NINTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from Sain Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verses 9-17. It is found in our books on pages 103-104.

THE APOSTLE THADDEUS OF THE 70: THE MARTYR VASSA & SONS

Today’s Mnenosyna: Today’s memorial services are being held for the repose of the souls of our brother Neal (Cornelius) White, who fell asleep in the Lord 40 days ago and of our brother Thaneci Skornis, who fell asleep in the Lord 1 year ago. Thaneci’s mom is offering today’s coffee, while Connie Panagotacos is offering today’s luncheon in memory of Neal.

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.

Parish Council Meeting Today: The Parish Council will meet today in the second floor conference room, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The Parish Council meets, typically, the third Sunday of every month.

Today, Valencia Street is Closed to Through Traffic: San Francisco’s street closure program involves the closing of several streets periodically during the year. Valencia Street next closed to automobile traffic today, 11 a.m.—4 p.m. You are still able to access the church by driving down 14th Street and parking in the lot at 14th Street, between Valencia and Mission Streets. Those vehicles which are carrying individuals requiring handicap access are permitted to turn onto Valencia Street for drop-off purposes only. When our parking structure has been completed (early in 2017), all vehicles will be permitted to turn left onto Valencia Street. The personnel in charge of the street closure program have been most cooperative with us, and we thank them. Should there be any glitches, we ask you to let us know immediately. The bottom line is: No one wishing to come to church can be denied access. That’s the law. We are happy to cooperate with the City, to provide for pedestrian access to the Valencia Street, twice annually, although we continue to point out to the organizers that the section of Valencia Street between 14th Street and Duboce is underutilized and thought should be given to exempting this portion of the street, as was the case when the program was first introduced.

Festival Going 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. As noted in the August Herald, the committee will sponsor a “Sundae on Sunday” next Sunday, 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 actually 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 today, following the Divine Liturgy. We have 5 groups: To Melloni (pre-K, K), To Melloni 1 (1st-3rd grades), Thasisavi (4th-6th grades), Sphites (7th-10th grades), and Megalopolis (adults).
THE STUCCO OF THE EXTERIOR IS COMPLETE: The stucco is now complete. We have begun painting the trim around the perimeter of the building, below the roofline, including the dome and the imwch half dome, and installing the stone windowills. 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, so we can begin using the garage as soon as possible.

To mark this achievement, and to celebrate our 95th year as a community, we will hold a Gala event on November 5. Look for 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, for God spoke to Moses, then, and is speaking to us today, saying: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (Translated from the Septuagint: καὶ ποιήσεις μου ἁγίασµα, καὶ οὐφθήησοµαι εν ὑµῖν. (Exodus 25:8). May we prove worthy of this sacred trust.

“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)