

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 20, Verses 16-18, 28-36** IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 20, ἐδάφ. 16-18, 28-36.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John, Chapter 17, Verses 1-13:** At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made." "I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 17, ἐδάφ. 1-13.

**INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES:** These very popular classes are taking place on a weekly basis, remotely, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alex Kozak. If you are new to the parish or you are considering being received into the Church through baptism and/or chrismation, as an adult, we invite you to speak with Alex about your wishes and the possibility of joining the Introduction to Orthodoxy class. Please contact him at <https://agkozak.com/intro>. Alex will extend an invite to the meetings, currently taking place via zoom.

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP AND YOU:** Dear Parishioners and friends of the Cathedral, All times can be said to be trying times. This, for certain, can be said about the upending last 16 months, which has taken its toll upon our worship life. Thankfully, we are recovering and are engaged in the rebuilding of our parish life and its many ministries. It is of vital importance that you continue to pledge and fulfill your support, through stewardship and, now that more and more people are being vaccinated, by in-person worship. In spite of the pandemic, 2020 was a banner year for us: we ended the year with 323 stewards (which includes 7 new families!). This year, however, we are reporting only 249 stewards, as of May 27, 2021. We know that some of you are waiting until later in the year to declare your support. We would encourage you to do so sooner rather than later.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** The Parish Council will convene today, remotely, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

**PHILOPTOCHOS ELECTS BOARD, OFFICERS:** Last Sunday, the Annunciation Philoptochos met, tallied the votes for its board for the next two years, and elected officers, as follows: President: **Janis Petrou**, First Vice-President: **Vivian Curd**; Second Vice-President: **Foula Vasilogiorgis**; Recording Secretary: **Meena Vellis**; Corresponding Secretary: **Katherine Dermitzakis**, and Treasurer: **Sophia Makras**. At the conclusion, **Father Stephen** administered the oath of office. Congratulations to the women of the parish, who care for the poor and disadvantaged, who strengthen us by their witness and their example.

**GREEK SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Once again, we extend congratulations to our Greek School and Sunday School programs upon the completion of their respective school year. All of our teachers and students are to be commended for overcoming the difficulties of this past year by holding classes virtually. Our Sunday school held its final class on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and will resume in the fall (hopefully, for in-person instruction), on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Similarly, our Greek School held its final class yesterday, June 5, and will resume in the fall (again, hopefully, for in-person instruction) on Saturday, September 11.

**THE CATHEDRAL TURNS 100:** 100 years ago, on May 17th, 1921 a banquet was held at the Fairmont Hotel, celebrating the decision to establish the Cathedral. Two days later, on May 19, a group of San Francisco Greeks, ostensibly the first Parish Council, met to discuss a path forward. The former Archbishop of Athens, **Meletios Metaxakis**, presided over the meeting and noted how, at the Fairmont Hotel (in the Gold Room, specifically) two days earlier, "a decision was made to establish the cathedral church..." The next day, May 20, the Council met again, with Metaxakis presiding, and decided to purchase property at Hayes and Pearce Streets and to erect the cathedral there, along with a school, diocesan offices, and an orphanage. The rest is history. In 1928, the community voted to relocate to its present location on Valencia Street. And the Cathedral's 100-year-old story continues from there. But, it all began on May 17, 1921. It began with a vision and with a decision. The vision continues as we take up phase two of our current building project. This phase aims at completing the interior, with walls, furnishings, and iconography, and to consecrating the new cathedral on March 25, 2023. A beacon of our Faith and culture in the heart of San Francisco, for the next 100 years and beyond!

**LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE:** Thank you for lighting a virtual candle, thus keeping hope alive. Whether you donate \$1 or \$1,000, your gift is one of faith. It helps keeps the Cathedral solvent during this universal upheaval. More importantly, it connects us to Him who is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and reminds us of our calling to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). To light your virtual candles, please visit our web site, [www.annunciation.org](http://www.annunciation.org), and click on the appropriate link, or enter <https://annunciation.org/candle>. During the past year, Father Stephen has been lighting your candles in real time. Going forward, now that we are open to in person worship, the candles will be lit, instead, by a Parish Council member. Those attending services in person will be able to light their own candles at the *pangari*.

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR PHASE 2 HIRED.** This week, the Parish Council, acting on the recommendation of the Building Committee, hired Joel Josehart as construction manager to coordinate and oversee the completion of the interior of the new cathedral. We are in the process of interviewing contractors for the work. Joel will help us transition from contractors who built the exterior and bring to a conclusion some pending matters, as the garage. Meanwhile, the Capital Campaign Committee has resumed its task of raising the funds to complete the project, estimated at \$4 million. The Cathedral already has on hand the \$1.5 million bequest by the late Sam George as well as money from the paver project... 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 to a so called "new normal," – i.e. a community where we may do things a little differently, but with the same strong faith in God. 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 whom we are given the faith and the vision 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."*