EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verses 9-17: Brethren, we are God’s fellow workers, you are God’s field, God’s building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay that is which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man’s work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and that temple you are.

THE AUGUST FAST: As we prepare to observe the Feast of the Dormition, on August 15, we offer the service of Paraklesis, daily, beseeching the intercessory prayers of the Mother of God. The service will be offered at the conclusion of today’s Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy will also be offered this Saturday, August 15, as we remember the falling asleep of the Theotokos, the one who bore God in the flesh. The services will be streamed.

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 keeps 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, or enter https://annunciation.org/candle.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR ON PAUSE: Since its inception, our Virtual Coffee Hour has enabled our parishioners to visit with one another socially, following the Divine Liturgy. Effective today, virtual coffee hour is on pause; we will inform you when it resumes. Additional information can be found at https://annunciation.org/virtual-coffee-hour.

FESTIVAL COMMEMORATIVE BOOK: Even though we will not be able to hold our Food Festival in September, we will, nevertheless, be publishing a Program Book, which is a big bit year after year, in addition to its being a major source of funding for the Cathedral’s ministries. Entitled Physically Distant; Spiritually Connected, the book is being printed in this, our 94th year as a community, which we are also celebrating. In addition to your ads and sponsorship pages, the book will also contain a directory of the parishioners and friends of the Cathedral. We invite you to be creative: instead of the usual “best wishes for a successful festival,” consider a photo or two of your being sheltered in place during this COVID-19 pandemic, along with a narrative of how you’re coping, how you continue to maintain your connections with one another. Contracts will be coming to you by mail in August, with a deadline of September 15. We invite your participation and continued support.

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH: San Francisco’s directive is still in place, namely that “religious gatherings and ceremonies” may take place “outdoors only (up to 12 people), with face coverings and social distancing.” This means that our Parish Council and diocesan leadership will not be able to lift the current directive. However, we are working towards a gradual, responsible reopening. We believe we can achieve this whilst maintaining the safety of our parishioners. Keep an eye on our website and social media for more information.

Today’s Apolytikon (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone One: The stone that had been sealed before your tomb by the Jews, and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory unto our resurrected Christ, glory unto Your Kingdom, glory to Your Dispensation, O You who alone love mankind.

THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estas en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase 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. The Lord’s Prayer in English: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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THINGS BEGINNING TO MOVE: The present pandemic has put everything building-related on hold but, now, things are beginning to move again. The granite which along the Valencia Street walls and the stone cap have been installed. The roofing and drainage issues are being addressed as we write this. The gate people came out this week. We’re now waiting for the lobby doors. As soon as we finish this and get our certificate of occupancy for the garage, we can open the garage to self-park. This is necessary if we are to open up the church, as the valet can guide us where to park, but can no longer park our cars for us. 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 to a so-called “new normal,” – i.e. a community where we may do things a little differently, but with the same strong faith in God. 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 whom we are given the faith and the vision to rebuild His Church.

“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.”