

# 2018 ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS

FEBRUARY 11, 2018



## THE PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY AND SAINT SERAPHIM OF SAROV CATHEDRAL

The Orthodox Church in America • Diocese of the West

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington  
His Eminence, the Most Rev. Benjamin, Archbishop of SF and the West  
His Grace, the Right Rev. Daniel, Bishop of Santa Rosa

Archpriest Lawrence Margitich, *Rector*  
Archpriest John Schettig  
Rev. Deacon Jeremiah Crawford  
Rev. Deacon Nicholas Carr

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## AGENDA for 2018 Meeting

1. Call to Order ~ Opening Prayers:  
“O Heavenly King” & Prayer. “Memory Eternal” and “Many Years”
2. Appointment of Recording Secretary, Chairman and Tellers
3. Count to Establish Quorum
4. Acceptance/Correction of Minutes from previous Annual Meeting of February 5, 2017
5. Review Agenda
6. Reports (additional comments and questions):
  - a. Additional comments from Rector
  - b. Treasurer’s Report — comments/explanation on the income and expenses of 2017
  - c. Auditors’ Report—Charles and Daphne Russell
  - d. Master Plan presentation — Sean Esbjorn-Hargens
  - e. Glendi/Fund Raising Events — Ten Minute Discussion, create sub-committee
7. New Business:
  - a. Consideration and adoption of 2018 Budget
  - b. Elections for Parish Council — *see Candidate list, pg. 53*
  - c. Confirmation of Treasurer
  - d. Nomination of Honorary Life Time Member
  - e. Open Forum/ Questions
  - f. Report of Elections
  - g. Adjournment - “It is Truly Meet” and Parish *Troparion* (last page)

## PARISH MEMBERSHIP

A quorum for our Annual Meeting is 50%+1. For this meeting that means **71** since we will be reporting to the Diocese that we have **140 financially supporting adult members who regularly attend, confession and commune in this parish** (last year we reported 145)

***Please note:*** there are NO DUES for Parish Membership! The Church is not a club or union and therefore has no membership fees. Parish Members are those who believe, act and worship according to the Orthodox Faith and financially support their parish, as an offering of thanks to God, from whatever resources He has given.

The *Statutes* of the Orthodox Church in America state that the “parish is a local community of the Church having at its head a duly appointed priest and consisting of Orthodox Christians who live in accordance with the teachings of the Orthodox Church, comply with the discipline and rules of the Church, and regularly support their parish.” (page 36, *Statutes of the OCA*) The *Statutes* continue with a definition of what it means to be a parishioner:

- a. **Parishioners are those who**, by virtue of their Baptism and Chrismation, are members of the Body of Christ and strive to live in accordance with their high calling (Ephesians 4:1) as Orthodox Christians. No one who openly betrays the doctrine, morals and liturgical life of the Orthodox Church can be a member, nor can those who act or lead their lives in a manner condemned by the Holy Canons as incompatible with the name of Orthodox Christian.
- b. A “Voting Member” of the parish: [as defined in Article X, Section 5(a)]
  1. is at least eighteen years of age
  2. partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in one’s home parish at least once a year [new bylaws are being prepared. The phrase ‘*once a year*’ will be changed to ‘*on a regular basis*’];
  3. attends the parish for a period of thirty days

## • HONORARY LIFE-TIME MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH •

- Alex Sokol (nominated in 1993), reposed
- Eugenia Vorobey (1994), reposed 1999
- Nick and Olga Belenkoff (1995). Nick reposed 2005, Olga in 2009
- Magda Sokolov (1996), reposed 2004
- Catherine Balatzki (1997), reposed 2003
- Leonid Sakovich (1998), reposed 2001
- Alexandra Hrenoff (1999), reposed 2004
- Musya Sakovich (2000), reposed 2016
- Sophie Silverman (2001), reposed 2015
- Archpriest Michael (reposed 2017) & Matushka Eleanor Margitich (2002)
- Eugene Gordenev (2003), reposed 2005
- Zoya Drake, (2004)
- Olga Canyuch (2005), reposed 2005
- Petar & Eugenia Griovski (2006)
- Andrew Skikos (2007)
- Nina Antipova (2008), reposed 2016
- Sarah Ingenito (2009), reposed 2009
- Barbara Owens (2009)
- Natalie Hansen (2010), reposed 2010
- Alla Keyes (2011)
- Tesfom Gebremichael and Mhret Weldu (2012)
- Nilus Veenis (2013)
- Eleni Rose (2014)
- John and Deanna Panages (2015)
- Catherine and Gregory Sanford (2016)
- Tom and Denise Pellizzer (2017)
- 

