PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY: The Parish Council will meet in the conference room, located on the second floor, by the elevator, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

DIVINE LITURGY THIS WEEK: The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated this week on Wednesday, November 21 (Feast of the Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple), beginning at 10 a.m. There will be NO Divine Liturgy this year on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 21. We wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving Day. Meanwhile, the Cathedral office will be closed on Friday, November 22 (the day after Thanksgiving).

DANCE PRACTICE: Dance practice will take place today, at 12 noon, and also on Saturday, November 24, at 12 noon.

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: Basketball Practice will not take place this week, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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.

WE HAVE ELEVEN (11) RUNNING FOR PARISH COUNCIL: The following individuals are running for Parish Council. Their names were either placed in nomination at the October 28, 2018 Parish Assembly, or else they are self-declared. The eleven are: George Ambadiotakis Ambus, D.D.S., Peter (Panagiotis) Cazanis, Alexandros Kozak, Christopher Kyriacou, Esq., John Lampros, Vassiliki Moulas, Dean Nicolakis, Manoli Nuri, James (Jim) Rakos, Christopher (Chris) Ramos, and Nick Rally. Currently, there are seven places on the Parish Council, for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2019. In order to become a candidate, you need to have been a Steward of the Cathedral for at least one year prior to the elections, and also attend a mandatory seminar. The seminar took place last Sunday. Elections will take place on December 16.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD: Do stop by the Christmas card table, during the month of November. There, you will be greeted by Annamarie Balian (along with her husband, Robert) and Annette Chiappari. Kalliope Fousekis is at home, recuperating. They will take your name(s) down for inclusion in this year’s Community Christmas Card. The donation is $25. You will be joining your fellow parishioners and friends of the Cathedral, extending best wishes for a blessed Nativity and a joyous, peaceful New Year, 2019. Our trio will be on hand all during the month of November.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP: By now, you should have received a letter thanking you for your 2018 Stewardship or, if you haven’t pledged in 2018, a letter saying how important you are as a part of the community, and, therefore, how vital your support is. By now, you may also have received a packet containing a Stewardship pledge card for 2019, a return envelope, and a brochure with additional information about Stewardship. Please make your support for 2019 a priority, by completing and returning your 2019 Stewardship pledge card prior to December 31st of the present year. We can’t thank you enough for your continued support.

VASILIOPTA/CRAB FEED: Though it’s only November, our parish Vasilopita and also the Crab Feed, both sponsored by our Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos, are just around the corner. The Vasilopita will take place Sunday, January 6 (on Holy Theophany), while the Crab Feed will take place Friday, January 25.
DON’T YOU JUST LOVE THE COURYARD? 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, like our Young Adults dinner last Friday evening. We have a little way to go to wind down this phase of construction: the fountain, gates, doors, etc.) This takes time, especially in this challenging building climate. Let’s stay 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.”