

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 12, Verses 6-14: Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew Chapter 9, Verses 1-8: At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Five (Plagal 1):

Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful, we both praise and worship Him for, in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure, and the dead He raised unto life though His all-glorious Resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠδύοκησε σαρκὶ ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγειρᾶι τοὺς τεθνεώτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR AUGUST: Divine Liturgy for Holy Transfiguration Aug 6th at 10 am. Paraklesis - Friday Aug 9th and Monday Aug 12th at 6pm. Vespers for Dormition - Wednesday Aug 14th at 6pm. Divine Liturgy for Dormition of the Theotokos Aug 15th at 10am. Divine Liturgy for Beheading of St. John the Baptist Aug 29 at 10am

STEWARDSHIP / REALM – We have revolutionized how we manage donations and finances at The Cathedral. Already securely processing thousands of dollars in gifts, Realm offers convenience and transparency in your stewardship and giving journey. For those preferring traditional methods, stewardship cards are still available. Sign up for Realm at www.annunciation.org/realms to set your annual pledge and explore the benefits of this innovative system. For Realm inquiries, please contact realmhelp@annunciation.org. Join us as we embrace this new era of faith and community stewardship together.

Grant us Your blessing, Lord our Savior, that we may always be faithful stewards, continuing to share the gifts You have given us, by the power of Your grace, mercy and love. May Your name be glorified forever.

AN INVITATION TO HOST COFFEE HOUR: As part of our revitalized coffee hour program, we're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours over the course of the year. We'll supply the coffee/ cream/ sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (e.g., pastries, donuts, bagels & cream cheese, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable/cheese platters and assorted dips, or other similar items). We're currently seeking hosts for August 11, 18, and 25. Please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN: Every third Tuesday of the month, we come together to prepare, serve, and share a hot meal with those in our neighborhood. Our next Community Kitchen will be this **Tuesday, August 20**. If you are interested in volunteering please contact **Maria Polyzos** at community.kitchen@annunciation.org or sign up at <https://annunciation.org/community-kitchen-signup>

ELPIDA BACKPACK FUNDRAISER: Elpida, our vibrant new religious education program, is seeking 35 donors to give \$100 each. Can we count on you? The funds will go towards Elpida's next community service project on August 24 in which the children of our Metropolis will be filling high-quality backpacks with essential school supplies to be distributed to students in need in our surrounding Mission District. We have partnered with the amazing Sydney Paige Foundation to conduct this community service project. Please help us secure the necessary supplies and meet our goal of empowering students in school and in life by donating today: @<https://donate.sydney Paige.org/elpida>

PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Κοίμησις τῆς Θεοτόκου, Dormition of the Theotokos

On Thursday August 15th immediately following the Divine Liturgy, the Philoptochos will be hosting a lunch. The cost will be \$30 for adults. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The proceeds will help support our many Metropolis and National Philoptochos ministries.

Educational Scholarships

The Ladies Philoptochos Society is offering scholarships for graduating senior high school students and college students. Should you have any questions, contact christo.pappademos@annunciation.org

