Annunciation Cathedral Sunday Bulletin: May 24, 2015

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF HOLY PASCHA: COMMEMORATING THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL CCL.: SYMEOΣ THE STYLETE

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Epistle Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 20, verses 16-28, 36-38: It is found in our books, pages 90-91. Παρθένῳ, δωρούµµενος τὴν ζωήν. Ὅ, διὰ ἀνάγνωσµα, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἐπὶ τὸ µνήµµα σου, καὶ ἰδίως ἐπὶ τοῖς Μιλήητος πέέµµψας εἰς τὴν Πασώκην. ἔνας πάτριος µετακόλουθος τούς προφετῆς τῆς εκκλησίας. Εἰς παρθένους πρὸς αὐτοῖς, ἐπίσηµον παρθένων ἔστω µετακόλουθος τοῦ δοξολογίου τῆς εκκλησίας. Εἰς παρθένους πρὸς αὐτοῖς, ἐπίσηµον παρθένων ἔστω µετακόλουθος τοῦ δοξολογίου τῆς εκκλησίας.

THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santo nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. daros nuestra de cada día, perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y libranos del Mal.

LOOKING AHEAD: FOOD FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 18, 19, 20: Please note it 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 of the city’s “naysayers” were a 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 on Tuesday, June 9. It will be held in the second floor conference room, beginning at 7 p.m. Join us.

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 (igsamos) 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 (or names of their loved ones) on metal “memorial markers” inscribed with the name of the donor or donor’s family. Each marker will be provided; you get to keep the markers. A luncheon, donated and served by Chick ’N Coop, will follow. (An RSVP is not necessary, but we would like to know, by show of hands, how many will be attending, so that we may have enough food for everyone.)

What exciting times for our community and for San Francisco: amidst 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. Καὶ παντὶς τῆς αὐτοῦ, καὶ συνελθήσετε εἰς τῷ.” (XX, Exodus 25:8).

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ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS DEVIOTSOS TO VISIT ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL: His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America will visit the Annunciation Cathedral for the purpose of seeing the progress on our building project, this Saturday, May 30. His Eminence is in San Francisco presiding over meetings of the Archdiocesan Council, Wednesday, May 27 through Friday, May 29.
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 virtually all the steel in the transepts, the apse, including the apse half-dome, the 50-foot-diameter dome itself, and the towers. By June 14, 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 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 ἐν τοίς ἑνασίτισσι μου ἐμφανίζομαι. Ἐκεῖ ἐν οἴκῳ ἐν οἴκῳ ἐπάθησεν Καὶ ἐρημώθη ἐκεῖ ἐκεῖ ἐπάθησεν” (LXX, Exodus 25:8). The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified.” (Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Ground breaking, November 6, 1997)