SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostle Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, Chapter 15, Verses 1-7. It is found in our books on page 101.

The verse says, "And we urge everyone who is living in an accustomed way to think about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them in 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 understand of their faith."

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 9, Verses 27-35. It is found in our books on Pages 209-211.

The verse says, "The Lord's Prayer in Spanish: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cie..."

40 DAY BLESSING: We welcome 40 day old Liana Rose Vorrises Lukehart, daughter of Marie & Ryan Lukehart.

PARAKLESIS: The service of Paraklesis (the word means "Consolation") is offered throughout the year, but especially during the August Fast (the period of 14 days leading up to the Dormition, i.e. the death of the Theotokos). The Paraklesis is a service calling upon the Theotokos, to intercede, that is, to pray for us, confident that the Lord hears her prayer, just as he heard her plea, recorded in the account of the Lord's first miracle in Cana, and turned water into wine. There, you may recall, Mary goes up to Jesus and tells him plainly, "They have no wine" (John 2:3). In other words, they've run out of wine...do something. Then she goes up to the servants, certain that Jesus will accede to her request, and tells them, "Whatever He tells you, do it" (verse 5).

We believe it is through her intercessory power that the Cathedral is being rebuilt. (It is, after all, dedicated to her.) We pray that she will intercede for peace in the world, and for the safekeeping of this parish and its parishioners. The Paraklesis service will be celebrated at the conclusion of this morning's Divine Liturgy.

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER TABLE/FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEETING: 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. Tomorrow, August 8, a meeting of the Festival Committee will take place in the second floor conference room, beginning at 7 p.m. We look forward to welcoming you.

THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL: Church volleyball will take place this Tuesday, August 9, 7-9 p.m.

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. noted in the August Herald, 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. A very small percentage of your donation goes to printing the book, so 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-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.

THE STUCCO OF THE EXTERIOR IS COMPLETE: The stucco is virtually now complete. We welcome 40 day old Liana Rose Vorrises Lukehart, daughter of Marie & Ryan Lukehart.

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THE STUCCO OF THE EXTERIOR IS COMPLETE: The stucco is virtually now complete. We will proceed now to paint the trim around the perimeter of the building, below the roof line, including the dome and the iron half dome. This will be followed by the completion of the installation of the copper gutters and downspouts. Then, the tile roof will be laid. All this will be going on while mechanical work continues in the garage. The elevator will be installed in September and the garage should be functioning by January 2017.
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 Nafpaktos 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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“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)