The names above are listed in our records. Please inform the Council Secretary if there are omissions to the list. While the By-laws of the parish state that an honorary member may be elected each year, it seems that the practice to do so began only during the pastorate of Fr. Michael Margitich in 1993.

# PARISH MINISTRIES – as of January 1, 2018

- **Council Members for 2017**

*Starosta:* Serge Anderson; *Parish Treasurer:* Martin Thong

*Secretary:* Bonnie Alexander

*Members:* Tom Pellizzer, Debbie Buse, Lisa Ann Wespiser (*Kendra Meshnik moved*),

Kathy Ramos, Theodore Dechant, Deacon Jeremiah Crawford, Freddie Myles

*Sisterhood President:* Kira Staykow

- **Ordained clergy**

Archpriest Lawrence Margitich—*Rector*; Archpriest John Schettig—*Second Priest*;

Archpriest Michael Margitich—*Pastor Emeritus, reposed*

Priest Theodor Svane—*returned to Norway*

Deacon Jeremiah Crawford, Deacon Nicholas Carr, *attached*

- **Active Tonsured Readers:**

Nicolas Craig Custer, Justin Margitich, Nilus Veenis, Andrew Mikrikov

- **Altar Servers:**

Subdeacon Marc Richardson, Dennis Campbell, Timothy Hopkins, Gary John Collins

Michael Mwaniki, Max Mwaniki, Gabriel Nicholson, Nilus Veenis, Herman Vasquez,

Desmond Myles, Christopher Gilluly, Simon Svane, Gary John Collins, Theodore Ranney,

Noula Daya, Ambrose Brodeur

- **Registry of Services/Sacraments:**

Nilus Veenis

- **Choir Members:**

*Choir Master:* Nicolas Craig Custer

*Assistant Directors:* Steven Tom Pellizzer and Justin Margitich

*Sopranos:* Dana Ames, Catherine Ostling, Katherine Willens, Eleni Rose, Carmen

Anderson, Tyler-Rose Hoffman, Shenina, Elizabeth Allen, Sophia Basch, Lucy Martin,

Emma Anderson, Natasha Collins

*Altos:* Bonnie Alexander, Ellen Aylward, Jeanie Carl, Matushka Katherine Crawford, Bobbi

Griovski, Genevieve Richardson, Barbara Owens

*Tenors:* Ole Elisha Kern, Steven Tom Pellizzer, Dimitri Nicholson, Matushka Esther Carr

*Basses:* George Artemoff, Connor Carr, Justin Margitich, Moses Anderson, Michael Dovey

- **Children's Choir:**

Sophia and Larisa Basch; Ambrose and Ella Brodeur; Natasha, Ashley, Simeon and Markus

Collins; Raquel and Alexis Dechant; Rowan and Molly Hamner; Justina Marino; Desmond

