EPISTLE READING: 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 122.

The class is meeting this morning. In November, the class will meet on (or rediscover) why we belong in the Church.

The starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover the fundamental texts characteristic of the Orthodox worldview.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY: 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 Anthony Ambus, members of the Nominating Committee, who will place names in nomination at Parish Assembly on November 4 at the Ascension Cathedral, Oakland. For additional information and for reservations, please use the following link: www.iocc.org/rememberinghome

Thanksgiving of Protection of the Theotokos

Today's Mnemosynon: Today’s Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of our beloved Brother George Tsagaris, who fell asleep in the Lord 5 years ago. We will also pray for the repose of the soul of Eleni Handrinou, 58 years; and Aphrodite and Constantino Balikas, 53 years. Aionia I Mimi! Eternal Memory!

Dance Group to Hold Fund Raiser Today: The Greek dance groups will hold a fund raiser today, following the Divine Liturgy. For $10, they will serve you: a gyro, fries and a drink. We thank you for supporting this program of our youth, as they continue to prepare to participate in the upcoming Folk Dance Festival.

Parish Assembly Today: Following the Divine Liturgy, and while you are enjoying lunch, available from our dance groups, we will hold our second Parish Assembly for 2018. The whole Assembly should last less than an hour, and will include, as agenda items: 1. Election of Assembly Chair. 2. Reading and Approval of the February 4, 2018 Minutes (Denos Konstantinidis). 3. Construction Update (Tom Nuris, Ken Katen, Chris Kyriacou and Philippos Athanasiadis). 4. Report of the Nominating Committee (Katherine Dermitzakis, Irene Poulakidas, and Tony Ambus)

Dance Practice: Dance practice will take place today, at 12 noon, and also on Saturday, October 20, at 12 noon.

Elementary/ Middle School Basketball: There will be basketball practice for our elementary and middle school children on November 1, beginning at 7 p.m. There is no basketball practice on Wednesday, October 31.

Housing for Students from Greece: The US Embassy in Athens, in tandem with the Metropolis of San Francisco, is looking for housing for 9 nights, November 2-10, for 19 college-age students from Greece. The students will be visiting greater Bay Area tech companies. This is a great opportunity for host families to meet with some of the brightest students from Greece; among them are winners of a Challenge startup competition. Host families would provide housing only. No meals or transportation. If you are able to do so, please reply via the following link: https://goo.gl/forms/iplLSNsLFEHBD2

Parking: Until our parking component is up and running (following final inspections and the engagement of a third party operator, in accordance with the terms of our conditional use permit) the valet will park our cars. We simply drop off and pick up our cars at the entrance. We do not go down into the garage ourselves. For this service, we will pay $5 per car, to cover the cost of the attendants. The Cathedral will no longer subsidize parking in the lot behind the Cathedral.

Interested in Running for Parish Council? Please see Kathy Dermitzakis, Irene Poulakidas, or Anthony Ambus, members of the Nominating Committee, who will place names in nomination at Parish Assembly on October 28. In order to become a candidate, you need to have been a Steward of the Cathedral for at least one year prior to declaring your candidacy, and also attend a mandatory seminar. Elections will take place on December 16.

Community Christmas Card: It's not too soon to think about the Community Christmas Card. Do stop by the Christmas card table, during the month of November.

IOCC Dinner November 4: This year’s IOCC dinner, Remembering Home, will take place on Sunday, November 4 at the Ascension Cathedral, Oakland. For additional information and for reservations, please use the following link: www.iocc.org/rememberinghome
DON’T YOU JUST LOVE THE COURTYARD? We utilized the courtyard for the first time during this year’s Festival. When everything was picked up, we noticed the grime all over the courtyard. However, the pavers were all cleaned immediately afterwards, in preparation for other outdoor events. We have a little way to go to wind down this phase of construction, before we begin work on the interior. (We mean the fountain, some columns, doors, etc.) This takes time, especially in this challenging building climate, but, let’s be positive. Consider what you have accomplished so far. As with Moses, we hear God speaking to us: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις µοι ἁγίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήσοµαι ἐν ὑµῖν). (Exodus 25:8). This takes vision; it also takes determination and faith. You are doing something extraordinary: you are building His sanctuary, a sacred space, right the heart of one of the world’s premier cities. Here, the Orthodox Christian faith is poised to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation to a whole new generation of worshipers.

“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.”