EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 13, Verses 17-21: Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honestly in all things. I urge you more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel, Chapter 13, Verse 17-21: And when you are invited to a wedding feast, do not enter the banqueting hall at the last rank, to be invited last of all. But when you are invited, clothe yourself in a decent garment, and do not be ashamed to go into the banqueting hall, even if it is the last rank; so that whoever beholds you there may say, ‘Please, take my place’; and there you will have your reward. And when you stand offering prayer, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray at the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and close the door; and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you fast, do not make yourself gloomy, as the hypocrites do; for they disfigure their faces that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face; that your fasting may not be seen by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

MEETING OF PARENTS WHO HAVE GOYA-AGE CHILDREN (13 to 18 years of age): We’ve polled the parents and next Sunday, December 13, will be the best date for the parents to meet to discuss our GOYA program, staffing, and vision. The meeting will take place in the chapel following the Divine Liturgy and should last no more than 45 minutes.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS NEXT SUNDAY: Next Sunday, parishioners in good standing will have the opportunity to elect members to the Parish Council for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2016. This year, there are eight vacancies (8 members of the 15 member Parish Council are elected one year, and 7 the next). Since fewer than eight candidates attended the required seminar on December 2, the names of those who attended will appear on the ballot. Once they take their oath of office and the Parish Council meets on January 3 to elect its officers for 2016, it will also elect the number of members required from among the members in good standing of the Parish to serve on the Parish Council, so that the Parish Council will continue to have 15 lay members, plus the Cathedral Dean, Phil and Annette Chiappari and Bill Tonas will oversee the elections.
ALMOST THERE: We are completely done with metal stud framing and exterior Densglass (the yellow panels you see on the outside). Plywood and wood blocking are also nearly complete on all tile roof areas, including the domes. Waterproofing, window installation, lath, and plaster will follow. Then, the exterior of the building will be virtually complete.

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. Additionally, we have projected a timetable for completion of the project—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 ποιήσεις μου ἁγίσµα, καὶ ὀφθήήσοµαι 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)