MEAT FARE SUNDAY

EPHESIANS 4:25-29

And that, having put away falsehood, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be zealous to keep the spirit stedfast in holiness, lest you fall by the whole scheme of the devil. And may the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. And may the eyes of your heart be enlightened, that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glory within your inheritance in Christ Jesus. To him be glory throughout all ages. Amen.

POLYCARP THE HIEROMARTYR, BISHOP OF SMYRNA

KUDOS TO OUR YOUTH: The Cathedral had four groups represent it at this year’s Folk Dance and Choral Festival, which took place last weekend in Anaheim, CA. In our view, all of our teams are winners! Of the four groups, To Mellon won 1st place; Revmina got gold; and Spithes got silver. As is our custom, the groups will present their awards to the church, at the conclusion of today’s Divine Liturgy. Note, all this would not be possible without the selfless dedication of our directors—Lea Lyberopoulos, Irene Kyriacou, Lea Papavasiliou, Katerina Sarikakis, Eleni Taptelis, and Katerina Mithos—and the support of our dance parents. To all of you—thank you—your monetary and moral support of this program and of our children are what make all this worthwhile.

GO RED SUNDAY: Our Ladies Philoptochos is observing “Go Red Sunday,” today, to draw attention to the National Heart Association’s movement to end heart disease and stroke in women. Find out more during today’s coffee hour.

PARISH COUNCIL: Today’s meeting will take place in the conference room, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

JY BASKETBALL AT ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY: 2 pm: St. Gregory and Annunciation Girls Elementary; 3 pm: St. Gregory and Ascension Boys Middle School; 4 pm Annunciation and St. Nicholas Boys Elementary School.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: Practice for Middle School will not take this Wednesday, February 26. Practice for Elementary School boys and girls will take place this Thursday, February 27. Both practices at 7 pm.

SATURDAY OF SOULS: This Saturday, February 29, also known as Saturday of Souls, is dedicated to the repose of the souls of monastics. The Divine Liturgy and the Memorial service following, will be celebrated in our chapel, beginning at 10 a.m. The following Saturday, March 7, also known as Saturday of Souls, when we commemorate the Miracle of St. Theodore, Tyro, the services will take place in our chapel, at 10 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT SURVEY: As we are looking to develop our catechetical program further and to increase participation, all our parents are being invited to take part in a survey concerning aspects of this program. It should take only a few minutes to complete: http://bit.ly/2IZks91, or look for a QR code posted in the halls which will take you to the survey. In either case, we would appreciate hearing from you, as the last day of response collection is March 1.

SUNDAY STREETS: MARCH 8: MINI GREEK FESTIVAL: Valencia Street will be closed to through traffic on Sunday, March 8. Our parking will be open for the Divine Liturgy. We are in the process of partnering with Sunday Streets in order to hold a “mini Greek festival” just outside the Cathedral, to encourage support and activity at this northern end of Valencia Street where, in the past, there is very little going on. By offering gyros and other delectable, and some music, we’re hoping to draw attention to this northerly part of Valencia Street and, of course, to our vibrant community, which has existed on this spot for nearly 100 years.

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 have 120/2020 Stewards. We thank you for your support. In case you have misplaced your card, additional cards are available at the pangori. For questions about Stewardship, please see our Stewardship chair, Dean Nicolacakis.
PARKING: At long last! Our Final Fire and Electrical Inspections took place December 3, 2019. We passed inspection! However, the holdup is in the Building Department, whose approval we need so that we may take the final step—a hearing at our local Police Department, and the issuance of our occupancy permit for the garage and subsequent operation of the garage per our Conditional Use Permit agreement. The Building Department insisted we get the final doors and gates installed, as well as building up the lobby to meet a one hour burn criterion. The latter was recently done. The lobby doors are being installed. The installation of the gates, meanwhile, began this week, and are about half done. We can’t wait for the day when the parking is up and running! As we go forward, let’s stay positive and focused. Consider what you have accomplished so far. As with Moses, 3200 years ago, so in our own day we hear God speaking, telling us: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις µου ἁγίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήσοµαι ἐν ὑµῖν). (Exodus 25:8). All this requires vision, determination and faith. You have it all: keep reminding yourselves. You are accomplishing something extraordinary here, for 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! May God remember you always, in His heavenly Kingdom!

“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.”