SEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 2, Verses 2-10: BRETHREN, if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will. For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou carest for him? Thou didst make him for a little while lower than the angels, thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for every one. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 8, verses 41-50. It is found in our books, pages 253-257.

LUNCHEON TODAY HONORING FATHER NIKO AND PRESBYTERA STELLA. As announced, Father Niko Bekris has been named Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection, Castro Valley. Today is his last Sunday serving at the Cathedral. He will be at the Cathedral for the duration of this week and will take up his new duties next Sunday. Today’s Luncheon, which follows the Divine Liturgy, honors him for his work here, and wishes him well in his new assignment. Axios!

FATHER NIKO, In the Words of Scripture (Psalm 44: LXX): ἄνετεν καὶ κατευθύνον, καὶ βοᾷς, ἐνεκεν ἀληθείας, και πρᾳόότητος, καὶ δικαιοσύνης, καὶ ὁδηγήήσει σε θαυµμαστῶς ἡ δεξιάά σου...Go forth and prevail in the cause of truth, gentleness and justice, and may your right hand lead you to wondrous deeds, all the days of your life!

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and their work at home and abroad, especially in war-torn countries, those hit by famine or any number of natural disasters. For reservations, please call 510 531-3400.

ALMOST DONE:

THE EXTERIOR WALL: It seems like only yesterday that we began and, here we are, putting up the exterior wall, to be followed by the windows, the gutters, downspouts, the dome metal, and the clay tile roof. Then, the stucco will be applied; pavers, stonework, and doors will be installed. The outside will be virtually complete. The fountain will be working and we will have plants.

Excitement mounts as we watch this magnificent structure evolve, as it represents everything we are and everything we believe as Greek Orthodox Christians. It is also a symbol of the faith that our own generation has cultivated, and what we hope to leave behind, to inspire the generations to come.

We’ve noted on a number of occasions that we have raised $6 million towards this project, with another $4.7 to go. And we have explained how much has been spent and on what. (For specific information, please refer to the recent issues of the Herald.) Additionally, we have projected a timetable for completion of the project: completion of the exterior by summer of 2016; this includes the normal functioning of the garage. At that point, we are planning to hold a Gala event, to celebrate a great accomplishment, as we turn to phase two, the completion of the interior. Work on the interior, including appointments and iconography, should take another year or so. Certainly, we hope to be able to plan for its consecration, in 2017, four years before our 100th anniversary. All this, of course, will depend upon your prayers and continued support.

May God bless our undertaking, 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 ποιήησει µοι ἁγίίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήήσοµι ἐν ὑµµῖν. (Exodus 25:8). May we prove worthy of the trust God has in us to rebuild His Church.

“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)