EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 16, Verses 10-17. Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 19, Verse 16-26. It is found in our books on pages 221-222.

Today’s Apologytikon (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Three:

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by the feet of salvation, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover), week after week, why we belong in the Church. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover), week after week, why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending this class, please contact Alexandros Kozak at orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com.

TODAY’S A BUSY SUNDAY: In addition to this morning’s Divine Liturgy, we will hold a Sunday School cleaning immediately following the Liturgy. In other words, we will get our classrooms readied for Sunday School, which will begin this year on Sunday, September 10, at 10:30 am sharp.

At 12 noon, there will be a dance group meeting with parents who will take place. During the meeting, our directors will discuss aspects of the program, including participation and Folk Dance Festival Preparation, especially those extra practices required in order for us to compete at the Festival. The Festival will take place here in San Francisco, at the Marriott Marquis, January 11-14, 2018. Please refer to the September Herald for details.

DIVINE LITURGY THIS WEEK On Tuesday, August 29, the Blessing of St. John the Baptist will be observed. It is a day of strict fasting. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated, beginning at 10 a.m. Ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία θὰ τελεσθῇ την Τρίτη, 29 Αὐγούστου. Εἶναι ἡ ἑορτὴ τῆς ἀπόστολης τῆς τιμίας κερελῆς τοῦ Προδότου καὶ Βαπτιστοῦ Ἰωάννου.

Calling Festival Volunteers: Everyone, especially our Philoptochos women, have been hard at work preparing for this year’s Greek Food Festival, to take place September 22, 23, and 24. We are still in need of volunteers in the following areas: Food Preparation, Loukoumades, Taverna, Set-Up, Food Procurement, Music, Permits, Gyro, Lamb and Pastry and Coffee Booths. Please contact Chris Kyriacou, Parish Council President, chris.kyriacou@mac.com or Deno Konstantinides, denocom@gmail.com or Grace Koutoulas, gmkoutoulas@yahoo.com.

We also invite your assistance with the preparation of the Pastitsio and Moussaka, which, once again, will be prepared by Yvonne and John Stamatakis, this Friday, September 1, Saturday, September 2 and Sunday, September 3, 9 am to 5 pm. Meanwhile, syrup preparation for Saturday, September 2, under the direction of Bobby Fragakis, has been rescheduled.

Introduction to Orthodoxy: (Sundays, 9 a.m., upstairs). This class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey, but it is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. We explore Christian theology and practice through reading selections of Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover), week after week, why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending this class, please contact Yvonne and John Stamatakis.

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WE CAN’T WAIT FOR IT TO FINISH: However, with the current building boom in San Francisco, the Contractor is having trouble getting subs to do the work. We're in the home stretch, though. As you see, we are nearing completion of the exterior. We are also about a month away from receiving a Conditional Use Permit to enable us to secure a third-party operator to run the parking. As for the interior: we hope to begin the upper wall installation by the end of 2017. However, in order for us to continue, we need your prayers and your continued financial support. First, we have outstanding pledges, to the tune of $600,000. Statements will be going out this week, to be followed up by a phone call by a member of the Parish Council, in early September. May we ask you to make good on your pledges by the end of 2017? If you have not yet contributed, won’t you consider making a gift this year? We invite you to join in and let’s finish what we’ve undertaken to do, that is, to rebuild our church and make firm our presence as a Greek Orthodox house of worship in the heart of our Great City. In this way, we will be answering the call by God to Moses, when he said “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις µοι ἁγίασµα, καὶ οὕτως ἔσοµαι ἐν ὑµῖν). (Exodus 25:8). When everything is completed, we will be able to consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God. More than likely, this will take place to coincide with our 100th anniversary, in 2021. Let’s go, Annunciation!

“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.”

(Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Ground breaking, November 6, 1997)