and Annemarie Myles; Maximo Rossi

*Teachers:* Carmen Anderson, Ellen Aylward, Jeanie Carl, Genevieve Richardson

- **Sacristan and Assistants who served during the year:**  
 Nilus Veenis, Leonard Longinus Carl, Asya Samardzhieva, Elsie Avalon, Sarah Hamner, Seraphim Longman, James Moody
- **Prophora & Preparation of Holy Bread:**  
 Matushka Xenia Schettig—*Head Baker*; Lara Anderson—*Team Leader*; Gretchen McPherson, Barbara Owens, Genevieve Richardson, Elena Alexei  
 Nilus Veenis—*Dough Makers*
- **Bell Ringers:**  
 Ambrose Inlow, Cosmos Harrison, Fr. Lawrence, Spencer Seraphim, Tom Pellizzer
- **Sunday offerings:**  
*Rotating group of young girls, with parental assistance*
- **Candle Desk Attendants:**  
 Denise Pellizzer, Elena Alexei, Debbie Buse, Lydia Nicholson, James Carr, George Kielczynski, Catherine Carpenter, Lisa Wespiser, Kathy Ramos, Kathleen Rhodes
- **Greeters:**  
 Joseph and Judith Gumper; Thom Stewart, Lydia and Nick Nicholson—*Assistants*
- **Ushers:**  
 Michael Dovey, Elsie Avalon, Martin Thong, John Gilluly, Roz Andronico, Shannon Winterton, Theodore Dechant, Alexandra Marino, Preston Booker (*Thom Stewart moved*)
- **Church Cleaning:**  
 Nilus Veenis—*Coordinator*; Barbara Owens, Esther Schau, Nicholson family  
 Elena and Alexander Alexei, Alexander Stameroff, Elsie Avalon
- **Temple Floral Decorations:**  
 Patricia Krueger—*Coordinator*, Denise Pellizzer, Tatiana Castillo, Matushka Katherine Crawford, Katherine Willens, Natasha Collins, Alicia Krueger
- **Vestment Sewing & Ironing:**  
 Genevieve Richardson, Maria Vasquez, Barbara Owens

## **Buildings and Grounds:**

- **Lawn:**  
 Gary Collins
- **Garden:**  
 Ann Margitich—*Coordinator*

- **Vineyard:**

Norm Vachon—*Vineyard manager*

- **Facilities: Repair & Maintenance:**

Tom and Denise Pellizzer—*Coordinators*; Gregory Sanford, Herman Vasquez, George Artemoff

- **Duplex Rental Manager:**

Vladimir Baer

## **Hospitality, Fellowship & Outreach**

- **Sisterhood Officers:**

Kira Staykow, Juliana Veenis, Deanna Panages, Cathy Veenis

- **Hospitality Ministry:**

Anthony Scott, Gretchen McPherson, Deacon Jeremiah Crawford, Fr. Lawrence  
(*Ambrose Inlow and Kendra Meshnik moved*)

- **Sunday Lunches:**

Eleni Rose—*Coordinator*

- **Senior/Retired Lunch Fellowship:**

Barbara Owens, Debbie Buse

- **Kitchen organization:**

Bobbi Griovski, Esther Schau, Debbie Buse, Serge Anderson, Grace van Curen, Esther Carr

- **Youth Coordination:**

**position open**—*Elementary / Middle School Youth Group coordinator*;

**position open**—*High School Youth Group*

- **Young Adult Group (18–24):**

James Carr

- **Pilgrimage Organizer:**

Spencer Seraphim Longman

- **Mercy Meals for the Sick:**

Kira Staykow



- **Parish Hall Event Coordinator and Manager:**

Debbie Buse

- **Ride Ministry:**

Deanna Panages—*Coordinator*

- **Funeral Arrangements / Care for the Reposed:**

**For men:** Deacon Jeremiah, Serge Anderson, Panteliemon Duval

**For women:** Shenina, Bonnie Alexander, Christina DeMichele, Gretchen McPherson, Vipassana Esbjorn-Hargens

- **Retreats Organization:**

Deanna Panages and others—*Coordinator*

## Communication

- **Still photography (events, retreats, etc).**

Aaron Brodeur, Esther Carr

- **Bookstore:**

Vladimir Baer, Bonnie Alexander, *Managers*; *Staff*: Dana Ames, Gretchen McPherson

