EPILSTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Epistle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Hebrews, chapter 9, verses 11-14. It is found in our books, page 145.

Πρὸς Ἐβραίους Ἑπιστολής Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγγελμα, κεφ. 9, ἐδάφ. 11-14: Αὐθεντικὸς Χριστός δὲ παραγογούμενος αὐθεντεύει τῶν μελλόντων άγγελον, διὰ τῆς μείζονος καὶ τελευτητέρας σκηνῆς, οὐ χειροποιηθείς, τούτ’ ἐστιν, ὡς τούτη τῆς εἰσόδου, οὐδὲ ἐν αἷμας τραγῳδίας καὶ μοίρων, διὰ τοῦ ἱδίου αἵματος εισέβαλην ἐκπέμπτες εἰς τὰ ἁγία, αἰώνιως ἀποθέφεμι εὐφήμου. Εἰ γὰρ τὸ αἷμα ταύτισι καὶ τραγῳδίας, καὶ σποδὸς δημαρχεῖς μετάβατον τῶν κεκοιμημένων, αἰωνὶ ἀνέβης τῆς σαρκὸς καθάρισθαι, τοσοῦτον μέλλον τοῦ αἵματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ, οἷον δεινότερος σώματος ἅπασιν ἐπέτρεπεν προηγηθεκτένων ἁμαρτιῶν τῷ θεῷ, καθηκοῦν τὴν συνεδρίαν ἐκείνην ἀπὸ τοιχῶν ἐφέρετο, εἰς τὸ λατερεύων Θεῷ·

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according Mark, chapter 10, verses 32-45. It is found in our books on pages 299-301.

Η σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπή ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκου, κεφ. 10, ἐδάφ. 32-45, εὑρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 298-300.

Today’s Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone One: The stone that had been sealed before your tomb by the Jews, and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto the whole world did You give life. Wherebly all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory unto our resurrected Christ, glory unto your Kingdom, glory to your Dispensation, O You who alone love mankind.

Τοῦ Ἀιῶνος σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰσραήλ, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἀρχαῖον σου Σάμα, ἀνέτειλις τιμῆρας τοῦ Σωτῆρος, διαφόρομεν τοῦ κόσμου τὴν ζωήν. Λέγεται: καὶ συνειδησίας τῶν σωτηρίων τῆς ὅρασις σου, Ζωοδότη Λόγος τῆς Ἀναστασίας σου, Χριστός· Λόγος τῆς Βασιλείας σου· Λόγος τῆς σωτηρίας σου, μολὼν Φιλοτέτευς.

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 orthodoxy@agkозak.com.

THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras

MENNOSYNON: Today’s memorial service is being offered for the repose of our son’s birthday George Petras, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago.

TODAY IS “GODPARENTS SUNDAY”: For almost thirty years, the Cathedral has been observing “Godparents Sunday” on the Sunday before Palm Sunday. As Palm Sunday falls on April 5 (next Sunday), today is “Godparents Sunday.” It is a special opportunity for you to have called your Godparents, or your Godchildren, and to have invited them to come and worship together. Just before Holy Communion is offered, we will recite our Baptismal vows:

1. Do you renounce Satan? R: I renounce Satan. Δόόξα τῇ Ἀναστάάσει σου, Χριστέ·∙ δόόξα τῇ Βασιλείίᾳ σου·∙ τριήήµμερος Σωτήήρ, δωρούύµμενος τῷ κόόσµμῳ τὴν ζωήήν. Διὰ  τοῦτο  ἡ  Δυνάάµμεις  τῶν  οὐρανῶν  ἐβόόων  σοι,  Ζωοδόότα·∙

2. Have you renounced Satan? R: I have renounced Satan. Λατρεύειν θεόν κεκαλύπτεις ἐπὶ τῆν ἁγιασμόν. Παρασκευήή, 6 µµ., η  ἐν  θεία  λειτουργία  τῷ  Σάββατῳ, 4 Ἀπριλίου (τοῦ  Λαυρίου),  τοῦτο:∙

3. Do you join yourself to Christ? R: I do. Συνάντησά σου Χριστῷ· Συνάντησα·∙

4. Have you joined yourself to Christ? R: I have. Συνάντησα τῷ Χριστῷ· Συνάντησα·∙

5. And, do you believe in Him? R: I believe in Him as King and as God. Πιστεύω Αὐτῷ ὡς Βασιλεύς καὶ Θεῷ·

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, we would be invited to break bread together in our fellowship hall. The meal is, once again, the offering of Gus and Georgia Vouchilas.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: DIVINE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS: This Divine Liturgy (called “Presanctified” because the Eucharist is prepared at today’s Divine Liturgy—the consecration of the gifts does not take place weekdays during the Great Lent, underscoring its penitential character) will be celebrated this Friday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday morning, April 5 (St. Lazaros), the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated beginning at 10 a.m. Προηγουμένα, την Παρασκευή, 6 µµ., η  ἐν  θεία  λειτουργία  τῷ  Σάββατῳ, 4 Ἀπριλίου (τοῦ  Λαυρίου), 10 τ.µ.

