EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apocalyptic Reading is from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Titus, Chapter 3, verses 8-15: Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicou to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unprofitable. All who are with me send greeting to you. Great those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Τὸ Αὐτοκόλλητος: Πρὸς Τίτον Ἐπιστόλης Παύλου τὸ ἀναγνώσιον, κεφ. 3, ἐδάφ. 8-15: Πιστός ἂν ὁ λόγος, καὶ περὶ τῶν τοιῶν βουλαμένων σε διαβεβαιώσω, ἵνα προσέπνευμα καὶ καθ’ αὐτοῖς προσφέρωντας οἱ προτεστικτές θεῷ. Ταῦτα ἐστίν καὶ καθὼς καὶ οὐράρια τοῖς ἀνθρώποις· ζωοδοχοί δὲ ἀνθρώπους ἠπιστεύσαντες μετὰ μιᾶς καὶ δυοτέρων νοθείας παρεκόμιαν, ἵνα ἐλθήσωμεν ἐλθεῖν πρὸς µὲν εἰς τὸν νοµικόν καὶ τέλεσθαι διὰ τὴν ἀποστασίαν ὑπὲρ τῆς αὐτοκράτους, ἔτι δὲ καὶ τὸν νοµικὸν ἀνεποδοκήσωµεν· καὶ ἐν τῷ Παρθένῳ τῷ ἐκ τῆς σάρκες ἐγεῖραι, ἀναγκαίας χρείας, ἵνα µὴ ὦσιν ἄκαρποι. Ασπαζόµεθα τοὺς φιλοῦντας ἡµᾶς ἐν πίστει. Ἄσπασαι τοὺς φιλοῦντας ἡµᾶς ἐν πίστει.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 8, Verse 28 through Chapter 9, Verse 1. It is found in our books on pages 205-207.

Ἡ σημείωσις εὐαγγελικῆς περιοδικῆς ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαίου, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 28 - κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 1, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία µας, σελ. 204-206.

Today’s Apokathikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Five (Plagal I): Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful we both praise and worship Him for, in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He overcome, and the dead He raised unto life though His all-glorious Resurrection. The savior of man, the Saviour, the divine and the all-loving, is seated upon the throne of the Most High, and 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 the class, please contact Alexandros Kozak at orthodoxo-agkozak@sneakmail.com.
WE WISH IT WERE FASTER: But, 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. Our landmark Cathedral, which is shaping up to be a center of our faith in the heart of the City, is nearing completion of the exterior. The archways have been constructed. We are now waiting for completion of the entrenchment drain, the housing for the garage exhaust ducts, placement of the stonework, the pavers, finishing stucco, relocation of the electrical panel, to enable us to begin using the garage. And, with the installment of temporary doors, that’s about it for the exterior. 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. Some $4 million is needed for the interior. Eventually, it will get done. You should be very proud of what you are doing, for you are responding to God’s invitation, “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις µοι ἁγίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήσοµαι 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. God will bless us, indeed, if His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who laid the cornerstone back in 1997, also consecrates it to God's glory! The cornerstone will be positioned shortly on the exact spot where it was originally laid: the southwestern side of the new Cathedral.

“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)