

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 5, verses 12 to 20: In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 5, ἐδάφ. 12-20.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 20, Verses 19-31: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 12, ἐδάφ. 19-31.

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.

Christ is risen from the dead. By death, He has conquered death. And, to those in the graves, He has granted life!

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι ζωὴν χαρισάμενος!

YOUR RESURRECTION FAITH: Christ is Risen! Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! At this most unusual time, when everything, including the reopening of businesses and services and the finding of a vaccine to combat COVID-19 is uncertain — not to mention the reopening of our churches—you continue to support the Annunciation Cathedral by sending in your stewardship or by lighting a virtual candle. This is an act of great faith on your part. This is your Resurrection faith. It is a faith grounded in hope, the hope that we will go back to work, that a vaccine will be found, that we will worship again in real time, that life will triumph over the forces of darkness, including the novel coronavirus, even over death. We acknowledge your faith and we thank you. You yourselves are going through challenges including financial ones. Many of you are without jobs or hard pressed to meet your rent or mortgage payments. Yet, you do not cease to enable your church to continue its mission of proclaiming the Good News. That's faith! God bless you and protect you!

God knows the Cathedral is facing enormous challenges. These include the loss of operating revenue by half, not to mention its \$4.8 million building loan. Your continued support gives us hope. Just this week, we received proceeds from the CARES Act loan/grant to cover payroll for the next three months to the tune of \$32,000. Additionally, we are beneficiaries to a bequest by the late **Toula Caloyanides**, which will allow us to meet other expenses. (God rest her soul!) Down the road, we will make known another bequest, which will make it possible for us to continue construction on the Cathedral, when it is safe for work to continue. (God rest his soul!) In all of this we see the hand of God, through the intercessory prayers of the Theotokos. By His Resurrection, He grants us life; He grants us hope. Our prayer is that the Risen Lord will sustain you and your families, and our community, through the present crisis, that we may gather again, soon, to sing praises to Him who shows us the light.

MEMORIAL PRAYERS: Today we remember in prayer our brother **John Rally**, who fell asleep in the Lord one year ago. We remember in prayer, as well, his brother, **Demetrius Rally**, who fell asleep in the Lord five years ago. Aionia I mnimi! Eternal memory!

PARISH COUNCIL: The Parish Council will meet today, remotely, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The main agenda items are a request of the school for temporary adjustment in its rent obligations, community programs through zoom and live streaming, and a bequest to the Building Fund.

VOLUNTEERING DURING THE PRESENT PANDEMIC: Although we are not able to operate Community Kitchen (our feeding program to the hungry and the homeless) for the foreseeable future, we can still volunteer and make a difference. The San Francisco Food Bank, which supplies much of the food that we use to prepare meals, has been especially hard hit by the pandemic. Currently, the Food Bank has turned its parking lot into a large gifting area, where residents may go and pick up bags of pre-assembled groceries. Volunteers are needed to help assemble these bags. To do so, please visit the Food Bank's web site: sfmfoodbank.org or call the Food Bank at 415 282-1907 ext. 249. We've been assured by the Food Bank that it has taken steps to protect the safety of volunteers. If you prefer, you may make a monetary donation to the Food Bank. Simply contact donor services, at donations@sfmfoodbank.org. We at the Annunciation Cathedral note the partnership which has been created between our Young Adults (which began Community Kitchen, and continues to operate it) and the Ladies Philoptochos (which has generously supported it with both funds and staffing). Together, we are resolved to continue this ministry during these unprecedented times. We also note the leadership which Jim Sogotis has shown in coordinating, shopping, and cooking, and otherwise keeping this ministry going. Thank you, all.

EVERYTHING IS ON HOLD: The present pandemic has put everything building-related on hold. As you know, prior to our being sheltered in place, we were in the process of installing the final gates along Valencia Street and on our courtyard, as well as taking care of some leak and drainage issues. Meanwhile, the granite which will clad the Valencia Street walls has been fabricated, as have the stone which completes the fountain, and the final lobby doors. Work will resume as soon as it is safe to do so, so that we may open and operate the garage full-time and begin work on the interior. As a community, we've been through much, especially when we lost everything to the earthquake, back in 1989. But, we've bounced back. It wasn't easy, but we did it, because we have faith, we have hope, and we have unity. So, too, we will weather this pandemic and return what many are calling "the new normal," –i.e. a community where social distancing will become routine. But, our faith remains the same; our need for God remains the same. After all, it is for Him, in Him, and through Him that we continue to exist at all. Praise God for the Gift of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whose Resurrection we are given the faith and the vision to rebuild His Church. Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!



"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."