

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 15, Verses 1-7: Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew Chapter 9, Verses 27-35: At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Ἀπολυτίκιον. Ἦχος βαρύς:

Μετεμορφώθης ἐν τῷ ὄρει Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, δείξας τοῖς Μαθηταῖς σου τὴν δόξαν σου, καθὼς ἠδύνατο. Λάμπρον καὶ ἡμῖν τοῖς ἁμαρτωλοῖς, τὸ φῶς σου τὸ ἀίδιον, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, φωτοδότα δόξα σοι.

You were transfigured upon the mountain, O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your glory as much as they could bear. Do also in us, sinners though we may be, shine Your everlasting light, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Giver of light. Glory to You.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR AUGUST: Paraklesis tomorrow, 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 the 18th and 25th and September the 1st. 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

