SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's letter to the Hebrews Chapter 1, Verses 10-14, Chapter 2, Verses 1-3: IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark Chapter 2, Verses 1-12: At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

PHILOPTOCHOS EVENTS

<u>Membership</u>-We are inviting all women 18 years and over to become a member. Share your time, talents and skills to make a difference in our parish and our Greek and local communities. We look forward to having you as a member and sharing your ideas. Contact Meena Vellis 650-678-4773 with any questions.

<u>March 25th Luncheon</u>-Following Church services Philoptochos will hold a catered lenten luncheon on this special day to celebrate the Feast Day of the Annunciation. Cost will be \$25/person.

Easter Bake Sale-Place your orders for Tsoureki (\$25/each) and Koulourakia (\$20/dozen). Order deadline is April 7th and pick up on Palm Sunday April 13th from 12n-2p.

Mother's Day Luncheon-This time honored event will be held May 10th here at Annunciation. More details to follow.

SAVINOS THE MARTYR OF EGYPT

MEMORIAL SERVICES TODAY: Today's Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the souls of **Joannis Sarikakis**, 23 years since his passing, and **Olga Rakos Waddell**, 30 years since her passing. May their memory be eternal! Αίωνία η μνήμη!

STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship is the foundation of everything we do as a parish. It supports our ministries, programs, outreach, and the care and maintenance of our beloved Cathedral. Your commitment is not only vital to sustaining our work but also to building a stronger future for our community. Please visit <u>www.annunciation.org/pledge</u>. or if you prefer, you can still complete a Stewardship card for 2025 at the Cathedral, and we continue to accept cash and check donations. Your support makes everything we do possible, and together we can continue to build a parish that honors our faith, supports our families, and serves as a beacon of Orthodoxy for the San Francisco Bay Area.

SALUTATIONS: This Friday, March 21 at 6pm, we will celebrate the 3rd Salutations service.

PALM SUNDAY COURTYARD DEDICATION AND LUNCHEON: Join us on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025, as we dedicate the Cathedral Courtyard in honor of Reverend Father Stephen H. Kyriacou, whose leadership guided our community through the rebuilding after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake and laid the foundation for our new Cathedral. The dedication will take place immediately following the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

After the ceremony, we invite you to a festive luncheon, with all proceeds benefiting the **Building Fund**. Luncheon tickets are **\$40 per adult / \$20 per child (12 & under)**. Reserve your spot by visiting <u>www.annunciation.org/events</u>

EGGS FOR PASCHA: We are asking our families to each donate one dozen dyed red eggs for Pascha this year. Philoptochos is coordinating this effort so please reach out to a Philoptochos member to have your eggs included this year to be handed out on Holy Pascha.

NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY – MARCH 30 In accordance with the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, a General Assembly will be held on **Sunday, March 30**, immediately following Divine Liturgy. All 2025 stewards of the Annunciation Cathedral are invited to attend this important gathering as we discuss the ministries of our Parish and provide key updates on the future of our community. Your participation, input, and ideas are invaluable as we work together to strengthen and grow our Cathedral. We look forward to seeing you there!

AN INVITATION TO HOST COFFEE HOUR As part of our revitalized coffee hour program, we're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours over the course of the new year. We'll supply the coffee/ cream/ sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (e.g., pastries, donuts, bagels, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable/cheese platters and assorted dips, or other similar items). <u>Note</u>: during the Lenten season (Mar 3 - Apr 19) was ask that the food items be suitable for the Lenten fast – i.e., no meat or dairy, please.

We're currently seeking hosts for the month of March (23rd) and April (6th and 27th). Please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or, 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR: is being jointly hosted by **Kelly & Jim Rakos** (in memory of Jim's beloved mother, Olga) and **Emilia Sarikakis** (in memory of her beloved husband Yianni). Αίωνία η μνήμη!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN: Every third Tuesday of the month, we come together to prepare, serve, and share a hot meal with those in our neighborhood. Our next gathering will take place this **Tuesday**, **March 18**. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at www.annunciation.org/ck-signup. If you are unable to volunteer but would like to support this important ministry, please consider making a financial donation at www.annunciation.org/ck-donate

COMEDY NIGHT WITH BASILE: Join us for a night of laughter on **Friday**, **April 25th**, **2025** at the Annunciation Cathedral with the one and only Basile the Comedian. General Admission: \$50 per person. VIP Meet & Greet and preferred seating: \$85. per person. Purchase tickets at www.annunciation.org/basile