EPISODE 278: INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul’s Second Letter to the Galatians, Chapter 4, Verses 5-8. It is found in our books on page 154.

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 Alexander Kozák at orthodoxy-agkozak@me.com. Note: The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month. It meets in the second-floor conference room, beginning at 9 a.m. In January, the group will meet Sunday, January 12 and also Sunday, January 19.

ADOPT A PAGE: As of today, we have 82 pages “adopted.” We are trying to schedule the inscription of the new pages and a re-do of the old ones over a weekend when no rain is expected, as the paint cannot adhere to wet surfaces. We hope to have the work done before the Archbishop’s visit on January 26.

PARISH VASILOPTA/PARISH COUNCIL OATH OF OFFICE/ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS: Immediately following today’s Divine Liturgy, you are invited to participate in the Parish Vasilopita, which will take place in the community center. As it is the Eve of Theophany, and a day of fasting, we will forgo the usual brunch. Instead, Philoptochos is hosting a simple coffee hour, affording us the opportunity to cut the parish Vasilopita and also to cut our individual Vasilopitas, table by table.

We hope to have the work done before those who were elected to serve on the Parish Council for 2020-2021. They are: Deno Konstantinidis, Anasstasios (Tasso) Mavroudis, Andrew Miltiades, Thomas Nuris, Jim Rakos, Mike Sarikakis, Paul Svetcoff, Nicholas Svetscof, and James D. Vorries. Following the Vasilopita cutting, the newly elected members and those elected last year will convene to elect officers for 2020.

We are excited to share with you that our 100th Year Gala Banquet will take place, in 2021, in the grand ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, in the same place where the original banquet took place to celebrate the creation of the Cathedral 100 years ago! Please mark your calendars.

CALLING ALL ALTAR SERVERS: In anticipation of the arrival of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, we will be having a brief Altar Boy Training Session for all of our existing Altar Boys as well as any new Altar Boy recruits. We will go over how to serve a Hierarchical Liturgy as well as the basics of serving a standard Divine Liturgy. The training will be led by Christo Pappademos and will take place directly following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 12th. Please feel free to email Christo if your son would like to serve in the Altar.

Let’s meet our goal of 400 Stewardship pledges for 2020. As of today, we’re about half way there. Have you sent in your 2020 Stewardship cards? Cards are available at the pangeri.

Stewardship: Your support makes possible the very existence of this parish, and its ability to offer Liturgical services, educational, & philanthropic programs. Let’s meet our goal of 400 Stewardship pledges for 2020. As of today, we’re about half way there. Have you sent in your 2020 Stewardship cards? Cards are available at the pangeri.

100th ANNIVERSARY: In 2021, the Cathedral turns 100. We are excited to share with you that our 100th Year Gala Banquet will take place, in 2021, in the grand ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, in the same place where the original banquet took place to celebrate the creation of the Cathedral 100 years ago! Please mark your calendars.

CALLING ALL 100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE TO A MEETING: The meeting will take place in the conference room next Sunday, January 12, 2020, following the Divine Liturgy. We will review a proposal and further define the scope of events to appropriately celebrate this milestone in the life of our community. We are pleased to inform you that Archon Paul Svetcoff is General Chairman of the 100th anniversary celebrations, and our Ladies Philoptochos will serve as Co-chairs.
PARKING: At long last! Our Final Fire and Electrical Inspections took place Tuesday, December 3. We passed inspection! However, the holdup is in the Building Department, which has been asked to grant its approval so that we may take the final step—a hearing at our local Police Department to allow us to begin running our lot per our Conditional Use Permit agreement. The Building Department is insisting we get the final doors and gates installed and also to sheet rock the other side of the upper lobby so as to satisfy the 1 hour fire rating requirement. Meanwhile, the upper and lower elevator lobbies have been carpeted, as have the stairs from the garage leading up to the narthex. Any day now, we are waiting for the new Valencia Street gates and the lobby doors. It will be a great day when we finally get the ok for the parking, so that we can go on to address completion of the interior. As we go forward, let’s stay positive and focused. Consider what you have accomplished so far! As with Moses, then, in our day we hear God speaking to us: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις τοῦ 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 great sacred space, right the heart of one of the world’s premier cities. Here, our 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.”