The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month. The class is meeting this morning, in the second-floor conference room, beginning at 9 a.m. In September, it will meet on the last day as well as on the 16th.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 3, Verses 13-17. It is found in our books on page 307

Συνάξης των Παρενέργων της Ορθοδοξίας: Το πρώτο Δυομενικό Ημερολόγιο της Ορθοδοξίας

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. 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 by reading selections from 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) why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact Alexandros Kozák at orthodoxy-agkazainukemail.com. Note: The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month. The class is meeting this morning, in the second-floor conference room, beginning at 9 a.m. In September, it will meet on the last day as well as on the 16th.

EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul’s letter to the Galatians, Chapter 6, Verses 11-18. It is found in our books on page 147.

εὐαγγελίζωσας τῷ Ἐκκλησίᾳ τῆς Κατάλοιπος τοῦ ἕνεκα σοῦ, οὗτοι ἀναγκαζόμεθα ἵνα τι ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ του Ἰησοῦ ἐναποκαλέσῃς, οὐδὲ γὰρ ὅσοι περιτέτμηθαν αὐτοὶ νόμον φιλοτεουσιν, ἀλλὰ θέλουσιν ἰδίαν πρόοδον ἔχουσιν. Ἐμοὶ δὲ μὴ γένοτον καθαρίζεσθαι εἰ δὲν ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ· Ν’ οὐκ οἷος κομισώς ἐστήσωσαν τὴν κύριον τις καταπολεμήσωσαν, αὐτοὶ αἰσχροφόρους, ἀλλὰ καννητές. Καὶ δόντι τον κατανεύσας στηρίξωμεν, εὐπροσώπησον τις, ἵνα θεοῦ διώκωνται, ἵνα οὐκ ἡμῖν ἀκροβυστία ἐν καταπολεμώσας ἑαυτούς εἰς τὸν κόσµον, τὸν καταπολεμώσας γὰρ τὸν κόσµον καταπολεμήσωσαι εἰς τὸν Κύριον. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν καταπολεμώσας εἰς τὸν κόσµον, οὗτοι δὲ ἐσκύλευσαν τὸν καταπολεμώσας εἰς τὸν Κύριον: ἔσκυλεύσαι τὸν καταπολεμώσας εἰς τὸν Κύριον, ἐν ᾧ ἐσταύρωται· οὕτω τοῦτοι ἐσκύλευσαν τὸν καταπολεμώσας εἰς τὸν Κύριον. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν καταπολεμώσας εἰς τὸν Κύριον, οὗτοι δὲ ἐσκύλευσαν τὸν καταπολεμώσας εἰς τὸν Κύριον: ἔσκυλεύσαι τὸν καταπολεμώσας εἰς τὸν Κύριον.
WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY: Spontaneous! Without much fanfare, two weeks ago, we “spilled out” onto the courtyard, most of us for the first time, to get a feel for the outdoor space, which we will be using for this year’s Festival and afterwards. Although we have a little way to go to complete the fountain and the landscaping, and much more of a way to go to complete the interior of the new Cathedral, you can all take great pride reflecting on what, with your faith, determination, and vision, you have accomplished so far, in faithful response to our God, when he told Moses: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις µοι ἁγίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήσοµαι ἐν ὑµῖν). (Exodus 25:8). Don’t take it lightly: you are building His sanctuary, a sacred space, where we will be gathering for prayer and for the glorification of God’s Holy Name. Where? In the heart of one of the world’s premier cities, where the Orthodox Christian faith is poised to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation, given the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, and the second century of our existence as a community.

“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.”