SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021

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 https://agkozak.com/intro.

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 13, Verses 17-21: Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the shee

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, Chapter 17, Verses 12-19: At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And he said to him: “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

Η σημερινή εναγγελική περιοδεία είναι τον κατά Λουθάκα κεφ. 17, εδώρ. 12-19.

Today’s Anaptykion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Seven (Grave): O Lord, by your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted to the thief blessed paradise.  The myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy.  The Apostles did preach the Good News at

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS: Last Sunday, following the Divine Liturgy, the Parish Council convened for the purpose of holding election of officers for 2021 and for the purpose of conducting its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The following officers were elected: President: Chris Kyriacou; Vice-President: Tasso Mavroudis; Secretary: Deno Konstantinidis; Treasurer: Jim Vorrises; Assistant Treasurer: Jim Rakos. Meanwhile, a new office was created, that of Assistant Secretary: John Lampros was elected to this post. Committee assignments were also made; they will appear in the February Herald. Congratulations and God speed as our Parish Council continues to work with Father Stephen to administer the affairs of our parish. Hopefully, we will hold regular elections for Parish Council members this coming December.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR 2021 STEWARDSHIP: As of today, we are half way toward reaching our goal for 2021. Let us make 2021 a banner year for Stewardship. Please forward your 2021 Stewardship pledge card, if you have not already done so. We also ask for your assistance in encouraging your children, age 18 and above, to also declare their support for the Ministries of the Cathedral by submitting their own Stewardship pledge card. A 2021 Stewardship pledge card can be downloaded at https://annunciation.org/pledge-card.

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). To light your virtual candles, please visit our website www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link, or enter https://annunciation.org/candle.

DECEMBER/JANUARY MAILINGS: By now, parishioners and friends of the Cathedral should have received: 1) 2021 Stewardship packet, 2) Christmas Card, 3) 2021 Calendar, 4) Advent Book, and 5) January 2021 Herald, the last few items of the last few days of 2020 through the first few days of 2021. In the event you did not receive all these mailings, please let us know by calling the Cathedral, Monday-Friday, 9 am to 1 pm, at 415 864-8000 or by e-mailing us of our calling to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). To light your virtual candles, please visit our website www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link, or enter https://annunciation.org/candle.

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP: As San Francisco is currently under the Stay at Home order, churches are closed to in-person worship. It is still our goal to open as soon as it is safe to do so. Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday services, remotely, through streaming. Thank God for our Technology team, who are making this possible.

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FOR THE GARAGE: We had hoped we would have picked up our permit from the Building Department by now, but it’s not signed yet. Once it is signed, we will present it to our local police station, along with a copy of our lease with Golden Gate Parking, which will manage the lot for us. It’s been a challenging role. One of these days it will happen, at long last!

YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB: We are planning to launch a virtual Young Adult Book Club in the interest of keeping our Young Adults connected during their time apart. A book club gives us the opportunity to learn more about our faith and one another as we will be meeting for regular virtual discussions. This project is being developed by Andrew Miltiades and Christo Pappademos. Please contact for more information. Andrew may be reached at Andrew.miltiades@annunciation.org; Christo may be reached at Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org.
THE PANDEMIC HAS SLOWED US DOWN BUT NOT STOPPED US. The pandemic has slowed down everything building-related. Nevertheless, things are moving along. Granite along the Valencia Street walls and the stone cap have been installed. The roofing and drainage issues have been addressed. The gates are now virtually complete. The lobby doors are in. Stonecraft is laying the remaining pavers. Meanwhile, our permit for use of the garage has been issued but not yet signed. This week, the Architects have finalized the drawings, known as the bid set, for phase 2 (completion of the interior), at a cost of $3.8 million. 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.”