**SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS**

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians, Chapter 2, Verses 16-20. It is found in our books on page 148.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, Chapter 8, Verses 34-38 and Chapter 9, Verse 1. It is found in our books on Pages 307-309.

**OUR FESTIVAL:** TODAY IS THE LAST DAY: Our hats off to our phenomenal cooking crew, mostly the women of the Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos, who have been cooking, baking, and otherwise preparing for our festival this week. (today is our last day. We close at 8 p.m.) Our hats off to Angie Leventis and Presbytera Aliki Kyriacou, whose persistent efforts raised $67,500 in revenue towards the book. Our hats off to our many other volunteers, whose carrying out of duties, like shopping, acquisition of licenses, procurement of product, setting up, etc., are the “glue” that puts this festival together. And, above all, hats off to Deno Konstantinidis and Grace Koutoulas, whose leadership and oversight are making the impossible possible. Notice the cooking on the courtyard.

**DANCE PRACTICE:** As announced, dance practice resumed on August 14, and continues today, with our groups performing. Practice will continue next Sunday and every Sunday up to FDF (in February), following the Divine Liturgy. We are pleased to report we have more young people this year than ever. For the first time in a long time we have 5 groups. The groups are: To Mellon (pre-K, K), To Mellon 2 (1st-3rd grades), Thisarvi (4th-6th grades), Spithyes (7th-11th grades), and Megalopolis (adults). If you would like to enroll, please look for the appropriate age group, practicing in various parts of the building (Korinthias Gym, Kytherian Room, chapel, gallery) and speak to the director in charge.

**BISHOP APOSTOLOS TO CELEBRATE THE DIVINE LITURGY NEXT SUNDAY AND ALSO ON OCTOBER 2:** During Father Stephen’s absence, His Grace Bishop Apostolos will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral next Sunday and also on October 2. We thank His Grace for being here in Father Stephen’s absence. Father Stephen will be back in the office on Wednesday, October 5.

**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 TILE ROOF IS GOING UP: Now that the stucco is complete, along with the painting and the installation of the stone window sills, the clay tile roof is being laid. Meanwhile, mechanical work continues in the garage. The elevator, which leads from the garage, has arrived and will be installed in the next few days, so we can begin using the garage by March of 2017.

To mark this achievement, and to celebrate our 95th year as a community, we will hold a Gala event on November 5. Invitations are being printed. As for the interior of the Cathedral: with God’s help, and your generosity, we hope to be able to complete it by the end of 2017. We are looking ahead to consecrating the new 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. It is the gift of this generation to future generations.

May God continue to inspire you and those who will come after us. The new Cathedral, in the heart of this great City of San Francisco, is shaping up to be a landmark house of worship. You are building it to glorify the Holy Name of God, who spoke to Moses, 3,000 years ago, and is speaking to us today, saying: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (Translated from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις µοι ἁγίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήσοµαι ἐν ὑµῖν (Exodus 25:8). Indeed, He appears among us, in the person of every child, every senior, every human heart, who calls upon the Name of the Lord.

“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)