

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL SUNDAY BULLETIN: JANUARY 10, 2016

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 7-13. It is found in our books on page 155.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 7-13: Ἀδελφοί, ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ λέγει, Ἀναβάς εἰς ὕψος ἠχμαλώτευσεν αἰχμαλωσίαν, καὶ ἔδωκεν δόματα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. Τὸ δέ, Ἀνέβη, τί ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ ὅτι καὶ κατέβη πρῶτον εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς; Ὁ καταβάς, αὐτὸς ἐστὶν καὶ ὁ ἀναβάς ὑπεράνω πάντων τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἵνα πληρώσῃ τὰ πάντα. Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων, εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ· μέχρι καταστήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 4, verses 12-17. It is found in our books, on page 323.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 12-17. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 322.

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.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Seven (Grave):

O Lord, by your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at your command—that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing your mercy on the world evermore.

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέωξας τῷ ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας. Ὅτι ἀνέστης, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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.

COMMUNITY LINK TO MEET THIS SATURDAY, JANUARY 16: Community Link, which regularly visits members of our community who may be confined due to illness or age, will meet in the second floor conference room this Saturday, January 16, at 9 a.m. The group meets around major Church feast days, as Pascha and Christmas. This time, it is meeting because of the great feast of Holy Theophany, which we celebrated on January 6. The group will meet for prayer and the cutting of the Vasilopita, prior to going out and distributing Holy Water to our home-bound brothers and sisters.

SAINT GREGORY OF NYSSA; DOMETIANOS THE BISHOP

PARISH VASILOPITA TODAY: Do join us, following today's Divine Liturgy, for the Parish Vasilopita. It is being sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. As is our tradition, champagne brunch will be served, in addition to the St. Basil's breads, which our women have prepared. The donation for the brunch is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. The proceeds support the various Philoptochos ministries, as St. Basil's Academy.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS: Following last Sunday's affirmation of office, the Parish Council convened to elect officers for 2016. The officers are: President: **S. Christopher Kyriacou**; Vice-President: **Dean Nicolacakis**; Secretary: **George Ambadiotakis Ambus, D.D.S.**; Treasurer: **Philippos Athanasiades**; Assistant Treasurer: **Nicholas J. Rally**. The remaining lay members of the Parish Council are: **Patricia Aleck, George Gavros, Deno Konstantinidis, Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., Bashar Nashawati, Thomas A. Nuris, Esq., Paul P. Sogotis, Nikolas Stathopoulos, D.D.S., Nicholas Svetcoff, and James D. Vorrises**. As this bulletin went to print, we learned that one of the above members will be stepping down and someone else will be elected in that person's place; also that the Secretary is likely to change. These will be action items at next Sunday's Parish Council meeting.

AS ANNOUNCED, 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.

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 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: *Και 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)