Today’s MNEMOSYNA: Today’s Memorial Services be being offered for the repose of the soul of our sister Frances (Fotini) Paras (40 days), our brother George Tzagaris (3 yrs.), and Eleni Handriños (56 years).

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY: The Parish Council will meet today in the second floor conference room, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

AMAZING TURNOUT OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE DANCE PROGRAM: We take this opportunity to welcome back all the children who are participating in the dance program and also welcome all those who are new to our program here at the Cathedral. It’s wonderful to see this enthusiasm, as dance practice continues today. This will be the last day of dance practice before the summer break, Dance will resume August 21.

GYM FLOOR BEING REFINISHED: Beginning this Tuesday, June 14, the floors of our Korinthias Hall and Kytherian Room will be refinished. This is a week-long process. The gym will be available for use beginning Tuesday, June 21.

BASKETBALL AWARDS DINNER TOMORROW: The dinner, beginning at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow evening, June 13, is open to all basketball families. Awards will be given to the middle and high school teams.

FESTIVAL MEETING THIS TUESDAY: A meeting of the Festival Committee will take place this Tuesday, June 14, in the second floor conference room, beginning at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the entire community. We welcome your suggestions and your participation.

NO SERVICES THIS SATURDAY: Services will not be held this Saturday, the eve of Pentecost. We look forward to seeing you next Sunday, June 19, the Feast of Pentecost.

KEEP LOOKING UP AT THE CROSS: It is an amazing sight, to see the cross above the dome of the new Cathedral, as well as over the narthex. Both crosses were set on the Feast of Saints Constantine & Helen, “God-crowned,” “Equal to the Apostles.” The Christian Emperor Constantine is known for having seen the cross in the midday sky, along with the writing, EN TOUTO NIKA (By this, you will conquer). He had the cross placed on his army’s flags, and overcame his opponents. This ushered in the Edict of Milan, in the year 312 and ended the on-off three centuries of persecution against Christians. In 325, Constantine convened the First Ecumenical Council, at Nicaea (then the provincial capital), and in the year 330 he moved the capital of the Roman Empire from New Rome, on the shores of the Bosporus. The City quickly became known as “Constantine’s City,” or Constantinople. Meanwhile, Constantine’s mother, Helen, found the Cross upon which our Lord was crucified, when she conducted an archeological pilgrimage of the Holy Land and built several churches, as Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre, in Jerusalem, and the place of the Nativity, in Bethlehem. The Cathedral’s crosses are adaptations of the “Theodosian” crosses found on the columns and other artifacts of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia which was built in 415. (This was the second Hagia Sophia.) An earlier church, said to have been built by the Emperor Constantine, was destroyed by fire and later, the 6th century church, which still stands, was built by Justinian. We invite you to view the vimeo of the placement of the dome cross, by helicopter, filmed by Kostas Petarakos: https://vimeo.com/167581393 We hope you have also viewed photos and videos taken by Barker/O’Donoghue (the company which arranged for the placement of the Crosses), Goldman Architects (the Cathedral’s Architect), and Ken Katen (the Cathedral’s construction representative) https://goldmanarchitects.evgnt.com/564Yq9rAz
THE CROSS: SYMBOL OF GOD’S SACRIFICIAL LOVE, SYMBOL OF HOPE:

The raising of the cross has been a big deal for us, as it marks the firm “planting” of our Orthodox Christian faith, here in the heart of this great City. We are reminded of the words of St. Paul: “We preach Christ crucified...” (1 Cor. 1:23). Some may say, “don’t we emphasize the Resurrection?” As Metropolitan Hierotheos of Naupaktos has said, “the Cross and the Resurrection go hand in hand.” Yes, we are people of the Resurrection—we affirm Christ is Risen. But risen from what? From death. And death from what? From the Cross. The Cross, therefore, is a symbol of God’s sacrificial love, for He voluntarily died in the flesh, out of love for us. The Cross, therefore, is the symbol of our salvation and the symbol of hope for the world. We are one step closer to completing the exterior of the building and to having our parking structure operational. To mark this achievement, and to celebrate our 95th year as a community, we will hold a Gala event on November 5. Look the particulars.

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 the Cathedral 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, protecting His Commonwealth, unto the ages. Amen. 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.

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"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)