EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11, verses 24-26, 32-40. It is found in our books on pages 138-139.

O Άποστολος, Πρός Εμπροσθον Επιστολής Πάτου το ανάγνωμα, κεφ. 11, έδραμ. 24, 26, 32-40: Κατάλειψεν, πάντες Μισθώτες μέχρις γενόμενος θρόνον λέγεται υπὸ δυσεργής Φαρισίως, μαλλιάς ζήλου και συγκοινωνίας το λαό του θεού καὶ πρόσκοποι έχουν άμερης απόλυσιν: μελλον πληθυνών ηγηθομεν των Αιγυπτίων θρηνοῦν των ονειδιστών των Χριστιανών απύθεξα για εἰς την μετατάξεως. Καὶ τι εἰ ἐλέγης; Τινὰς μὲ δούλωσεν ὁ χρίσμος μετὰ Αὐγείου, ἒρχετος μεταμορφώσεος, ἐπιτείμων άμετρον, ἔκρυψαν σάλον πλεύρων, ἐκάθεν δυσεργής παρενοχής, μεγαλειώνομεν αὑτοῖς αἰσθησίας, έγνωσθαν ἐνοχαὶ ἐν ποιμέν, παραβολῆς ἔλειψαν ἀλλήλων. Τίμημα γνώσεις αὐτοῖς τῆς κορώνας κατόπτειν ἄλλος ἐν εὐδοκιμίαις, οὐ προσφέρομεν εἰς την αἰσθήσειν, ἑνα κρατεῖσθαι τῶν τῆς τῆς. Ἐτεροὶ ὡς εὐγενείς καὶ μακράς πόρων ἔλικαν, ἐν δεσπότις καὶ φυλακής, ἠλθόταν, ἐπερήματος, ἐφευρέτας, ἐν φωνή μεγαλοπρέπους: περίκης ἐν φυλακής, ἐν αὐτοῖς ἄδημας, ἀπετιθέμενος, τάβαμαν, κακοσκινοῦσας, ἂν ὁμοίως ἢ ἠμερώς ἢ κόσμος, ἐν ἑπίρρεας πλατύνομεν καὶ ἔρισαν καὶ πληθώρια, ταῖς ἐπειράσεως. Καὶ όσοι πάντες, μαρτυρήθηκαν διὰ τῆς πόρως, οὐκ οικοδόμησαν τὴν αὐτοτραγωδίαν τῆς, τοῦ δει τις την κρατήσαντες μή μας χειρὶς τελεωθοῦν.

TODAYS MNEMOSYNA: Today’s Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the soul of our brother Petros Harmas, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago and for the repose of the soul of our brother John Sarikakis, who fell asleep in the Lord 14 years ago.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TOOK PLACE TODAY: the meeting will take place in the second floor room, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY: What does this mean? Following a period of about 150 years, known as the Iconoclastic Controversy, the Church, at the Seventh Ecumenical Council, convened in Nicea in the year 787, decreed that icons have a legitimate place in our worship of God. As John of Damascus put it, the honor we accord to the icon is directed to God. We venerate icons; we don’t worship them. We worship God alone. Later, in the year 843, the icons were officially restored and the first Sunday of the Great Lent was designated as the “Sunday of Orthodoxy.” Our acolytes and Sunday School children will lead a procession at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and a brief portion of the original declaration will be read.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter 1, verses 43-51. It is found in our books, on pages 289-291.

The sphere of genuine piety is that of Tone One: The stone that had been sealed before your tomb by the Jews, and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body, O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory unto our resurrected Christ, glory unto Your Kingdom, glory to your Dispensation, O You who alone love mankind.

The Apostle’s Dismissal Hymn is that of Tone One: Following a period of about 150 years, known as the Iconoclastic Controversy, the Church, the Seventh Ecumenical Council, convened in Nicea in the year 787, decreed that icons have a legitimate place in our worship of God. As John of Damascus put it, the honor we accord to the icon is directed to God. We venerate icons; we don’t worship them. We worship God alone. Later, in the year 843, the icons were officially restored and the first Sunday of the Great Lent was designated as the “Sunday of Orthodoxy.” Our acolytes and Sunday School children will lead a procession at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and a brief portion of the original declaration will be read.

OIKOS LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES: Following the recent successful lecture by Alexander Kozak on the topic, “What if the Fall Had Never Happened?”, we look forward to the continuation of the lecture series, aimed at informing, engaging, and edifying our parishioners in any number of areas involving individual and communal spiritual growth, family dynamics, and parish life. On Sunday, April 3, we will hear from Basil Crow, our accomplished chanter. His topic will be “On the Spirituality of Greek Orthodox Ecclesiastical Chant,” which boasts an uninterrupted history that stems from the local chant traditions of the ancient Eucharistic communities throughout the Christian world. Following the Salutations service, the Young Adults will host a gathering in the second floor conference room. Many blessings on all.

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; danos 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.
THE WINDOWS ARE IN! Well, almost. About 125 have been installed, and are now being tested against leaks, before we proceed with the stucco. We look forward to the installation of the copper domes (the large, central dome, as well as the iron half dome), the tile roofs, the stone along the base of the new Cathedral as well as the planted areas and, of course, the completion of the parking component. Meanwhile, we are planning for the placement of the cross over the entrance and the cross on the dome.

The large cross, which will go over the dome, measures 9 feet and weighs 470 pounds. The smaller cross, which will go over the entrance, above the Narthex, is 4'10" and weighs less. We will make an announcement as soon as we learn when the crosses are going to be installed. Meanwhile, some one out there may want the privilege of placing the cross above the dome, or above the narthex, thus essentially donating the dome or the narthex. Father Stephen is looking for a donation of $1 million and is confident one of you will step up for this honor. Now, we’ve projected a timetable for completion of the project. As announced, we are planning to hold a Gala event, to celebrate a great accomplishment, this 95th year of our existence as a community, and to kick off the work on the interior. The Gala will take place on Saturday, November 5, 2016. With God’s help, we hope to be able to complete the Cathedral by the end of 2017, and to consecrate the Cathedral to the glory of God to coincide with our 100th anniversary in 2021.

May God bless our undertaking, and may God continue to inspire you and generations to come through this landmark house of worship, which you are building to His glory.

“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)