GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 13, verses 10-17. It is found in our books on pp. 261-263.

Today’s Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Seven (Grave): O Lord, by your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy. The Apostles did preach the Good News at your command— that You had risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing your mercy on the world evermore.

PARKING DURING CONSTRUCTION

Parking for up to 70 cars is available in the lot behind the Cathedral, at 334 14th Street and on the street. Stewards of the Cathedral are charged only $5 to park, by showing their; the Cathedral will pay $7 of the parking cost for Stewards. To pick up a parking pass or to discuss your stewardship, please see Gus Vouchilas, who will be manning the stewardship table. Street parking is also available on Sundays, especially along the 217’ construction zone in front of the Cathedral. For your convenience, an attendant will be on hand each Sunday to monitor the drop off zone and direct parking to the Zanani lot behind the Cathedral. We kindly ask our parishioners to be considerate of those with disabilities, giving them parking preference in the spaces on Valencia Street.

Patapios the Righteous;
Sosthenes & Apollo of the 70

Welcome, Your Eminence. Welcome Paul Gikas

We welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, who is worshiping with us this morning. We also welcome Paul Gikas, a 2000 graduate of our Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and Director of our Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Paul is our homilist this morning.

Dance Practice Today

Dance practice, in preparation for PFD, will take place following today’s Divine Liturgy. Practice begins at 12 noon.

2014 Calendars Are On Their Way

We just received the 2014 calendars this week and have taken them to our mailing service for mailing. Look for them in the next few days.

Parish Council Elections Next Sunday

Parish Council elections will take place next Sunday. We have eight (8) candidates for eight (8) positions on the Parish Council: Philippos Anastasiades, Deno C. Konstantinidis, Angie Leventis, Thomas A. Nuris, Nicholas Svetocoff, George G. Vlahos, James D. Vorries and Gus Vouchilas.

Sunday School Christmas Program Next Sunday

Our Sunday School will present its Christmas program next Sunday, following the Divine Liturgy, and will offer lunch, following the program.

Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Conception of the Theotokos and Saint Spyridon the Wonder-Worker

Tomorrow, December 9 is the Feast of the Conception of the Theotokos and Thursday, December 12 is the Feast of St. Spyridon the Wonder-Worker. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated both days, beginning at 10 a.m.

Navarino Messinian Christmas Luncheon

The Navarino Messinian Society will hold its pre-Christmas luncheon today following the Divine Liturgy.

2013 Christmas Card

Annamarie Balian Annette Chiappari. Kalliope Fousekis, and Mary Tonas will be on hand following today’s Divine Liturgy to greet you and take your name(s) for this year’s community Christmas card. The donation is $25 per entry. Today is the last Sunday names are being taken for the community Christmas Card. It goes to the printer’s on Tuesday.

Oyaa Basketball Practice for Girls and Boys 8-14 Years Old Has Begun

If you are interested in joining a team (and we hope you all do) please take with you the appropriate materials at the pangari, or speak with our basketball coaches, Tom Nuris, Chris Kallas, or Deno Konstantinidis.

Our Children Are Talking

One of the most wonderful things that has happened as a result of the start of construction is that our children are expressing their feelings about building our new church, in pictures and in words. We recall the first time, about eight weeks ago, when our young people came up at the end of the Divine Liturgy and shared their “amazement,” their “joy” and their “sense of belonging,” to use their words, that we are building a church to God’s glory. About a month ago, one of these children addressed himself to His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, who celebrated the Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the departure of His Excellency Ambassador Ioannis Andreades from San Francisco. Last Sunday, children from our pre-school and kindergarten came down the aisle singing, yes we can build Annunciation, as they waved banners and an icon of the Annunciation, which they had colored. By the way, we featured a photo of the children on our latest Building Update, which is being mailed this week to all households on the Cathedral’s mailing list. We have been sharing the children’s reflections with you, by means of the herald, as well as by means of the monthly Building Update. Our children our scheduled to speak next on December 22.

Tenth Sunday of Luke

Epistle Reading of the Day: This morning’s Epistle Reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 14-22. It is found in our books on page 124.

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GOOD NEWS: CONSTRUCTION OF THE CATHEDRAL HAS BEGUN: Look outside and see what’s going on. Our buildings and the sidewalks on Valencia and Stevenson Streets have been shored up, and Excavation has begun for the underground garage. It will take a number of months to put down the rebar steel, install the drainage and lay down the floor slab , which will serve as the ground level of the parking structure, as well as the ground level slab, over which the Cathedral will be built. Every week you will see more and more progress.

In the Book of Exodus (25:8) God says: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (Translated from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἁγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν.) We’ve quoted this at least since the start of the Capital Campaign. And we can’t stress it enough: we’re building the Cathedral because God is telling us to!

GOOD NEWS: OVER $4.75 MILLION HAS BEEN RAISED DURING THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:
The total on hand is $7 million (includes monies from the Mountainos Estate, prior to the start of the Campaign). We also have $1.1 million in receivables (from parishioners who are paying over a number of years, in some cases, up to five years. We need $10.7 to finish this phase, which includes the complete exterior. We will then need about $2 million to finish the interior, complete with pews and iconography.

We hope you are among those who have already given to the Campaign. If not, we invite you to make your gift. Please consider what you can give over five years. You may well be surprised that, giving what it costs to get a cup of coffee at Starbucks’s, over five years this amounts to over $5,000! Some people can give more. We note that a few people who’ve already made their gift are now considering increasing it to a six-figure gift, so as to join the “Dean’s List,” a benefit of which will include naming opportunities. Please know that, whether large or small, your gift is equally welcome. Eventually, a donor wall will be placed in the Narthex of the new Cathedral ($1,000 minimum). Will your name be on it?

We at the Annunciation Cathedral will grow
The Orthodox Christian Faith in San Francisco through: Stewardship, Worship, Education, Evangelism and Philanthropic Outreach