- **Parish Photo-directory phone list**

Bobbi Griovski

## Education & Community Life

- **Church School:**

Gloria Colleen Collins—*Coordinator*; Vicky Basch, Garret and Sarah Hamner, Meghan Inlow, Anastasia Brodeur, Niki Myles, Emma Anderson, John Gilluly, Brendan Schettig, Basil and Adriel Scarborough, Rebekah Aftim

- **Catechists:**

Fr. Lawrence and parish clergy, Matushka Esther Carr, Matushka Ann Margitich, Ray Basch, Gretchen McPherson, Brendan Schettig, Alexander Stameroff, John Gilluly, Fred Krueger

- **Library:**

Helen Kinnamon, Lahana Singer

- **Scrip Director:**

Shenina—*Coordinator*

## Charitable Activities

- **Catholic Charities “St. Philaret Room” Liaison:**  
Denise and Tom Pellizzer
- **Nomadic Shelter:**  
Michael and Rachel Dovey (Ambrose Inlow)
- **Redwood Empire Food Bank:**  
Denise and Tom Pellizzer, along with a large group of volunteers

## Administration

- **Auditors:**  
James Clark (elected last year). Audit conducted this year by Daphne and Charles Russell
- **Church Office:**  
Bobbi Griovski—*Secretary*; Ellen Aylward—*assistant*  
Ole Kern—*Assistant to the Treasurer*  
Maria Vasquez, Barbara Owens—*Office assistants*  
Anastasia Brodeur—*Software support*

# Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2017

1. We began with hymns and prayer at 12:30 pm.
2. Appointments
  - a. Recording Secretary: Bonnie Alexander; Chairman: Tom Steven Pellizzer; Parliamentarian: Sam Coon; Tellers: Kathleen Rhodes, Joe Anderson and Esther Schau.
3. Count to Establish Quorum: 73 required
  - a. 83 in attendance; quorum met
4. Acceptance/Correction of Minutes from February 7, 2016 Annual Meeting
  - a. Minutes were accepted as presented.
5. Review of Agenda: No additions to the agenda
6. Rector's Comments Please refer to the written report for details.
  - a. In addition: Fr. Lawrence commended the Sisterhood for their care of the parish and for developing a budget; the Sunday School who work tirelessly to enhance the spiritual development that our children receive at home; those who care for the grounds; those who live on the property for the many, many tasks they accomplish; Bobbi Griovski for the prodigious amount of work she turns out in the office; Martin Thong for his careful stewardship of the parish finances; our pastors: Fr. John Schettig, Fr. James Jorgenson, Fr. Theodor Svane, Dn. Jeremiah Crawford and Dn. Nicholas Carr; Subdeacon Marc Richardson and Reader Nilus Veenis for their tireless efforts on behalf of the parish and in the altar; Fr. Michael for his immeasurable contributions and Tom Pellizzer for serving as Chair.
7. Ministry Reports
  - a. Treasurer's Report—presented by Martin Thong
    - i. Martin reported that we are generally doing very well. He expressed gratitude to all who support the parish financially through faithful stewardship and to Bobbi for her very capable assistance.
    - ii. Many means of giving: cash; check; Paypal; Square (credit or debit card); automatic payments through your bank.

- iii. Explained the difference between restricted and unrestricted donations and appealed for donations to be unrestricted. This gives the Treasurer and Parish Council more flexibility in using the funds.
    - iv. Subdn. Marc Richardson explained that Christ the Savior Brotherhood, an organization comprised of many Orthodox Christians, is dissolving the Brotherhood, and distributing their assets to churches and monasteries throughout the country. Our parish has received \$80,000 as a result of this.
  - b. Auditor's Report—presented by Martin Thong
    - i. Several small things were mentioned and have been taken care of. They also commented on the excellent practices and organization of Bobbi Griovski in her role as church secretary.
  - c. Philanthropic Audit Report
    - i. Anthony Scott reported on his research and analysis of the parish finances. The result was a 10% shortfall between income and expenses. He encouraged us each to increase our giving by that percentage. He also suggested other ways to give including through estate planning. Brochures were distributed.
  - d. Master Plan Presentation
    - i. Sean Esbjorn-Hargens distributed a report to the group. The Master Planning Committee had fewer meetings this year, but accomplished more. As we continue to develop the Master Plan, we reviewed the initial priorities and continued to brainstorm to update the list of projects and programs over the next ten years. He encourages parishioners to attend the meetings in order to give input so that the entire Parish is represented and participating. Next meeting is Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 pm.
  - e. Glendi —Alex Stameroff and Esther Schau.
    - i. Thanked everyone who participated in Glendi for their hard work. Alex reviewed some highlights of the Glendi, and remarked about the simplifications we instituted. Overall, we grossed about \$83,000; expenses were about \$42,000. Esther Schau thanked Alex for his leadership in charing the Glendi Committee over the last two years.
  - f. Introduction of the Hospitality/Evangelism Ministry—Fr. Lawrence/Anthony Scott

