

Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: February 15, 2015

MEAT FARE SUNDAY

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Epistle Reading is from First the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 8, verse 8 through chapter 9, verse 2. It is found in our books, page 136.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους Πρώτης Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 8 – κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 2: Ἀδελφοί, βρῶμα ἡμᾶς οὐ παρίστησιν τῷ θεῷ· οὔτε γὰρ ἐὰν φάγωμεν περισσεύομεν, οὔτε ἐὰν μὴ φάγωμεν ὑστερούμεθα. Βλέπετε δὲ μήπως ἡ ἐξουσία ὑμῶν αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς ἀσθενούσιν. Ἐὰν γὰρ τις ἴδῃ σε τὸν ἔχοντα γινῶσιν ἐν εἰδωλείῳ κατακεῖμενον, οὐχὶ ἡ συνείδησις αὐτοῦ ἀσθενοῦς ὄντος οικοδομηθῆσεται εἰς τὸ τὰ εἰδωλόθυτα ἐσθίειν; Καὶ ἀπολείται ὁ ἀσθενῶν ἀδελφὸς ἐπὶ τῇ σῆ γνώσει, δι' ὃν Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν; Οὕτως δὲ ἁμαρτάνοντες εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφούς, καὶ τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν, εἰς Χριστὸν ἁμαρτάνετε. Διόπερ εἰ βρῶμα σκανδαλίζει τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, οὐ μὴ φάγω κρέα εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἵνα μὴ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου σκανδαλίσω. Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος; Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἐλεύθερος; Οὐχὶ Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν ἑώρακα; Οὐ τὸ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ; Εἰ ἄλλοις οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος, ἀλλὰ γε ὑμῖν εἰμὶ· ἡ γὰρ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according Matthew, chapter 25, verses 31-46. It is found in our books on pages 281-283.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 25, ἐδάφ. 11 – 32, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 280-282.

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

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death, and first-born of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας Ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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.com.

ONESIMOS THE APOSTLE; THE MARTYR MAEROS

SERVICES THIS SATURDAY (AND NEXT): This Saturday, February 21, known as *Saturday of Souls*, is a day of commemoration, in prayer, of all monastics. Father Niko Bekris will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy, which will take place at the Chapel of the Living Spring, of the Greek Orthodox Memorial Park, Colma, beginning at 10 a.m. Father Niko will also celebrate the Divine Liturgy there next Saturday, February 28. On that day, the miracle revealed to St. Theodore the Great Martyr, involving boiled wheat, is celebrated. Meanwhile, Father Stephen will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral. The Liturgy at the Cathedral and at the cemetery chapel will begin at 10 a.m.

NO DANCE PRACTICE TODAY: There is no dance practice today, as our dancers are in Anaheim, performing at the Folk Dance Festival. The festival ends this evening, with the Grand Banquet. We wish parents, directors, and children, a safe return.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: Basketball practice, as scheduled, will take place in our gym on Tuesday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., but not on Thursday, February 12, because of FDF.

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS. MARCH 1: Sunday, March 1 is the first Sunday in the Great and Holy Lent. As is our custom throughout the United States, Orthodox of various jurisdictions meet to celebrate the restoration of icons, beginning with the Seventh Ecumenical Council in 787 AD and culminating in imperial decree in 843 AD. This Year's Sunday of Orthodox Vespers will take place at the Protection of the Holy Virgin/St. St. Seraphim Orthodox Church, 90 Mountain View Avenue, Santa Rosa, beginning at 6 p.m. Reception will follow.

YOUR 2015 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE: The February *Herald* features an honor roll of Stewards, granted, not in alphabetical order; this will be corrected in the March *Herald*). In this way, we acknowledge those who have made a financial commitment to support the ministries of the parish during 2015. To date, over 175 of you have sent in your 2015 Stewardship. Our mailing list, however, has some 700 names. It is our goal to have all 700 be supporting Stewards of the Cathedral in 2015. Our 2015 Stewardship Campaign will continue until this goal is reached. We need to get our parish back on track and we appeal to all of you to help in this effort, knowing you want what's best for the parish. In this spirit, we will be communicating with those parishioners whose 2015 Stewardship commitment we have not yet received.

Once again, putting the parish on a sound financial footing depends on each and every parishioner. Therefore, we exhort you, in the words of Scripture: *Give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* (2 Cor. 9:7). Please note that your 2015 Stewardship pledge supports the ongoing ministries of the Cathedral. It is separate from the Building Fund, which is used for the rebuilding of the Cathedral. If you have not submitted your 2015 Stewardship and have misplaced your 2015 Stewardship pledge card, all you have to do is ask Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Committee chair, for another one or, if you prefer, you may obtain one by calling the Cathedral office at 415 864-8000, and one will be mailed to you.

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES: At its January 27th meeting, the Parish Council appointed the following committees: Stewardship: Gus Vouchilas, Capital Campaign: Tom Nuris, Retreats: Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Technology: Nick Rally & Deno Konstantinidis, Pangari: Dustin Novo, Coffee hours/Parish Life: Dr. George Ambus Ambadiotakis, Strategic Planning: Dean Nicolacakis. The Youth Council and Festival Chairs will be determined at the February 24 meeting of the Parish Council.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SUNDAY, MARCH 8: On Sunday, March 8, the Cathedral will host a Lenten Retreat entitled "Spiritual Food for Thought: A history of the prayer rope (*komboskini*) in the Orthodox Church." Our speaker will be Fr. Antony Balnaves. A native of Australia, he converted to Orthodoxy in 1986 and lived for a number of years on Mount Athos. The talk will take place in our Korinthias Hall, following the Divine Liturgy. Dr. Katina Kostoulas is chair of the Cathedral's retreat program. The program is a part of OIKOS (Orthodox in Koinonia Outreach Services).

WE MADE IT TO \$1 MILLION AND BEYOND/THE DECK IS NOW COMPLETE.

Together with the most recent pledge to the Capital Campaign of our Ladies Philoptochos, we made it to \$1 million (and beyond). That's a million dollars given and pledged since the October 17, 2013 issuance of our building permit—25 years to the day of Loma Prieta What an accomplishment! Last week alone, we deposited over \$50,000 in gifts. If we keep up this pace, we will finish and pay off our building in no time.

Meanwhile, the deck is now complete. The perimeter walls have also been constructed. The garage ramp was poured this week. Later this month or early March, we will watch the vertical steel being erected. What a sight that will be! Meanwhile, our goal is to get the parking structure up and running as soon as possible, certainly by this time next year. Then work begins on the interior, depending upon the success of our fund raising efforts. **We need your continued monetary support and we need your prayers.** All the donors' names (\$1,000 gift minimum) will eventually be inscribed on the dedication wall in the new Cathedral, where prayers will be constantly offered "for the blessed and ever-memorable founders and benefactors of this Holy Church." Your children and their children should be able to look up one day and see your names on the dedication wall.

In the Book of Exodus (25:8) God says: "Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you." (Translated from the Septuagint: *Και ποιήσεις μοι ἁγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). We've quoted this at least since the start of the Capital Campaign, and we are keeping this "immovable before our eyes," as Deut. 6:8 states, as we rebuild the Cathedral to God's glory, to serve our faithful and all God's people in this blessed dynamic heart of San Francisco.



*The Church is here to heal,
To reconcile,
To connect with Christ,
To become partakers of the
divine glory,
To worship God,
To proclaim the Gospel, in the
original Christian way,
That the world may be saved.*