EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from the Saint Paul’s First Letter to Timothy, Chapter 1, Verses 15-17: Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, Chapter 18 Verses 35-43: At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

HE ΣΗΜΕΡΙΝΗ ΕΙΔΑΓΩΓΙΚΗ ΠΕΡΙΚΟΠΗ ΕΚ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΤΑ ΛΟΥΚΑΝ, ΚΕΦ. 18, ΕΔΑΦ. 35-43

Today’s Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Six (Plagal 2): Ἡ σήμεριν κυρία τιμηθεῖσα Παρθένος Παύλου τοῦ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 1 εδαφ. 15-17

EPHESIANS READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostle Reading is from Saint Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy, Chapter 1, Verses 3-14: In my first defense I had nothing to answer in how I lived, but the second time to answer with restraint. There is no one who disputes the fact that he is a sinner. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond all our contemporaries among the Jews; and I was all the more zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when he reached Jerusalem, he attempted to fit in with the Pharisees, putting off the image of Christ. But when they saw that I was zealous for the Pharisees, I entered into their circle in an effort to learn the law of our ancestors more accurately. And it was not until I was on my way that they recognized me. For they followed me, crying aloud, “Away with the man who is fitting in with the Pharisees.” And I said to them, “What to me does any man live unless he has regard for the law of God?” They recognized me, and I went forward, saying to them, “I know that you have heard of me from the time I was in Cyprus and Samarina and throughout all Syria, that I have been preaching Christ the Son of God.” And they responded, “So you are the one who will destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days?” But I said to them, “Neither you nor I know that; this thing is done by God.” And they were saying to one another, “Did not our scribes say that Christ will be the descendant of David, and that he will not be from anywhere? But if he is a descendant of David, how can it be that the scribes say, ‘The Christ is a descendant of David’?” And they had a great dispute among themselves, saying, “What will we? Have we not heard that it is said from Moses that Christ will be a descendent of David? And the law says, ‘Any descendant of David must not say anything against the king’.” But how can they say, “Christ is the descendant of David”? (Or do they not know that the scripture says, “He is the one whom God raised up as a descendant of David, for to Mashiah our ancestor, to whom the prophecy of David gives testimony, saying, ‘Why did the Holy Spirit say to my descendant, “You will be the root of David and a Light for the Gentiles,” when the Gentiles did not believe in him? Therefore the prophecy cannot be fulfilled concerning the descendant of David and concerning the Mashiah, the descendent of David? For it is a descendant of David in whom all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

MEmorial Service: Today’s memorial service is being offered for the repose of the soul of Louis Ilia Haras, 1 year since his passing. May his memory be eternal!

COFFEE HOUR TODAY: Today the Haras family is sponsoring a special coffee hour in memory of Louis Haras. Please enjoy refreshments following Divine Liturgy as we honor Louis’ memory.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Today following Divine Liturgy, our Parish Council will meet for its first official meeting of 2022. The meeting will take place in the conference room and those who are unable to attend in-person will attend virtually. We commend our Parish Council members for undertaking the various affairs of our community and we pray that God strengthens them for another year of service.

PHILOPTOCHOS CRAB FEED: One of our hallmark events at the Cathedral has always been our famous Crab Feast. Due to the pandemic however, we have been unable to enjoy this fan-favorite event in recent years. Fortunately, this year our Crab Feed is back! Our Ladies Philoptochos has been working hard and will be putting on the Crab Feed in a “Grab & Go” format over the weekend of February 11th & 12th, 2022. Stay tuned for more information regarding prices and payment options.

PARABLES AND PAREA: We have begun a new program at the Cathedral called “Parables and Parea”. Every month Christo Pappademos will host a virtual meeting with the youth of the parish to discuss parables from the Gospels and to allow our youth to enjoy fellowship with one another. The sessions will take place virtually for now, but as we continue we look forward to gathering our kids in person for future discussions and parea with their church friends as guidelines allow. For more information or if your children would be interested in attending these virtual sessions, please contact Christo at Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER FOR PHASE 2 HIRED. Recently, 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. 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 mankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified.”