

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus, Chapter 3, Verses 8-15: TITUS, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissections, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, bendecido seas tu nombre, que venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo. Dáanos nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del Mal.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 5, Verses 14-19: The Lord said to his disciples, ‘You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have come to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.’

THE STUCCO OF THE EXTERIOR IS PROGRESSING: All the stucco work should be completed by August 15. Then, the trim will be painted, the copper gutters and downspouts completed, and the tile roof laid. All this will be going on while mechanical work continues in the garage, including the installation of the garage doors. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact Alexandros Kozak at orthodoxo-agkozak@sneakmail.com.

TODAY’S MNEMONOSYNA: Today’s memorial services are being offered for the repose of the soul of our brother Gus Franco, who fell asleep in the Lord one year ago, and in whose memory his family are offering today’s luncheon/coffee hour. We also pray for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives during the invasion of Cyprus, 42 years ago.

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

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER TABLE: We invite you to stop by the Festival Volunteer Table, just outside the chapel, where you can find out more about how you can participate in this year’s Food Festival.

THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL: Church volleyball will take place this Tuesday, July 19, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

SOUP KITCHEN: Our Soup Kitchen will be operating this Tuesday, July 19, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. We invite you to join our dedicated group of volunteers, as we offer an expression of hope to those who are hungry.

CONSTRUCTION MEETING WEDNESDAY: The construction committee will be meeting this Wednesday, July 20, beginning at 10 a.m.

GREEK SCHOOL, SUNDAY SCHOOL, DANCE PRACTICE: noted in the June-July Herald, Greek School resumes Saturday, September 24, at 10 a.m., and Sunday School resumes Sunday, September 25, at 10:30 a.m. (both following our Food Festival, which will take place Friday, September 16, Saturday, September 17, and Sunday, September 18). Meanwhile, dance practice resumes Sunday, August 21, following the Divine Liturgy.

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 worldviews. These readings are the entry 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 Alex Kozak at orthodoxo-agkozak@sneakmail.com.

THE STUCCO OF THE EXTERIOR IS PROGRESSING: All the stucco work should be completed by August 15. Then, the trim will be painted, the copper gutters and downspouts completed, and the tile roof laid. All this will be going on while mechanical work continues in the garage, including the elevator, so as to get the garage fully operational. We expect that the exterior work will be completed by January and that we will have full use of the garage and all the exterior space.
THE CROSS: SYMBOL OF GOD’S SACRIFICAL 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.

“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)