**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning’s Epistle Reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 4, verses 14 – chapter 5, verse 6. It is found in our books on pages 142-143. O Hopeful, prayer for the three sessions this year. Session I: July 6; Session II: July 13; Session III: July 20. The registration is $500. (All siblings receive a $25 discount). You are invited to take advantage of early registration pricing by going to www.gosyouth.org.a.s.a.p.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 8, verses 34-38 – chapter 9, verse 1. It is found in our books on pp. 295-296. "Every day, people were bringing into the temple large amounts of money to make offerings."

**THE CENTRALITY OF THE CROSS:** Today is the third Sunday of the Great Lent. As it is the midpoint or “crossroads” of Lent, the Church emphasizes the centrality of the Cross: this is why we are fasting and praying during the Great and Holy Lent, precisely because of what Christ did for us on the Cross: He saved us. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, there is a simple procession around the church. When we reach the doors, the priest intones: we venerate your Cross, o Christ, and we glorify your Resurrection.

**TODAY’S A Kostenlose:** This morning we pray for the repose of the soul of our brother Nicholas Kokalis, who fell asleep in the Lord 28 years ago, and for the repose of the soul of our brother John Saridakis, who fell asleep in the Lord 12 years ago. The coffee hour, following the Divine Liturgy, is being offered by their families. Memorial prayers are also being offered for the repose of Nicos Fanourgikis, Penelope Fanourgikis, Artemis Papadakis and Kathy Preach, who fell asleep in the Lord 8, 59, 49 and 1 year ago, respectively.

**MARCH 25th, THE ANNUNCIATION:** The Annunciation is one of the great Feasts of the Church for, as the Apokalypsis of the Feast puts it “Today is the fountainhead of our salvation.” With the announcement by Gabriel to Mary that God wills her to be the Bearer of God in the flesh, and with Mary’s assent (“It be done to me according to thy word”), the Logos becomes incarnate: the Son of God takes on human flesh and human nature in Mary’s womb. The Annunciation is the Feast Day of the Cathedral. We pray you will be with us this week to celebrate the Feast Day of your parish. Great Vespers will take place tomorrow evening, beginning at 7 p.m. Orthros will be celebrated on Tuesday morning, beginning at 9 a.m., to be followed by the Divine Liturgy, at 10 a.m. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the Ladies Philoptochos invites you to join us in the Korinthias Center for a luncheon celebrating the Feast. The donation for the luncheon is $20. Finally, the war for the independence of Greece from the Ottomans began on March 25th, giving the Feast added significance, underscoring the Biblical concept of human freedom. After all, God endowed Adam with His own image and likeness, granting him free will. How can a human being exercise free will unless he is free from bondage? Mindful of its significance, we salute the heroes of 1821 and pray we ourselves can be found worthy of their lofty ideals.

**DIVINE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26th:** The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is so called because the Gifts are consecrated as Body and Blood of Christ at the previous Sunday Divine Liturgy. Except for the Feast of the Annunciation, which falls on March 25th (yesterday), on which the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated, the normal Liturgy is not celebrated during Great Lent, underscoring its solemnity and mournful character.
The March building update, again featuring our children on the cover, and a narrative of our building project on the inside, has been sent to all of you, in an effort to keep you informed about our progress. The great news is that excavation has been completed and the slab and walls, complete with waterproofing, will be poured soon! We’re moving ahead with the rebuilding of the Cathedral, because God has told us to do so!

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 has told us to do so. In His infinite wisdom, the Lord knows what He has in store for us and for the future of our Faith, in this dynamic corridor of San Francisco’s inner city.

MORE GOOD NEWS: OVER $5.3 MILLION HAS BEEN RAISED DURING THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:
The total raised during the Capital Campaign exceeds $5.3 million (Over $700,000 of this was raised since we began construction on October 17). Of the $5.3 raised, $4.1 has been received; $1.2 million is receivable (from those who are paying over a number of years, in some cases, up to five years.)

The total cost for completion, inside and out, is just over $12 million. However, the contract we signed with McNely Construction (what we are building now) is a not-to-exceed $10.7 million. This gets us the parking structure and a complete exterior, by year-end 2014 or the beginning of 2015. We are confident we will complete the interior in 2015, including iconography, pews and all interior appointments. This, at a projected cost of $2 million. We have faith that we will get there and that the new Cathedral will soon be consecrated to the glory of God.