EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, Chapter 10, Verses 1-10:

Ο Ἀπόστολος, πρὸς Ρωμαίους επιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ανάγνωσµα, κεφ. 10 ἐδάφ. 1-10: Αδελφοί, ἡ μὲν εὐθυκρίνεια τῆς ἐμῆς καρδίας καὶ ἡ δέησις ἢ πρὸς τὸν θεὸν ὑπὲρ τὸν Ἰσραήλ ἐστίν εἰς σωτηρίαν. Μαρτυροῦν γὰρ αὐτοῖς ὅτι ζήλων θεοῦ ἔχουσιν, ἀλλ’ αὐτοὶ κατ’ εἴσηγησιν ἰγνωστάντες γὰρ τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην, καὶ τὴν ἱδιὰν δικαιοσύνην ζητοῦντες στήριξιν, τῇ δικαιοσύνῃ τοῦ θεοῦ συν ὑπετάγησιν. Τέλος γὰρ νόµος Ἰησοῦ εἰς δικαιοσύνην παντὶ τῷ πιστεύοντι. Μισοῦσι γὰρ γῆρα τῆς δικαιοσύνης τὸν ἐκ τοῦ νόµου, ὅτι οἱ ποιήσασιν αὐτά ἀνθρώπους ζητοῦσιν εἰς αὐτοῖς. Ἡ δὲ ἐκ πίστεως δικαιοσύνη εὐθυκρίνει συνελεύσεις. Μη δὲ ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σου, ἐν τῇ πεποίησίᾳ τῆς σου τῆς πίστεως ἐστιν Χριστὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναγαγεῖν. Μη δὲ ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ σου, ἐν τῇ πεποίησίᾳ τῆς σου τῆς πίστεως ἐστιν ἐγνώσθην εἰς σωτηρίαν.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 8, Verses 28-34, Chapter 9, Verse 1. It is found in our books on Pages 205-207. 

This Sunday we continue our reading of the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 8. Today’s Gospel is the beginning of the Gospel according to St. Matthew which was read on Sunday, September 18, 2016. Today’s Gospel is of great significance for the Orthodox Church since it contains the miraculous healing of the centurion’s servant and the Pharisees’ responses to Jesus’ authority. The centurion’s faith and obedience to Jesus’ words are highlighted, as well as the Pharisees’ skepticism and their inability to understand Christ’s authority. This Gospel reading is a reminder of the importance of faith and obedience in our lives as Orthodox Christians.

THE GREAT MARTYR CHRISTINA

TODAY’S MNEMOSYNA: Today’s memorial service is being offered for the repose of our brother Theofanis Koutoulas, who fell asleep in the Lord 30 years ago, in whose memory his family are offering today’s luncheon, and for the repose of the soul of our brother Charles Ambus, who fell asleep 40 days ago, in whose memory his family are offering today’s coffee hour.

CHRISMATION: Today, Robert Mark Morales is being received into the Church, through the Sacrament of Chrismation. He will take on the name John. His Sponsor is Alexandros Kozak.

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

FESTIVAL GOINGS ON: The committee, under the leadership of Deno Konstantinidis and Grace Koutoulas, is meeting on a regular basis, finalizing plans for this year’s Food Festival, which will take place at our present location September 16, 17 and 18. The next meeting of the committee is Monday, August 8, at 7 p.m. As noted in the August Herald, which you will receive shortly, the committee will sponsor a “Sundae on Sunday,” on August 28. Ice cream sundaes will be featured, as you sign up to serve at the various booths. Meanwhile, please remember to send in your ad. Inasmuch as a very small percentage of your donation goes to printing the book (the layout is free), most of it is free and clear support of the Festival and, in turn, the ministries of the Cathedral.

GREEK SCHOOL, SUNDAY SCHOOL, DANCE PRACTICE: noted in the June-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 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 Kozak at orthodox-agkozak@sneakemail.com.

THE STUCCO OF THE EXTERIOR IS PROGRESSING: We expect all the stucco work should be completed by August 15. (Much of it already completed.) Then, the trim will be painted, the copper gutters and downsputs completed, and the tile roof laid. All this will be going on while mechanical work continues in the garage, including the elevator, all by January 2017. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sunday, September 17, and Sunday, September 18). Meanwhile, dance practice resumes Sunday, August 21, following the Divine Liturgy.

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.

This morning’s Gospel Reading is an excerpt from the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 8, Verses 28-34, which tells the story of the centurion’s servant and the Pharisees’ misunderstanding of Jesus’ authority. The Gospel reading is significant for the Orthodox Church since it contains important teachings about faith, obedience, and the sovereignty of God. It is a reminder to us as Orthodox Christians to have faith in Jesus’ authority and to obey His commands, even when we do not fully understand them. Today’s Gospel reading is a call to action for us to have faith and obedience in our lives.

Today’s Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Four: When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was given to the world, His great mercy and granted to the world His great mercy. This morning’s Gospel Reading is an excerpt from the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 8, Verses 28-34, which tells the story of the centurion’s servant and the Pharisees’ misunderstanding of Jesus’ authority. The Gospel reading is significant for the Orthodox Church since it contains important teachings about faith, obedience, and the sovereignty of God. It is a reminder to us as Orthodox Christians to have faith in Jesus’ authority and to obey His commands, even when we do not fully understand them. Today’s Gospel reading is a call to action for us to have faith and obedience in our lives.

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This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, Chapter 10, Verses 1-10. Today’s Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Four: When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was given to the world, His great mercy and granted to the world His great mercy.
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.

“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)