EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Epistle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 4, verses 14-16; chapter 5, verses 1-6. It is found in our books, pages 142-143.

Diocesan Parish Council Meeting:

SUNDAY OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: As we are now midway through the Great Lent, the Church places the Cross before us, both for veneration and for contemplation. The Cross is as much the Symbol of our salvation (for our Lord was crucified on it), as it is a Signpost (it shows the way forward). As the Lord says in today’s Gospel reading from St. Mark, “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34). In other words, self-negation and obedience enable our way forward. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, a brief service will take place: we process around the church with tray of flowers (representing life); on the flowers is a cross (representing the Source of life). People take a flower home with them and place it among their icons.

Today’s Holy Gospel Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark, chapter 8, verses 34-39, chapter 9, verse 1. It is found in our books on pages 293-295.

Looking Ahead, Mark 25th Program by the Greek School:

Today’s Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Seven (Green):

O Lord, by your sacred Cross You abolished death and granted to the thief blessed paradise. Thus you elevated the Cross above the heights of the heavens, both for veneration and for contemplation. The Cross is as much the Symbol of our salvation (for our Lord was crucified on it), as it is a Signpost (it shows the way forward). As the Lord says in today’s Gospel reading from St. Mark, “If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mark 8:34). In other words, self-negation and obedience enable our way forward. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, a brief service will take place: we process around the church with tray of flowers (representing life); on the flowers is a cross (representing the Source of life). People take a flower home with them and place it among their icons.


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WE MADE IT TO $1 MILLION AND BEYOND; WATCH FOR THE VERTICAL STEEL. Including the most recent gift of $55,000 to the Capital Campaign by our Ladies Philoptochos, we surpassed $1 million and are working on our second million! (That’s over $1 million given and pledged since the October 17, 2013 issuance of our building permit — 25 years to the day of Loma Prieta.) We keep moving ahead: the Campaign continues until we have completed the building and paid it off.

Meanwhile, the shoring of the deck will be completed this week to accommodate the crane that will start erecting the vertical, or red-iron, steel. The steel work will begin next Monday, March 23 and will last 6 weeks. Following next Sunday’s Liturgy (weather permitting), we will go up to the outdoor space on the second floor, over the gallery, where we will view the project site. (For safety reasons, we cannot yet go out onto the site, as it's still a construction site.) Ken Katen and/or Father Stephen will point out some of the salient features.

Looking ahead, we want to get the parking structure up and running; that’s our first priority. We expect we will be using the parking component this time next year, when the exterior of the Cathedral will be complete. Work will then begin on the interior. Through your prayers, your vision, and your giving, this Cathedral church will be built and dedicated to the glory of God. 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 ἡμοι ἁγίασμα, καὶ ἄφθισον ἐν ὑμῖν.) 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.