SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

EMBLEMATICA: This morning’s Apostolic reading is from St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians, Chapter 3, Verses 4-11. It is found in our books, on page 129.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN/YOUNG ADULT GATHERING THIS TUESDAY: Community Kitchen will take place this coming Tuesday, December 18. Community Kitchen is a feeding program, headed by the Cathedral’s Young Adults. Some 100 individuals are served. However, you don’t have to be a Young Adult in order to volunteer to set up or work to serve. We just learned that one of our middle schoolers and about 10 classmates will be on hand to help. Set-up begins at 5 p.m. We begin serving at 6:30 p.m. Following cleanup, our Young Adults convene in the conference room for wine ‘n cheese, and discussion.

TODAY’S MNEMOSTYNA: This morning’s memorial services are being offered for the repose of the soul of Michalis Siouris (52 years); Angeliki Siouris (56 years); Panagiota Siouris (12 years); Alex Tripp (1 year); and Mary Pappas (6 months). Αἰεὶ Μαρτυρεῖν! Eternal Memory!

40 DAY BLESSING: This morning we welcome 40 day old Eleni, daughter of Sila and Jimmy Consos. Να Μας Ζησί! Long Life!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TODAY: Following this morning’s Divine Liturgy (as well as the Memorials and the 40 day Blessing), our Sunday School will offer its Christmas program. The program will take place in lieu of a sermon. Our Greek School held its Christmas program yesterday, at the conclusion of the day’s services.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TODAY: The following individuals are running for Parish Council. George Ambadiotakis Ambus, D.D.S.; Peter (Panagiotis) Cazannis, Alexandros Kozak, Christopher Kylacou, Esq.; John Lampsos, Vassiliki Moulas, Dean Nicolacakis, Manoli Nuris, James (Jim) Rakos, Christopher (Chris) Ramos, and Nick Rally. Seven of these will be elected to serve a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2019.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY: The meeting will take place in the conference room, at 12:30 p.m.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PASTRY SALE: Your pastry orders are ready to be picked up today. Our special pastry sale helps raise funds for the charities and ministries of the Philoptochos. We thank the Ladies Philoptochos for their efforts and also extend best wishes and prayers to our President, Janis Petrou, as she recovers from surgery.

DANCE PRACTICE: Dance practice will take place today, beginning at 12 noon, and also on Saturday, December 22, beginning at 10:30 a.m. ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: Basketball Practice will take place this week on Wednesday, December 19 and on Thursday, December 20, beginning at 7 p.m.

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.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP: Recently, you 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, nor can we stress how important your participation is, as a member of the Annunciation Cathedral family. Your Stewardship support makes possible the very existence of this parish, and its ability to offer Liturgical services, educational, & philanthropic programs.

VASILOPITA/CRAB FEED: 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.
WHAT NEXT? As you can see, we’re winding down Phase 1 of construction. We have a little way to go, however, in order to complete the fountain, the gates along Valencia Street, the exterior doors, etc. This takes time, especially in this challenging building climate and, of course, money. In order to complete these tasks and begin working on Phase 2 (the interior), we will need to embark upon a renewed Capital Campaign. (More about this in the New Year). Let’s stay positive and focused. 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 also takes vision, 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.”