EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 16, Verses 13-24. It is found in our books on pages 210-211.

THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Εὕρισκεται Η αγάπη μου μετά πάντων ὑµῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Ἀµήν

JOY TO THE WORLD (Todring Patricio Aleck): This morning, we welcome 40 day old Yanni Christian, son of Alexia Kostoulas Andersen & Theodore Andersen. Na mas zisi! Long Life!

TRISAGION: As it is the Feast Day of St. Anthimos the Priest-Martyr, a Trisagion will be offered at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy for the repose of the soul of His Grace Bishop Anthimos of Olympus. He fell asleep in the Lord one year ago.

CALLING FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS: Everyone, especially our Philochoths 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, is being prepared by Yvonne and John Stamatakis, today, until 5 pm. Meanwhile, syrup preparation for yesterday, 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 the class, please contact Alexandros Kozák at orthodoxo-agkозак@sneakemail.com. Note: The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month (rather than every Sunday). In September, it is being offered on Sunday, September 10, and on Sunday, September 24.

OIKOS LECTURE NEXT SUNDAY: Our guest speaker next Sunday, September 10, is Alexandros Kozák. Alex will speak to us on the topic of “holy fools” (yes, there is such a topic!). The actual title for his talk is “Holy Fools in the Byzantine Empire.”

HONORING PATRICIA ALECK: It is customary for the immediate past president of the Ladies Philochoths to be honored, at the conclusion of her service as President (as it is also customary for the immediate past president of the Parish Council to be so honored). Our Ladies Philochoths will honor Pat with a pre-Christmas féte, on Sunday, December 3. The event will benefit the Building Fund. Details are forthcoming.
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 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. 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)