EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul’s letter to the Galatians, Chapter 4, Verses 22-27: Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her who is married.”

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 5, Verses 5-11. It is found in our books on page 239-241.

Today’s Apostikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Eight (Plagal Four): Descending from on high, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be released from the passions of this world. You who are our Resurrection and our Life, Lord, glory to You. In the future, we will be freed of our sins.

THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del mal.

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. It meets in the second-floor conference room, beginning at 9 a.m. In October, the class will meet on October 7 and on October 21.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGAN ON THE 9th: Sunday School (better yet, “Classes in Christian Formation”) resumed September 9, and continues each Sunday, except as noted, at 10:30 a.m. It is so gratifying to see so many young children come to church, to the house of the Lord, where they are taught the fundamentals of the Faith. We recognize the challenges posed by so many other pursuits—sports, dance, extracurricular activities. However, the Faith—taught in the home and is reinforced in the church—is paramount. We thank you, the parents, for encouraging and for bringing children. We are grateful, as well, with the addition of new teachers this year.

40 DAY BLESSING: This morning we welcome 40 day old Nicholas, son of Alkiviadis Zoupas and Efthymia Karavelaki. Na Mas Zis! Long Life!

TODAY IS THE THIRD (AND FINAL) DAY OF OUR FOOD FESTIVAL: To all of you—organizers, volunteers, guests, a huge welcome. Welcome to the Annunciation Cathedral family, for this is what the Food Festival is about—family. And what we do, as a community, is to build a family, a world family, God’s family. The material support you give us is second to the communal support. We are grateful, as we endeavor, as a Church, to glorify God in the service of our brothers and sisters of all nations, as His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch admonished us when he broke ground for our new Cathedral back in 1997. So, welcome. Welcome to our programs. Welcome to our family. And, thank you for your support.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The Parish Council, scheduled to meet last Sunday, will, instead, meet next Sunday, September 30. The meeting will take place in the conference room, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Its main agenda item will be winding down this phase of our building project, as well as ancillary issues, including funding.

NO DANCE PRACTICE TODAY: Dance practice will take place next Sunday, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Today, our groups will be performing, as scheduled.

YOU ARE INVITED to attend the Sunday 9 a.m. Service with the Parish Council. The Parish Council will meet in the conference room, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018
WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY: Spontaneous! Without much fanfare,
A few 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 are 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 ὑμῖν ἁγίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήσοµαι ἐν ὑµῖν). (Exodus 25:8).
Be proud: 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.”