 Minutes of the Parish Assembly, 3. Treasurer's Report, 4. Reports: a. Stewardship, b. 2015 Festival, c. Youth, 5. Capital Campaign and the Rebuilding of the Cathedral a. Vision Plan for the Cathedral Community, 6. Election of Board of Auditors, 7. Report of the Nominating Committee, 8. Old Business, 9. New Business, Closing Prayer.

ALMOST DONE:THE EXTERIOR WALL: It seems like only yesterday that we began and, here we are, putting up the exterior wall, to be followed by the windows, the gutters, downspouts, the dome metal, and the clay tile roof. Then, the stucco will be applied; pavers, stonework, and doors will be installed. The outside will be virtually complete. The fountain will be working and we will have plants.

Excitement mounts as we watch this magnificent structure evolve, as it represents everything we are and everything we believe as Greek Orthodox Christians. It is also a symbol of the faith that our own generation has cultivated, and what we hope to leave behind, to inspire the generations to come.

We've noted on a number of occasions that we have raised \$6 million towards this project, with another \$4.7 to go. And we have explained how much has been spent and on what. (For specific information, please refer to the recent issues of the *Herald*.) Additionally, we have projected a timetable for completion of the project: completion of the exterior by summer of 2016; this includes the normal functioning of the garage. At that point, we are planning to hold a **Gala event**, to celebrate a great accomplishment, as we turn to phase two, the completion of the interior. Work on the interior, including appointments and iconography, should take another year or so. Certainly, we hope to be able to plan for its consecration, in 2017, four years before our 100th anniversary. All this, of course, will depend upon your prayers and continued support.

May God bless our undertaking, for God is the one who spoke to Moses, then, and who speaks to us, today, saying: *"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you."* (Translated from the Septuagint: *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγιασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). May we prove worthy of the trust God has in us to rebuild His Church.



"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)