SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, Chapter 2, Verses 10-16; it is found in our books on page 95.

'O Απόστολος, πρὸς Ρωμαίους ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 10 -16: Ἀδελφοί, δόεα δε καὶ τιμὴ καὶ εἰρήνη παντὶ τῷ ἐργαζόμενῳ τοῦ γαθοῦ, Ἰουδαίων τε πρῶτον καὶ Ἑλλήνων οἷς γὰρ ἔστιν ἡ πρωτοπολημία πάρα τῷ θεῷ. Οὓς γὰρ ἀνίκητος ἦσαν, ἀνίκητος καὶ ἀπολυόμενοι· καὶ ὅσιοι εἰς νόμῳ ἦσαν, διὰ νόμῳ δικαίωται. ὅτι γὰρ ἔθεν τὰ μὴ νόμου ἤργα φύεται τὰ τοῦ νόμου ποιήμα, ὅσιοι, νόμον μὴ ἔχοντες· ἐμφανίζεται εἰς νόμον τὰς ὀνόματα ἐνδικώμενοι τὸ ἐργόν τοῦ νόμου γραπτοῦ πᾶς τῷ ἄνθρωπῳ κατὰ τὸ ἔργον τοῦ νόμου γραπτοῦ· καὶ ὅσοι ἐν νόμῳ ἁμαρτοῦν, διὰ νόμου κριθήσονται· ὅσοι γὰρ ἀνόμως ἐδάφει· Οὗ τὸ ἐργάσθη, τοῦ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ τDefense of the saints.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 4, Verses 18-23. It is found in our books on page 199.

Η σημερινή εὐαγγελική περιοχή ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαίον, κεφ. 10, ἐδάφ. 18-23, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 178.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) 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 Architect, Contractor, and Owners Representatives will meet this Wednesday, as they do every other Wednesday, to consider details of our building project and to make certain everything is proceeding as scheduled. So far, so good, thank God. We’ve essentially had two delays since the start of the rebuilding effort of the Cathedral. One was at the very beginning, during excavation, when some contaminated soil was discovered. (Lead-painted wood from the 1906 earthquake was left on site—nothing major. However, the law is such in California that arrangements had to be made for this soil to be taken out of state.) The second was when we discovered a slight encroachment of a portion of our neighbors’ wall, to the south. This was remedied by a dual easement agreement. We also had a slight delay in the installation and testing of the specially-crafted Pella windows for the new Cathedral. The sum of the delays—a few months’ worth—will seem negligible as the exterior of the Cathedral nears completion.

Introduction to Orthodoxy (Sundays, 9 a.m., upstairs). 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 us to discover (or rediscover), week after week, why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact Alexandros Kozák at orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com.
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 is the symbol of our salvation and the symbol of hope for the world. As for the building itself, we are one step closer to completing the exterior 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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(Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Ground breaking, November 6, 1997)