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 orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com.

EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus, Chapter 3, Verses 8-15.

Ὅ Ἀπόστολος, πρὸς Τίτον ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου το ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 3, ἐδάφ. 8-15.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 8, Verses 8-15. It is found in our books on Pages 245-247.

Ἡ σμηρινὴ ἐναγγελικὴ περικοπή ἕκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 8-15. Εὐφρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 244-246.

Today’s Aposlytikon (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Eight (Plagal Four): Descending from on high, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be released from the passions of this world, You who are our Resurrection and our Life, glory to You.

Ἐξ υἱῶν κατηλθες, ὁ Ἐυαγγελικῷ ἐδάφῳ καὶ κατὰ τιμίους, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσῃς τῶν παθῶν, ὡς ζωὴ καὶ ἡ ἀναστάσις ἡμῶν, Κύριε, δόξα σοι.

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; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a quienes nos deudoren; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del Mal.

Hasta tu nombre, sea tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos el pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a aquellos que nos deudoren; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del Mal.

FEAST DAY OF ST. GERASIMOS OF CEPHALONIA, NAME DAY OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS: This year’s St. Gerasimos feast day services will take place at the Church of the Holy Cross. Great Vespers will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 19, with Bay Area clergy participating, beginning at 7 p.m. On Thursday, October 20, the Orthros will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. His Eminence will serve the Divine Liturgy along with two priests of the Metropolis. Following the Liturgy, a luncheon will be offered in his honor. We take this opportunity to express our prayers and best wishes to His Eminence. May God grant him many years, that he may continue serve His holy churches in peace.

COUNTDOWN TO THE ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL GALA: SATURDAY, NOV. 5: A great evening is in store for you on Saturday, November 5. You will experience a glamorous dinner, paired with thrilling entertainment and a fabulous auction! Celebrity and Iron Chef Cat Cora will present her amazing culinary skills. Our own Iconic Vicki Liviatakis of KRON 4 News will be Master of Ceremonies. Alexander Agapiades (who was married at the Cathedral earlier this year) will play a new composition for us as we celebrate 95 years of the Annunciation Cathedral. This soiree is your chance to see a sneak peek at our amazing Cathedral building itself, as you wine, dine and dance the night away. (A sneak preview to 2021, that is, when we celebrate our 100th and consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God!) You will enjoy extraordinary paraos - definitely a night to remember! Most of all, you will be supporting your church and the rebuilding of the Cathedral. Yes, it is a donation of $350 per person, but the donation is fully tax deductible, to the degree allowed by law.

And you will be helping the Cathedral to move ahead with the rebuilding of our church. May we count on your support? The Gala is chaired by Tessa Ambos, Tessa Ambos, Irene Kyriacou and Paul Sogotis. An amazing team of Cathedral Volunteers has come together to create this memorable evening, including members of our Young Adults. How about our extraordinary 95th Anniversary logo? It was designed by our own, very talented Nick Balian. We have lots of talented and dedicated people, which is what the Community is all about. For reservations please return your reply card, or contact us at CATHEDRALTGALA2016GMAIL.COM.

24TH ANNUAL REMEMBERING HOME DINNER BENEFITTING IOCC: This year’s dinner will take place on Sunday, November 6, beginning with Pan-Orthodox Vespers at 4:30 p.m., followed by a reception at 5 p.m., and dinner and entertainment at 6:30 p.m. The event will take place at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont. Sponsorship opportunities and tickets at $65 per person are available at iocc.org/rememberinghome.
THE TILE ROOF IS ALMOST ALL 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 have been sent. 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)