EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2, Verses 1-11: WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontos and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.'

Ο Αὐτός πολέμησεν τοὺς Αποστόλους τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 2, εδάφ. 1-11.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John, Chapter 7, Verses 37-52, Chapter 8, Verse 12: On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Ἡ Ἀπόστολος, Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 2, εδάφ. 1-11.

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://akozak.com/intro. Alex will extend an invite to the meetings, currently taking place via zoom.

HYMN OF PENTECOST: Πολεοδόμων εἰς Ἰησοῦ θεοῦ τῶν, ἡ παντοτικὸς ποὺς ἀλλες ἀνθρώπους, κατατεθέντας αὐτὸς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Λόγον, καὶ ἐκαστὸν τὴν οἰκονομὴν σαγηνεύσας: μιαλθέντος, δόθη σοι. Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who have filled the fishermen with wisdom by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, and who through them have caught in your net the whole world, O lover of mankind, glory to You.

JUNE 15 AND US: On Tuesday, June 15, California, generally, and San Francisco, in particular, lifted/modified most limitations which have been imposed since the onset of the pandemic, social distancing and occupancy limits among them. While it may also be possible that additional restrictions to return to in-person worship will no longer be required, we envision continuation of mask wearing indoors for the foreseeable future, for every one’s protection. While 80% of eligible San Franciscans have been vaccinated, there are some who have not been vaccinated. Add to this the threat of variants, as the pernicious Delta variant, and we have a recipe for disaster, going forward, if we are not careful. We prefer to err on the side of caution. Following the guidance received from our Metropolis and the City health officer, our reopening task force will meet (sometime this week), and revise our own protocols. We will let you know as soon as our committee meets, by e-mail blast and by means of our weekly bulletin, our Herald, and from the pulpit.

GREAT WEEKEND OF THE PARISH COUNCIL: The former Archives of the Cathedral Church were opened a Parish Council member. Those at the meeting and noted how, at the Fairmont Hotel (in the Gold Room, specifically) two days earlier, “a decision was made to establish the cathedral church…” The next day, May 20, the Council met again, with Metaxakis presiding, and decided to purchase property at Hayes and Pearce Streets and to erect the cathedral there, along with a school, diocesan offices, and an orphanage. The rest is history. In 1928, the community voted to relocate to its present location on Valencia Street. And the Cathedral’s 100-year-old story continues from there. But, it all began on May 17, 1921. It began with a vision and with a decision. The vision continues as we take up phase two of our current building project. This phase aims at completing the interior, with walls, furnishings, and iconography, and to consecrating the new cathedral on March 25, 2023. A beacon of our Faith and culture in the heart of San Francisco, for the next 100 years and beyond!

THE CATHEDRAL TURNS 100: 100 years ago, on May 17th, 1921 a banquet was held at the Fairmont Hotel, celebrating the decision to establish the Cathedral. Two days later, on May 19, a group of San Francisco Greeks, ostensibly the first group, for the first time, to discuss the idea of a Metropolitan Archdiocese. The former Bishop, Metaxakis, opened over the meeting and noted how, at the Fairmont Hotel (in the Gold Room, specifically) two days earlier, “a decision was made to establish the cathedral church…” The next day, May 20, the Council met again, with Metaxakis presiding, and decided to purchase property at Hayes and Pearce Streets and to erect the cathedral there, along with a school, diocesan offices, and an orphanage. The rest is history. In 1928, the community voted to relocate to its present location on Valencia Street. And the Cathedral’s 100-year-old story continues from there. But, it all began on May 17, 1921. It began with a vision and with a decision. The vision continues as we take up phase two of our current building project. This phase aims at completing the interior, with walls, furnishings, and iconography, and to consecrating the new cathedral on March 25, 2023. A beacon of our Faith and culture in the heart of San Francisco, for the next 100 years and beyond!

LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE: Thank you for lighting a virtual candle, thus keeping hope alive. Whether you donate $1 or $1,000, your gift is one of faith. It helps keep 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 web site, www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link, or enter https://annunciation.org/candle During the past year, Father Stephen has been lighting your candles in real time. Going forward, now that we are open to in-person worship, the candles will be lit, instead, by a Parish Council member. Those attending services in person will be able to light their own candles at the pynjari.
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR PHASE 2 HIRED. This week, the Parish Council, acting on the recommendation of the Building Committee, hired Joel Josehart as construction manager to coordinate and oversee the completion of the interior of the new cathedral. We are in the process of interviewing contractors for the work. Joel will help us transition from contractors who built the exterior and bring to a conclusion some pending matters, as the garage. Meanwhile, the Capital Campaign Committee has resumed its task of raising the funds to complete the project, estimated at $4 million. The Cathedral already has on hand the $1.5 million bequest by the late Sam George as well as money from the paver project. 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.”