FOOD PANTRY: As an ongoing component to our monthly soup kitchen, the Cathedral has begun gathering non-perishable foods on a year-round basis. We invite everyone to participate in this beautiful ministry by remembering to bring any cans, boxes, or jars of food and leaving them in the marked bins by the main entrance. If you have any questions, please contact Maryann Boosalis at maryann.boosalis@gmail.com.

PHILOTOCHOS EASTER BAKE: Our Philoptochos Lades are happy to bake your koulourakia and tsoureki for Pascha and also to dye your Easter eggs. The donation is $8 per dozen of koulourakia, $15 for each tsoureki (Easter bread), and $5 for colored eggs per dozen. To place your order, please return the form that was mailed to you recently or call the Cathedral office at 415-800. Your items will be ready to be picked upon Holy Friday, April 10, 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL PHILOTOCHOS 56TH ANNUAL MOTHER’S DAY LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW: TIMELESS ELEGANCE: This year, the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos will be honoring Annette Chiappari and Niki Kastoras as the 2015 Mothers of the Year. Congratulations! The Mother’s Day Luncheon and Fashion Show will take place in the Cathedral’s Korinthias Hall on Saturday, May 9, beginning with a Cocktail Reception at 12:00 noon and followed by Luncheon at 12:45 p.m. The donation is $55 for adults, $25 for children. Parking is available at the lot behind the Cathedral, at 14th and Stevenson Streets. For more information, please call Foula Vasilogiorgis, 415 378-7200, or contact Irene Kyriacou: sassozyk@gmail.com; Angie Leventis: anevilente@comcast.net; or Foula Vasilogiorgis: foula8@gmail.com.

BELMONT’S CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS PHILOTOCHOS INVITES YOU TO ITS FASHION SHOW: The event will take place Saturday, April 25, at 11:30 am, at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, 900 Alameda de las Pulgas, in Belmont. For more information: Laura Jadelrab, (650) 678-0363 or laura.jadelrab@gmail.com; We hope you will do us the honour of attending!
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH, RISING! As you come to church and peer in, beyond the gates, you are watching the reconstruction of the Annunciation Cathedral, lost to the 1989 earthquake known as Loma Prieta. Piece by piece, for the next 6 weeks, the red-iron steel will be positioned and welded in place. Like Constantinople’s Hagia Sofia and Hagia Eirine, with a 50-foot-diameter dome over the center of the church, rising to 65 feet. The dome symbolizes heaven, the realm of the Divine; the cross represents us, who have been called through Baptism. The place where the dome and the cross intersect symbolizes the place where heaven and earth align. You may call it the Kingdom of Heavens. You may call it Eternal Life. You may call it Salvation. And, you may call it “Home,” for this is the goal of human life—to return home, to be sanctified.

Orthodox Christianity teaches the doctrine of theosis, whereby humans take on divine properties. A key scripture supporting this is 2 Peter 1:4. In the 4th century, Athanasius the Great taught that God became Man that Man might become God. Essentially, Man does not become divine, but in Christ can partake of divine nature. Our understanding of salvation involves the restoration of God’s image in us. In turn, this leads to release from mortality caused by desires of the world. Be this as it may, our purpose for rebuilding the Cathedral is not so that we may keep this to ourselves, but so that we may invite the world in, that Christ may be all and in all (1 Corinthians 15:28).

Now, then, when will it be ready? We expect the exterior will be completed and we will be using the parking component this time next year, even as work begins on the interior. Thanks be to God, Who wills the rebuilding, and thanks be to you for your prayers, and for your generosity, making the rebuilding possible.

In the Book of Exodus (25:8) God says: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (Translated from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήησει μοι ἅγιιαν ἁγίανα, καὶ ὀφθήησοµμαι εἰν ὑµμῖν). We’ve quoted this passage 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.