EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Epistle Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 16, verses 16-34. It is found in our books, pages 88-99.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has risen up and lives forevermore. Amen.

THE APOSTLES ANDRONIKOS & JUNIA

SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John, chapter 9, verses 1-38. It is found in our books on pages 181-186.

H σημείωση ευάγγελικης περιοχής έκ του κατα Ιωάννη, κεφ. 9, εδάφ. 1-38, ευρίσκεται είς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 180-186.

PASCHAL TROPARION: Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life. Χριστός άνεμος έκ νεκρών, θανάτου θανάτου πατησάς, και τοις εν τοις μετμνήσις ζωή χαρίσας.

Introduction to Orthodoxy (Sunday, 9 a.m., upstairs). This class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for Orthodoxy and its members and friends who would like to understand them or 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 Kozak at orthodoxy-agkозak@smail.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; dona hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y libranos del Mal.

MNEMOSYNY: This morning’s memorial service is being held for the repose of the soul of our brother Demetrios G. Rally, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago. Today’s coffee hour is being offered, in his memory, by his family.

PARISH ASSEMBLY TODAY: As mandated by the Archdiocesan Regulations, the Parish is required to hold two Parish Assemblies each year. These afford input from all the parishioners in the management of the affairs of the Parish. They are also vehicles for information. As announced, the first Parish Assembly for 2015 will take place today following the Divine Liturgy. The agenda consists of:

Opening Prayer: Father Stephen
1. Election of Assembly Chair
2. Reading/Approval of the Minutes of the October 26, 2014 Parish Assembly: Gus Vouchilas
3. Treasurer's Report: Philippas Athanasiades
4. Reports on: Stewardship (Gus Vouchilas), the 2015 Festival (Angie Leventis), Youth (Father Niko), the Metropolitan Clergy Lay (Father Niko) (The Clergy Lay took place at St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center April 27-28)
5. Report on Phase Two: Construction of the Cathedral/Capital Campaign

Members in good standing, as defined in the Archdiocesan Regulations, are invited to attend and participate.

SOUP KITCHEN THIS TUESDAY: We welcome your participation and support, as the Cathedral holds its Soup Kitchen this Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

DIVINE LITURGY THIS WEEK: Thursday, May 21 marks the Feast of the Equal to the Apostles Constantine and Helen. It is also the Feast of the Ascension. The Divine Liturgy will be held at the Cathedral, beginning at 10 a.m. Мε την ευαγγελία τος Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης, επίσης και της Εορτής της Αναβάσεως, την Πέμπτη 21 Μαίου, η Θεία Λειτουργία θα τελεσθεί, 10 τ.μ.

LOOKING AHEAD: STEEL SIGNING ON JUNE 14: On Sunday June 14, 2015, a special “steel signing” will take place. On that day, following the Divine Liturgy, a Blessing of the Waters service (paspasmon) will be celebrated. Then, everyone will process out to the construction site, where donors and everyone else will have an opportunity to sign their names on the steel columns, thus forming a physical “connection” with the new Cathedral. Special inscribed markers will be provided; you get to keep the markers. A light luncheon, provided by Chick 'N Coop, will follow. What exciting times for our community and for San Francisco: amid the biggest building boom in the City in decades, a house of worship is rising, and a Greek Orthodox Cathedral at that! And to think that we, in our own way, are contributing to the growth of our City by offering this sacred house of worship, for the glory of God, the God who says, “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you. Και ποιήσετε μου άγαθόν και οφθαλμόν εν τούτωnos” - (LXX, Exodus 25:28).

STILL LOOKING AHEAD: FOOD FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 18, 19, 20: Please note the day on your calendars. As noted, our coordinator and chairs are in place and the dates are set. This Year’s Festival will take place on our grounds, similar to last year. Friday through Sunday, September 18 through 20. The more volunteers we get the more we can save by not having to hire as many people. The festival is about making money to support the Cathedral’s ministries but, even more importantly, about building community, both our own faith community, and the community at large. When we went before the Planning Department to submit our plans to rebuild the Cathedral, and the hearings that followed, we still recall how some neighbors just showed up in support of the project, saying things like “we love the Cathedral, which we got to know through its Food Festival, and we're here to speak in favor of its rebuilding.” Talk about community building! A Food Festival meeting will be taking place this Tuesday, May 19. It will be held in the second floor conference room,
STEEL RISING AND RISING! You have only to look through the front gates or the gallery doors to see the Cathedral rising. We’ve been busy since March 25th laying the vertical or “red-iron” steel (called “red-iron” because of its protective orange-red coating, similar to that of the Golden Gate Bridge). Some 1,000 pieces of red iron steel will form the “skeleton” of the Cathedral. To date, we’ve erected the steel in the transepts, the apse, including the apse half-dome, the 50-foot-diameter dome itself, and the northeast tower. By June 14, the remaining tower, the choir loft and narthex steel will all be in place. Passersby are wowed, stopping to take photos. It’s shaping up to be a magnificent Cathedral!

On Sunday June 14, 2015, a special “steel signing” will take place. On that day, following the Divine Liturgy, a Blessing of the Waters service (agiasmos) will be celebrated. Then, everyone will process out to the construction site, where donors and everyone else will have an opportunity to sign their names on the steel columns! Special markers will be provided; you get to keep your marker. What a blessing that day will be, forming a physical “connection” with the new Cathedral: A light luncheon, provided by Chick ‘N Coop, will follow.

Our goal is to complete the exterior and also have a fully operational parking structure this time next year, even as work on the interior begins. From start to finish, depending upon fund raising, the work on the interior, including iconography and furnishings, could take another year.

As for the money required to complete the project, surely there are people “out there” who have waited for this moment before making their contribution, be it $1000 or be it $1 million. We pray the Holy Spirit inspires you to put your hand to your checkbook, joyfully, for, as Scripture says, “let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7).

These are exciting times our community and for San Francisco. Amid the biggest building boom in the City in decades, a house of worship is rising, and a Greek Orthodox Cathedral at that! And to think that we, in our own way, are contributing to the growth of our City by offering a sacred house of worship, for the glory of God, the God who says, “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you. Kai ἐφώστησο μου καὶ ἐμφανίζομαι σοί.” (LXX, Exodus 25:8).

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.