EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Epistle Reading is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans, chapter 12, verses 6-14. It is found in our books on page 100.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 9, verses 1-8. It is found in our books on pages 207-209.

DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS OF OUR GROUND BREAKING?: Back in 1997, November 6th, to be exact, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew broke ground for the Cathedral. You may recall what he said: “Today we break ground for the building of the Cathedral Church itself. This 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.” These words have reverberated in our hearts ever since, becoming our Mission Statement and Vision Statement as we rebuild God’s house “in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified.” We would like to put together a video incorporating photos of that glorious day, for use in the future, and we are reaching out to you, asking you to look through your photo albums and locate photos you may have taken on that historic day. We don’t want to keep your photos, but we would like to scan them. If you should locate photos/videos of that day in 1997, and would let us scan them, please let Father Stephen know. We thank you in advance. We thank the Alma Papingu and Denise Yielding, who have already provided us with photos and memorabilia in their possession.

STILL LOOKING AHEAD: FOOD FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 18, 19, 20: Please note it on your calendars. As stated in the Herald, 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 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! The next meeting of the Food Festival Committee will take place Tuesday, July 14 in the second floor conference room, 7 p.m.
WE'RE DONE WITH THE STEEL COLUMNS, DECKING

At long last, we are finished with the installation of the red iron steel and the steel decking (the steel which will support the clay tile roof and the dome metal). This week, the concrete lower walls for the Cathedral and the planters were poured. This coming week, installation of the steel studs will begin.

Excitement mounts as we watch this magnificent structure evolve, for this structure represents everything we are and everything we believe as Greek Orthodox Christians. It is a symbol of what our immigrant parents and grandparents brought to this land. It is also a symbol of what our own generation has cultivated, and what we hope to leave for the generations to come.

We noted that we’ve reached the $10 million mark. And we have explained how much has been spent and on what, as well as how much we have to go in order to complete the Cathedral. Additionally, we have projected a timetable for completion of the project. We’re looking at completing the exterior this time next year. This includes the normal functioning of the garage. And, we’re looking at beginning work on the interior at that time; this should take another year.

May God bless this of ours, for God is the one who spoke to Moses, then, and who speaks to us, today, saying: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (Translated from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις µὴν ἁγιάζαι, καὶ ὀφθήήσοµαι ἐν ὑµμῖν). (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)