EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verses 14-16, Chapter 5, Verses 1-6: BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Τῆς ἑορτῆς τῶν ὑστεροπάσχων, Πρὸς Ἐβραίους Ἐπιστολής Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, εδάφ. 14-16, κεφ. 5, εδάφ. 1-6.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, Chapter 8, Verses 34-38, Chapter 9, Verse 1: The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever takes his life in my name, will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, t

Ἡ σημερινή εὐαγγελική περιοχή ἐκ τῶν κατὰ Μάρκου, κεφ. 8, εδάφ. 34-38, κεφ. 9, εδάφ. 1.

Today’s Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Two: When You descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your radiant Divinity. And, when You, from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven’s powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory [to You].

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ ἐθνίτης ἡ ἁθανάτης, τῶν ἄνω ἐνεργοῦσας τὴν αἰσθητὴν τῆς Θεότητος· ὅτε καὶ τοῖς τεκνοθεσίαῖς ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ανέστησα· ταπείνωσα τῶν επισκοπῶν εὐκαίριαν· Ζωόδοτα, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν, δόξα σοι.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOX 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. Alex will extend an invite to the meetings, currently taking place via zoom.
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. Stoncraft is laying the remaining pavers. Meanwhile, our permit for use of the garage has been issued. Recently, the Architects have finalized the drawings, known as the bid set, for phase 2 (completion of the interior), for an estimated 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 mankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified.”