EPistle READING: This morning’s Apostolic reading is from St. Paul’s letter to the Galatians, Chapter 1, Verses 11-19. It is found in our books, on page 153.

The Apostle Paul, the Epistle of Paul to the Church.

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. It is particularly 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. It 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.

Greek School: St. Basil the Great, whose Divine Liturgy we celebrate. Though not a religious holiday, January 1 is also New Year’s Day, as it marks the beginning of the Roman tax year. The ecclesiastical New Year begins September 1. The Orthodox will be celebrated beginning at 9 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy, at 10 a.m.

Meanwhile, this weekend begins the Feast of Holy Theophany. Also known as Epiphany, the feast celebrates the Baptism of Jesus. On Saturday, January 5, the Great Hours will be read, beginning at 9 a.m. This will be followed by the Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, at 10 a.m. The Agiagamos service will be celebrated at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. On Sunday, January 6, the Agiagamos service will be celebrated at the conclusion of the Doxology, just before the Divine Liturgy. At the conclusion of Sunday’s Liturgy, the oath of office will be administered to the newly elected members of the Parish Council. Afterwards, the Parish Council will meet and elect officers for 2019.

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. We do not go down into the garage ourselves.

SUNDAY/GREEK SCHOOL: There is no Sunday School today. Sunday School will resume next Sunday, January 6. Greek School resumes Saturday, January 5.

DANCE PRACTICE: Dance practice will take place today, beginning at 12 noon, and also on Saturday, January 5, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: Basketball Practice will take place this week on Wednesday, January 2 and on Thursday, January 3, beginning at 7 p.m.

CHURCH SERVICES THIS WEEK: As noted in the January 2019 Herald, Tuesday, January 1 is a holy day. First, it is the feast of the Circumcision of the Lord, as it is the eighth day following the Nativity. It is also the Feast of St. Basil the Great, whose Divine Liturgy we celebrate. Not only a religious holiday, January 1 is also New Year’s Day, as it marks the beginning of the Roman tax year. The ecclesiastical New Year begins September 1. The Orthodox will be celebrated beginning at 9 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy, at 10 a.m.

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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 Sunday services.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP: This month, 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 31 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 next 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). 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!

“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.”