SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul’s letter to the Hebrews, chapter 1, verses 10 – chapter 2, verse 3. It is found in our books on pages 140-141.

The Apostle Paul, the Γένος Ἐράμων Εὐστάθιος Παύλου τό αὐξάνωσι, κεφ. 1, εδάφ. 10 - κεφ. 2, εδάφ. 3: Κατ’ ἀρχάς, Κύριε, τῆν γῆν ἀξιωματικά, καὶ ἐγέρα τῶν χειρῶν σου εἰς οἱ οὖραν αὐτοῦ ἀπολύνονται, σὺ δὲ διαμένεις καὶ πάντες ὡς ἱμάτια παραστάθησαι, καὶ ἀνέλθησας καὶ ἀλλαγήσθηται: διὸ δέ αὐτοῦ εἰ, καὶ τὰ ἐπὶ σου συνελεύσαι. Πρὸς τὸν δὲ τῶν αγγέλων ἐφίηνε ποτε, Καθάν δὲ εὐδαίμων μου, ἐς ἄν θεὸς ἔργων καὶ ὑποτάσσοντες τῶν ποδῶν σου. Οὐχὶ πάντες εἰσὶν λειτουργικὰ πνεύματα, εἰ δὲ ἐρήκέν ποτε, Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου, ἕως ἢ θῶ τοὺς ἐχθρούς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν σου; Οὐχὶ ἔρωμεν. Τὸν τόπον, ἐν τῇ οὐρανῷ ἐλευθερότητα. Οὐκ ἐστὶ πᾶν ἡσυχασμός εἰς τὸν κοσμόν, εἰς τούς κοινώνες εἰς ἡμέραν ἐμβεβαιώθη.

Gospel Reading of the Day: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 2, verses 1-12. It is found in our books on pages 291-293.

The Story of the Apotheke (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Two: When you ascended to the kingdom of heaven, as your life is immorally rendered to Hades a mortal blow by your all-radiant Divinity. And, when you, from an internal depth and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven’s powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-bearing God! You have given glory to Christ, and we give glory to You.

Today’s Akathist (Meeting) is for Tone Two, an exquisite prayer for the Virgin Mary, using a Canon of the same Tones. It is found in the Book of Divine Services, beginning at 6 p.m.

Introduction to Orthodoxy (Sundays, 9 a.m., upshires). This class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey, but it is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith.

We explore Christian theology and practice through reading selections of Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping our students to discover (or rediscover) week after week, why we belong in the Church.

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.

TODAYS MEMOSYON: Today’s Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of our sister Persefony Danielides, who fell asleep in the Lord one year ago.

PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING TODAY: The meeting will take place in the second floor conference room, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

BASKETBALL GAMES TODAY: The OYAA High School and Adult Season have begun. Games being played today at the Annunciation Cathedral are as follows:

- 2 p.m. High School Ascension vs. Annunciation
- 3 p.m. High School Holy Trinity vs. St. Nicholas, San Jose
- 4 p.m. Adult Ascension 1 vs. St. Nicholas, San Jose
- 4 p.m. Adult Ascension 2 vs. Holy Trinity
- 6 p.m. Adult St. Nicholas, San Francisco 1 vs. Annunciation 2
- 7 p.m. Adult Annunciation 3 vs. St. Nicholas, San Francisco

SERVICES THIS WEEK: On Friday, April 1, we will celebrate the Salutations and recite the third stanza of the Akathist, beginning at 7 p.m.

OIKOS PRESENTS BASIL CROW NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 3: Next 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 Byzantine communities throughout the Christian world. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about both the history and the character of our ecclesiastical music. Basil has been studying and practicing the art of Byzantine chant from the age of thirteen. Basil received his Sc.B. in Computer Science in 2011 and his Sc.M. in Computer Science in 2012, both from Brown University. He currently works as a software engineer at Delphix and holds the position of Lambadarios at the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco.

STREET CLOSURE NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 10: San Francisco’s street closure program involves the closing of several streets periodically during the year. Valencia Street will be closed to automobile traffic on Sunday, April 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. You will still be able to access the church by driving down 14th Street, and taking a left onto Valencia Street. To depart the Cathedral, turn right onto Valencia Street. The personnel in charge of the street closure program have assured us there will be no glitches, as there have been in the past. If you should experience any, we ask you to let us know immediately. The Cathedral, in turn, will file a protest. No one wishing to come to church can be denied access. That’s the law. We are happy to cooperate with the City, to provide for pedestrian access to the streets on specified days. At the same time, we have stressed to the organizers the difficulty this poses for our parishioners, and they have assured us they will cooperate with us for the betterment of all concerned. Please note, Valencia Street will also be closed on Sunday, August 21.

NEXT SUNDAY IS THE THIRD SUNDAY IN THE GREAT LENT: As it is midway through the Great Lent, next Sunday is known as “Cross Veneration Sunday.” The cross will be elevated and placed in the middle of the church, signifying its centrality in the life of the Church. Flower will be distributed at the conclusion.
THE WINDOWS ARE IN! Well, almost. All but about 4 of the 135 windows 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 stonework 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. We think that will be April 8!

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 are planning to light the cross over the dome for Pascha, God willing. 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 exterior, to be marked by our Gala event November 5, 2016. This also marks our 95th year as a community. As for the interior of the Cathedral, with God’s help, we hope to be able to complete it by the end of 2017, and to consecrate it to the glory of God to coincide with our 100th anniversary in 2021. God will bless us, indeed, if it is His Will that His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who laid the cornerstone back in 1997, also consecrates it to God’s glory in 2021!

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

“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)