EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 1-11: Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God with which he is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believe.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 19, Verses 16-26: At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, “Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, “Which?” And Jesus said, “You shall not kill; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” The young man said to him, “All these I have observed; what do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Today’s Apolytikion: (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Three: Ο Κύριος τοῦ κόσμου, τοῦ κόσμου καὶ τῶν κοσμίων Ἀναστάς ἡμῖν τοὺς θανάτους μας. Τούτους τοὺς θανάτους προστάταις, προστάταις τῶν κεφαλῶν ἡγησάται, ἐκ κοιλίας Ἀδών ἐρρύσατο τοῦ κόσμου τὸ μέγα ἔλεος. ¹ος αὐτοῦ τοῦ κόσμου, τοῦ κόσμου καὶ τῶν κοσμίων Ἀναστάς ἡμῖν τοὺς θανάτους μας.

Today’s Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the soul of our brother Kyriakos Loukoumidis, father of Maritane Fragakis, grandfather of Andronikis Dekaristos and Natalia Maruvnoudis, who fell asleep in the Lord 1 year ago, and also for the repose of our brother Andreas Pappas, husband of Voula Pappas, who fell asleep in the Lord 10 years ago, along with other members of the Pappas family. Αἰώνια μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

ANEMOSYNOV: Today’s Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the soul of our brother Kyriakos Loukoumidis, father of Maritane Fragakis, grandfather of Andronikis Dekaristos and Natalia Maruvnoudis, who fell asleep in the Lord 1 year ago, and also for the repose of our brother Andreas Pappas, husband of Voula Pappas, who fell asleep in the Lord 10 years ago, along with other members of the Pappas family. Αἰώνια μνήμη! Eternal Memory!

FESTIVAL COMMEMORATIVE BOOK: Although we will not be able to hold our Food Festival in September, we will 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 have been mailed out. We invite your participation and thank you for your continued support. Additional info and web links to an online form and online payment (PayPal) can be found here: https://www.annunciation.org/2020-festival-book. The due date is September 15.

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH: Seven months into the pandemic, 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 Annunciation Cathedral may not open yet, as we had planned, with up to 40 congregants (25% capacity, based on social distancing requirements). Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday services (as for example, August 15), remotely, through streaming. We are, of course, saddened that we may not open up for in-person worship, for the time being. However, the safety of our people is paramount. Let us continue to pray for one another in these challenging times, and let us stay safe.

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. We look forward to hearing from you.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES: These 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@saneksmail.com.
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.”