EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Epistle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 1, verses 10-14 chapter 2, verses 1-3. It is found in our books, pages 140-141.

Gospel Reading of the Day: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according Mark, chapter 2, verses 1-12. It is found in our books on pages 291-293.

SECOND SUNDAY IN THE GREAT LENT: OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS GREGORY, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONIKE, PALAMAS

ANNOUNCEMENT CATHEDRAL SUNDAY BULLETIN: March 8, 2015

TODAY’S MEMORIALS: Memorial prayers are being offered for the repose of the soul of Margarita Papapamolos, who fell asleep in the Lord 6 months ago.

TODAY’S LENTEN RETREAT: Have you ever wondered about the kambini (prayer rope)? what is, it how it came to be, what it has to do with prayer, especially during Great Lent. Well, this morning, you will find out, as the Cathedral hosts a Lenten Retreat entitled “Spiritual Food for Thought: A history of the prayer rope (kambini) in the Orthodox Church.” Our speaker is Fr. Antony Balnaves. A native of Australia, he converted to Orthodoxy in 1986 and lived for a number of years on Mount Athos. We are honored to have Fr. Antony with us this morning. He will speak right here in the chapel, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The program is a part of OIKOS (Orthodox in Kainos Outreach Services). Dr. Katina Kostoulas is chair of the Cathedral’s retreat program and will be introducing Father Antony.

BASKETBALL AWARDS LUNCHEON: Today’s Basketball awards luncheon will take place in the Kytherian Room right after Fr. Antony’s talk and the distribution of the antidoron. It is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m.

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL NEXT SUNDAY: Next Sunday, March 15, the Annunciation Cathedral will hold its St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, under the auspices of the Sunday School. Students, grades 4 through high school, will participate. As Sunday, March 15 is also the Sunday of the Venerations of the Cross, we will hear from our children first (in lieu of the regular sermon) and conclude with the procession and veneration of the Cross.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: Presanctified Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday, March 11, 10 a.m., and the Second Salutations Saturday, March 13, at 7 p.m. Please note that your 2015 Stewardship pledge card has been mailed. If you have not submitted your 2015 Stewardship pledge. This will give us an opportunity to publicly thank you for making a financial commitment to support the ministries of the parish during 2015. To date, about 250 of you have sent in your 2015 Stewardship. Our mailing list, however, has some 700 names. Our goal is to have all 700 be supporting Stewards of the Cathedral in 2015 (or adjust our mailing list accordingly). Meanwhile, our 2015 Stewardship Campaign continues. We need to get our parish back on track and appear justified in this effort. Putting the parish on a sound financial footing depends on each and every parishioner. Therefore, you eschew, in the words of Scripture: Give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor. 9:7). Please note that your 2015 Stewardship pledge card supports the ongoing ministries of the Cathedral. It is separate from the Building Fund, which is used for the rebuilding of the Cathedral. If you have not submitted your 2015 Stewardship and have misplaced your 2015 Stewardship pledge card, all you have to do is ask Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Committee chair, for another card or, if you prefer, you may obtain one by calling the Cathedral office at 415 884-8000, and one will be mailed to you.

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES: At its January 27th meeting, the Parish Council appointed the following committee chairs: Stewardship: Gus Vouchilas, Capital Campaign: Tom Nuriis, Retreats: Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Technology: Nick Rally & Deno Konstantinidis, Panaria: Dustin Nove, Coffee hours/Parish Life: Dr. George Ambiadiotakis, Strategic Planning: Dean Nicolacakis. At its February 24th meeting, the Parish Council added a Youth Council, chaired by Maria & Dean Nicolacakis, and a Legacy & Endowment Committee, chaired by Tom Nuriis. If you would like to serve on any of the above committees, please speak to the respective chairs.

LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Meanwhile, we are looking for Festival chair(s). A major undertaking, the Festival annually accounts for a major portion of the Cathedral’s operating budget. More importantly, it fosters community, inviting the community at large to share in our faith and culture. If you think you would like to become a chair or would like to assist, please see either of our clergy or speak with Chris Kyriakos, Parish Council President.

LOOKING AHEAD, March 29th Program by the Greek School: This will take place in the chapel on Sunday, March 22, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.
WE MADE IT TO $1 MILLION AND BEYOND;
WATCH FOR THE VERTICAL STEEL. Together with the
most recent pledge to the Capital Campaign of our Ladies
Philoptochos, we made it to $1 million and more! That’s $1
million given and pledged since the October 17, 2013 issuance
of our building permit — 25 years to the day of Loma Prieta.
However, we do not stop here. The Campaign continues until
we have completed the building and paid it off.

Meanwhile, the deck is now complete. It has been shored up to
accommodate the crane that will start putting the vertical, or
red-iron, steel. In the March Herald we noted the Dean’s List
($100,000 plus) donation of the re-bar steel by Mr. and Mrs.
Isidoros Garifalakis of Omega-Industries. (God is, indeed,
blessing the rebuilding of the Cathedral)

Our immediate goal is to get the parking structure up and
running, as we complete the building’s exterior. Then, we will
begin work on the interior, depending upon the success of our
fund raising efforts. We thank you your continued monetary
support and we need your prayers. As noted, all the donors’
names ($1,000 gift minimum) will eventually be inscribed on the
dedication wall in the new Cathedral, where prayers will be
constantly offered “for the blessed and ever-memorable
founders and benefactors of this Holy Church.”

In the Book of Exodus (25:8) God says: “Build me a Sanctuary,
and I will appear among you.” (Translated from the Septuagint:
Καὶ ποιήησεις μοι ἁγίίασµα, καὶ οἶδήήσοµαι ἐν ὑµµῖν). We’ve
quoted this at least since the start of the Campaign, and we are
keeping this. “Immovable before our eyes,” as Deut. 6:8 tells us
to, as we rebuild the Cathedral to God’s glory, to serve our
faithful and all God’s people in this blessed dynamic heart of San
Francisco.

The Church is here to heal,
To reconcile,
To connect with Christ,
To become partakers of the
divine glory,
To worship God,
To proclaim the Gospel, in the
original Christian way,
That the world may be saved.