SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018

EPISTLE READING: This morning’s Apostolic reading is from St. Paul’s letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verses 9-10, 32-40. It is found in our books, on pages 150-151.

THE 10 MARTYRS OF GREECE

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

DANCE PRACTICE: Dance practice will take place today, beginning at 7 p.m. beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday is Christmas Divine Liturgy, at 10:00 a.m. Traditional Christmas carols will be sung at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The Cathedral invites you to worship with us, as it extends to all of you, best wishes for a blessed Christmas, and a joyous, peaceful New Year.

TODAY’S MNEMOSYNO: This morning’s memorial service is being offered for the repose of the soul of Mary Mitchell, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago. Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

PARKING: For the time being, Golden State Parking, the valet company, parks our cars on Sunday mornings. We drop off and pick up our cars at the entrance. We do not go down into the garage ourselves. For this service, we’ve been paying $5, essentially to cover the cost of the attendants. Meanwhile, we have signed a 6-month trial agreement with the valet company so that, as soon as it obtains the necessary permits, it can operate the parking weekdays as well. We anticipate this service will begin February 1. When it does, we will no longer be paying to park when we come to church for services.

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.

TODAY’S GOSPEL READING: The Lord’s Prayer in Spanish:

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TISONIC THE DISMISSAL HYMN

We will be following the Vespasian Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, beginning at 10 a.m. Tuesday is Christmas Day. Orthros will be celebrated beginning at 9 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy, at 10:00 a.m. Traditional Christmas carols will be sung at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The Cathedral invites you to worship with us, as it extends to all of you, best wishes for a blessed Christmas, and a joyous, peaceful New Year.

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Today’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 1, Verses 1-25. It is found in our books on pages 311-317.

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Today’s Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Five (Plagal 1):

The ancient Church invites you to worship with us, as it extends to all of you, best wishes for a blessed Christmas, and a joyous, peaceful New Year.

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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). Building 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!