EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 1 Verses 10-14; Chapter 2 Verses 1-3.

The letter starts with the phrase, “beginning at 9 a.m. The group is meeting...”

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 rediscove) why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact Alexandros Kozák at orthodox-agkozak@sneakemail.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. The group is meeting today Sunday, March 15.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN “TO-GO” THIS TUESDAY: This Tuesday March 17, we will have our monthly Community Kitchen, however we will be changing its format in light of the Coronavirus. Instead of hosting a sit-down meal inside our gym as we usually do, this week we will simply prepare our to-go bags and place them outside the Cathedral front doors on a table for our patrons to pick up as they need.

THIRD SALUTATIONS THIS FRIDAY: On the first five Fridays of Great Lent, Salutations to the Virgin Mary are held in Orthodox churches. The origin of the service comes from 626 AD, when Constantinopele was besieged by the Avars. Patriarch Sergios led a procession around the city wall with an icon of the Theotokos, and the people prayed all day, hence the word allhizitos. The City was spared. The service on the fifth Friday of Great Lent is known as the Akathist. Services on each of the Friday evenings begin at 7 pm.

DEALING WITH THE CORONAVIRUS: Health officials advise hand washing is the most effective way of staving off this virus. We should also refrain from the normal ways we greet one another, through handshakes and hugs. It goes without saying that if someone is not feeling up to par, that person should stay at home. Meanwhile, the Greek School’s Independence Day program this coming Saturday (in the hall) and Sunday (in the chapel) has been cancelled. We will be announcing other cancellations and modifications as needed. We earnestly pray for the abatement of this disease, as we take steps necessary to protect ourselves and one another. Τδε πατρίς, Τροθήκης, παρέθανεν οὕτως ημᾶς εἰρήσασθαι!

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Mark, Chapter 2, Verses 1-12.

THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, bágame tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y libranos del Mal.

ADOPT A PAVER: As of today, we have 92 pavers “adopted.” We are trying to schedule the inscription of the new pavers and a re-do of the old ones over a weekend when no rain is expected, as the paint cannot adhere to wet surfaces.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Our Parish Council will meet today, beginning at 12:30 pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020
PARKING: Having passed our Final Fire and Electrical Inspections on, December 3, 2019, we are complying with additional requirements imposed by the Building Department, namely, an interior fire rated wall, the final lobby doors, the Valencia Street gates and the walkway from the lobby to Valencia Street, so that we can implement our Conditional Use Permit and operate the garage full-time. We are concurrently addressing drainage issues. As we go forward, let’s stay positive and focused. Consider what you have accomplished so far! As with Moses, 3,200 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 ποιήσει 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.”