EPHESIANS 2:19-22

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. Alex will extend an invite to the meetings, currently taking place via Zoom.

SERVICES THIS WEEK:

Today we begin the August fast. This two-week period of fasting is in preparation for the Feast of the Dormition (the day on which we remember the death of the Virgin Mary), on August 15. A paraklesis service will be chanted today and on Wednesday, August 4, at 10 am.

On Friday, August 6, we celebrate the great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated, also at 10 am. Καλή Παναγία!

RETURNING TO FULL WORSHIP:

Following the most recent guidance by State and local health officers and our Metropolis lifting various COVID-19 restrictions, occupancy limits for in-person worship have been suspended.

Following the guidance of our Metropolis, therefore, are no longer required.

GreeK SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL:

All of our teachers and students are to be commended for overcoming the difficulties of this past year by holding classes virtually. Our Sunday School will resume in the fall (hopefully, for in-person instruction), on Sunday, September 26th. Similarly, our Greek School will resume in the fall (again, hopefully, for in-person instruction) on Saturday, September 11. Our Reopening Taskforce is considering mandating that all children who participate in church programs must be vaccinated, as vaccines are available to them.

FESTIVAL THIS YEAR?

YES: Our Festival Committee met on Monday, July 19, to determine whether we can hold a festival this year. The committee decided to hold a festival with limited food items. Those include take-out of pre-ordered foods, as pastitsio, moussaka, and our Philochoeten-baked pastries, as well as the serving of gyros on site. The festival will take place as planned, Saturday, September 18 and Sunday, September 19. Hours to be determined.

IFESTIVAL 100th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM:

Meanwhile, the 100th anniversary Festival Ad book is in the process of receiving your ads, photos, and message. To date, we have 30 ads. Our goal is 100, especially in this, our 100th anniversary year. What a wonderful opportunity it is to be included in this keepsake book.

ANNUNCIATION BAY CRUISE:

Christo Pappademos, our Pastoral Assistant, is in the process of organizing a Bay Cruise, with a possible visit to Alcatraz, for our parish youth, the last Saturday in September (September 25).

YAL CONFERENCE IN PHOENIX, SEPTEMBER 1-3:

This year’s Young Adult conference will gather at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort. For more information, visit: www.sanfrancisco撷取organ.org/YAL.
CONSTRUCTION BIDS EXPECTED. We are expecting bids from 5 contractors who were invited to bid on our project (completion of the interior of the new Cathedral). Immediately thereafter, our Building Committee will interview and select one of them. Meanwhile, construction manager Joel is helping us transition from contractors who built the exterior and bring to conclusion some pending matters, as the garage. Our Capital Campaign Committee has resumed its task of raising the funds to complete the project, currently estimated to be $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.”