INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES: These very popular classes are taking place on a weekly basis, giving the faithful many opportunities to connect with one another socially, following the Divine Liturgy. Effective today, virtual coffee hour is on pause; we will inform you when it resumes.

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH: San Francisco’s directive is still in place, namely “religious gatherings and ceremonies” may take place “outdoors only (up to 12 people), with face coverings and social distancing.” This means that Annunciation Cathedral may not open yet, as we had planned, up to 40 congregants (25% of capacity, based on social distancing requirements). Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday ceremonies, “outdoors only” (up to 12 people), with face coverings and social distancing. 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/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. Entitled Physically Distant; Spiritually Connected, the book is being printed in this, our 99th 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.

THE VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR: We look forward to hearing from you.

VOLUNTEERS Sought for Church Reopening: When we resume in-person worship, we will need to have between seven (7) and ten (10) volunteers on hand each time the church is open to monitor the parking garage, greet and check in, ask health questions, usher, and provide general oversight. Are you able and are you willing to assist? If the answer is yes, please let us know, so that we can compile a master list of our volunteer pool and begin training. Please click on https://www.annunciation.org/reopening-volunteer...

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES: These very popular classes are taking place on a weekly basis, remotely, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alex Kozak. 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. agkozak@sneakemail.com.

Today’s Mnemosynon: Today’s Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of our brother and sisters: Athanasios Larisopoulos (d. July 9); Theophany Larisopoulos (d. March 3); Eleni Mantagou (Manganou), (d. Jan. 3); and Pheovi (or Phoeve), Eleni’s mother, (d. July). A gia Na Mvymen! Eternal Memory!

Parish Council: The Parish Council will meet today, virtually, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

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: 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.

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Epistle Reading is from St. Paul, Chapter 1, Verses 14-17: Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men0 and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me in everything. For this is God’s will, his choice, his predestination.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 17, Verses 14-23: At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.” And Jesus answered, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.” And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move hence to yonder place,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting.” As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.”

The Holy Mandylion; Diomedes the Martyr.

Today’s Apostolico (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone One: Χριστέ· Ζωοδότε· Ἁγιοι Αναπάντεκτοι· Σωτήρ, Μη! Τῇ οἰκονοµίᾳ τοῦ τῶν θεάων· ὑπὸ καί καὶ τῶν στρατιωτῶν· ἀνέστης τὸ Σῶµα καὶ Αγαθὰ τῇ Σωτηρίας σου· Χριστός· ἠθίκα τῇ Βασιλείᾳ σου· δόξα τῷ θεῷ· μη! Αἰωνία ἡ Μνήσεως τῆς Μνήσεως τοῦ Ἁγίου Διομήδους τῆς Μνήσεως τῆς Μνήσεως τοῦ Ἁγίου Διομήδους τοῦ Ἁγίου Διομήδους τοῦ Ἁγίου Διομήδους.}

The Lord’s Prayer in Spanish: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo: danos 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.
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.”