SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Sunday Before Holy Cross **Sozon the Martyr**

This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18— Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel According to John 3:13-17— The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

BRUNCH IN HONOR OF FATHER CONSTANTINOS: Following Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the installation of Father Constantinos as the 11th Proistamenos of the Annunciation Cathedral, all are warmly invited to join us for a complimentary celebratory brunch. Let us gather as one community to rejoice in this blessed occasion!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN: Every third Tuesday of the month, we come together to prepare, serve, and share a hot meal with those in our neighborhood. Our next gathering will take place on **Tuesday, September 16**. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at www.annunciation.org/ck-signup. If you would like to support this important ministry, please consider making a financial donation at www.annunciation.org/ck-donate

SERVICES THIS WEEK: Join us **Monday, September 8**- Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy (10am, Orthros 8:45am), **Wednesday, September 10**-St. Euphrosynos Divine Liturgy (6pm), **Saturday, September 6**- Holy Confessions (3pm); Great Vespers (4pm)

BUILDING FUND MATCH CHALLENGE: We are blessed with another incredible opportunity! An anonymous benefactor has offered a **$100,000 Building Fund Match Challenge**. Every dollar donated to the Building Fund will be matched, up to $100,000, through **December 31, 2025**. Together we can raise **$200,000** or more for the construction of our new Cathedral. Donations may be made online through Realm or by mailing a check to the Cathedral. Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

STEWARDSHIP: Stewardship is our offering showing love in action for Christ, the Church, and our fellow human beings. It supports our ministries, programs, outreach, and the care and maintenance of our beloved Cathedral. Most importantly, it supports our Cathedral liturgical expenses and our NEW Priest! Now more than ever it is time for everyone to step up and make a commitment to our community. We are moving forward! Please pledge today in person at Church or www.annunciation.org/donate.

AN INVITATION TO HOST COFFEE HOUR: As part of our revitalized coffee hour program, we're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours over the course of the year. We'll supply the coffee/ cream/ sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (pastries, donuts, bagels, small sandwiches, fruit/ vegetable/ cheese platters or other similar items). Please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

HELP US MARKET OUR GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL: Our festival is coming up September 19–21! The marketing team is spreading the word and hopes you'll join in. Next time you're at church, please pick up a few posters and postcards (located just outside the chapel) to share with friends, neighbors, and colleagues—or ask local businesses to display them. Let's make this our best-attended festival yet!