**SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020**

**EPHESIANS READING OF THE DAY:** This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 16, Verses 16-34.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 9, Verses 1-38.

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN**

**SYMEON THE SYLITE**

Today’s Anmësymon: Memorial prayers are being offered for the repose of our brother Basile Mavroudis, who fell asleep in the Lord years 24 ago. Aionia i Mimi! Eternal Memory!

**LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE** Thank you for lighting a virtual candle every Sunday, thus keeping hope alive. Whether you donate $1 or $1,000, your gift is one of faith. It helps keep the Cathedral solvent during this universal upheaval. More importantly, it connects us to Him who is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and reminds us of our calling to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). Keep on lighting your virtual candles! To do so, please visit our web site, www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link.

**VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR:** Visitors to the Annunciation Cathedral often remark at how friendly and welcoming the Cathedral is, how they feel valued and at home. Certainly, much of this is attributable to the coffee fellowship hour which follows every Sunday Divine Liturgy. Here, people connect with one another, often resulting in lasting friendships. Thanks to Professor Nicholas Economides and his wife, Janine, Annunciation Cathedral is resuming Sunday coffee hours, but in a virtual way. Professor Economides is an internationally recognized academic authority on network economics, electronic commerce and public policy. Janine, meanwhile, maintains a blog, offers a daily Biblical exegesis, and sings opera arias. They make their home in New York City and in San Francisco, where they are devoted members of the Cathedral. Won’t you join them as they bring you together, following the Sunday Divine Liturgy, during this challenging, global pandemic. If you are a www.annunciation.org subscriber, you will receive directly an email from Prof. Economides on joining the virtual coffee hour on Sundays at noon using Zoom.

**PRAY FOR HEALTH:** Please pray for health and wellbeing, one for another during these times. Especially pray for our health workers, all those on the front lines, who care for those who are sick. Also, please pray for members of our community who are facing health challenges and trials at this time. May God restore them to health.

**REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH:** In accordance with guidelines from our Metropolis, the reopening of Annunciation Cathedral is being considered. A Task Force has been formed toward this end. More information is forthcoming, and can be found in the June issue of the Herald. We are all eager to return to “normalcy.” However, the safety of all of our fellow congregants is uppermost in our thoughts. Meanwhile, we invite you to participate via streaming!

**VOLUNTEERING/DONATING DURING THE PRESENT PANDEMIC:** The San Francisco Food Bank, which supplies much of the food that we use to prepare meals for our Community Kitchen, has been especially hard hit by the pandemic. You may wish to visit the Food Bank’s web site, https://www.sffoodbank.org or call the Food Bank at 415 282-9007 ext. 249, and offer to assist them in bagging and distributing groceries to the needy or by making a donation. You may also wish to make a donation to support the work of Raphael House. This is an Orthodox Christian shelter, located in the Tenderloin. One way you can help them during this crisis is through their Amazon wish list: https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charity/list?ile=IXH4CG12NQ1Rref=smi_cl_ed_clref?smi=smi_cl_ed_cl. To make a donation for their Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund: https://www.raphaelhouse.org/emergency-fund/

**INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES:** These very popular classes are taking place on a weekly basis, remotely, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alex Kosak. If you are new to the parish or you are considering being received into the Church through baptism and/or chrismation, as an adult, we invite you to speak with Alex about your wishes and the possibility of joining the Introduction to Orthodoxy class. Please contact him at orthodoxy-agkazaksneakemail.com.
EVERYTHING IS ON HOLD: The present pandemic has put everything building-related on hold. As you know, prior to our being sheltered in place, we were in the process of installing the final gates along Valencia Street and on our courtyard, as well as taking care of some leak and drainage issues. Meanwhile, the granite which will clad the Valencia Street walls has been fabricated, as have the stone which completes the fountain, and the final lobby doors. Work on the walls resumed on Tuesday, May 20. The remaining work will resume soon, so that we may open and operate the garage full-time and begin work on the interior. As a community, we’ve been through much, especially when we lost everything to the earthquake, back in 1989. But, we’ve bounced back. It wasn’t easy, but we did it, because we have faith, we have hope, and we have unity. So, too, we will weather this pandemic and return what many are calling “the new normal,” –i.e. a community where social distancing will become routine. But, our faith remains the same; our need for God remains the same. After all, it is for Him, in Him, and through Him that we continue to exist at all. Praise God for the Gift of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whose Resurrection we are given the faith and the vision to rebuild His Church. Ως το Αυτόν πέστε Χριστός Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

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