

# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL SUNDAY BULLETIN: JANUARY 3, 2016

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

THE PROPHET MALACHI; THE MARTYR GORDIOS

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's letter to Timothy, chapter 4, verses 5-8. It is found in our books on page 154.

**Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 5-8:** Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἦδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγωνίσαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπόν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτῆς· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 1, verses 1-8. It is found in our books, pages 319-321.

**Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-8. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 318-320.**

**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](mailto:orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com).

**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 μνημῆμά σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν, καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου Σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν Ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ: ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωροῦμένος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστάς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

**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.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK:**

**Tuesday: January 5, Eve of Theophany:** 9 a.m. Orthros; 10 a.m., Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, followed by the Blessing of the Waters

**Wednesday, January 6, Holy Theophany:** 9 a.m. Orthros; 10 a.m. Blessing of the Waters; 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**Thursday, January 7, Synaxis of St. John the Baptist:** 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**TODAY'S MNEMOSYNA:** Today's memorial are being offered for the repose of the soul of our sister **Vasiliki (Betty) Cherin**, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago, of our brother **Kyriakos Nikolakopoulos**, who fell asleep in the Lord 1 year ago, and of our sister **Dimitra Kintis**, who fell asleep in the Lord 6 months ago. *Aionia I Mnimi!* (Eternal Memory!)

**40 DAY BLESSING:** Today, we welcome 40 day old **Ekaterine Eirene**, daughter of **Nicole and Michael Garibaldi**, as she is presented to the Church. *Na mas zisi!* (Long Life!)

**PARISH COUNCIL OATH OF OFFICE/ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Those who were elected to the Parish Council for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2016, namely, **Philippos Athanasiades, Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., Nicholas Svetcoff** and **James D. Vorrises**, will take their oath/affirmation at the conclusion of today's Liturgy. Immediately following, the Parish Council will convene to elect its officers for the year and also to elect four (4) additional members to the Parish Council, so that the Parish Council has, in addition to the Dean, fifteen (15) elected lay members, as required by the Parish By-Laws.

**PARISH VASLILOPITA NEXT SUNDAY:** Do join us for the Parish Vasilopita, sponsored by the Cathedral Philoptochos, which will take place on Sunday, January 10, following the Divine Liturgy. As is our tradition, champagne brunch will be served, in addition to the St. Basil's breads, prepared by the Ladies Philoptochos. The donation is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. The proceeds support the various Philoptochos ministries, as St. Basil's Academy.

**FIRST WINDOW GOES IN, MORE AND MORE BEING INSTALLED UNTIL ALL 135 ARE IN PLACE:** If you peer out the gallery doors, you will see that the first window of the 135 windows to be installed in the new Cathedral has been installed. It is located to your right, adjacent the courtyard triple double doors. The windows, all of which are arched, were crafted for us by Pella. The windows have been a donor opportunity for us. For a donation of \$5,000., parishioners and friends of the Cathedral may donate a window. Their names will be listed as donors on the commemorative plaque, which will be installed in the entryway to the new Cathedral. Please see **Tom Nuris** or **Tom Papageorge**, Capital Campaign Chairs, or Father Stephen if you wish to make a donation.

**THANK YOU, 2016 STEWARDS:** A church is only as vibrant as the faith of the people who make up the community. Annunciation Cathedral is blessed to have dedicated people, who worship regularly and who contribute, making possible the many ministries offered by their parish. Recently, we've had significant changes in the Cathedral's personnel. This does not, however, diminish the service which the parish offers to you, its parishioners, nor the level of support which the parish enjoys from you. If anything, it energizes our parishioners to expect, rightfully, more and better programs, as we engage in articulating a vision for our parish for its second hundred years. On December 6, we observed "Stewardship Sunday" at the Cathedral. Through your stewardship, you declared your support of the Cathedral and its ministries for 2016 and beyond. 94 Stewardship pledges were received on that day. Now, is this good? Yes and no. Yes, because it represents just under a third of the level of support we enjoyed in 2015, and we anticipate we should have 350 or so stewards again in 2016. On the other hand, our community has a potential of having 800 stewards. There are at least that many families with whom we communicate on a regular basis, and who consider the Annunciation Cathedral to be their parish church. So, how do we get everyone on board? By keeping at it, by staying the course. By continuing to extend the invitation, as the Lord himself does. As He says in Scripture, specifically, in the Book of Revelation, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation 3:20).

Meanwhile, we pause to acknowledge and thank our stewards. The February 2016 issue of the Herald, which will go to press on January 15, will feature an "honor roll of stewards." In that issue, we will print the names of all those who will have declared their support for 2016. In order to be listed, please forward your 2016 Stewardship pledge card by January 15. If, for some reason, you have misplaced your card, please call the Cathedral office at 415 864-8000, and we will be happy to send you another card. If you prefer, you may pick up a card when you come to the Cathedral for worship, or you may speak with Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Committee Chair, or with Father Stephen, [fatherstephen@annunciation.org](mailto:fatherstephen@annunciation.org).

**WINDOWS GOING IN:** We are completely done with metal stud framing and exterior Densglass (the yellow panels you see on the outside). Plywood and wood blocking are now complete on all tile roof areas, as well as the domes. Waterproofing has been completed, with lath, and plaster to follow. Meanwhile, the windows are being installed, and will be completed soon, weather permitting.

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. Additionally, we have projected a timetable for completion of the project--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 100<sup>th</sup> 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 ἅγίασμα, 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)