- i. Fr. Lawrence: The goal of this ministry is not to grow the church; it is to preach the Gospel. The result will hopefully mean conversions to the faith! We are trying to organize this function so that we are deliberate and intentional as we approach others.
- ii. Anthony Scott: Described that the Hospitality Ministry will serve an evangelism function by sharing our own experience in Orthodoxy to visitors/inquirers. Ministry of acceptance, love, friendship. Asking our help: (1) We are asking all adults (18 and over) to take the online survey distributed with our February newsletter this week; (2) Suggesting names of people to whom the Ministry could possibly reach out.

## 8. New Business

- a. 2017 Budget—Motion to accept the budget as presented. M/S/Carried Eleni Rose/Vicky Basch. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Elections for Parish Council—Motion: to elect all seven nominated (George Barsi, Debbie Buse, Ted Dechant, Kendra Meshnik, Freddie Myles, Tom Pellizzer and Kathy Ramos) by acclamation. M/S/Carried Eleni Rose/Joe Anderson. Passed unanimously.
- c. Nomination of Honorary Lifetime Member – Tom and Denise Pellizzer were bestowed Honorary Lifetime Member status.
- d. Parish Ministries Needing Additional Volunteers
  - i. Prospora committee needs dough makers
  - ii. Church Cleaning teams – always need more people
  - iii. Agape lunch openings on the calendar
  - iv. Sisterhood retreat on March 18.
  - v. Denise Pellizzer asked us to serve ourselves at the candle desk in the future.
  - vi. Denise Pellizzer also mentioned that we need help with the monthly Food Bank food distribution. The next one is Wednesday, February 8.
  - vii. Opportunities for outreach through Catholic Charities and Redwood Gospel Mission activities.
  - viii. Leonard Carl challenged us to each grow a tomato plant and donate it's product to the Glendi to improve the quality of the tomatoes.
  - ix. Michael Dovey suggested we each give \$5 more per week to the parish and dedicate the income from the next Glendi to the homeless in Santa Rosa.
  - x. Shenina encouraged us to participate in the Scrip program. We earned over \$700 for the church this year simply by shopping! Refer to the report on page 42 to see how to participate. It is easy!

- xi. Bobbi Griovski pointed out that our parish can be designated a recipient of Amazon Smile purchases and receive a percentage of sales.

9. Open Forum

- a. Gloria Collins expressed gratitude to all the church school teachers and to Garrett Hamner and Brendan Schettig who are developing a curriculum.
- b. Alexandra Marino mentioned that perhaps a street ministry might be something to pursue.
- c. Tom Pellizzer related that when a challenge arose at the last food distribution in the rain when the delivery truck got stuck in the mud, Serge Anderson was instrumental in getting the truck un-stuck. The next thing we knew the area was being paved! Thanks to Serge for all he and his family do for the Parish.
- d. Expressed thanks to Fr. Theodor and Mat. Hanne and good wishes when they head back to Norway. They will be sorely missed.
- e. Expressed our concern to Fr. Michael and Mat. Eleanor for their health as prayers continue.
- f. Expressed thanks to Fr. Lawrence for guiding us in the true faith.

10. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned with hymns and prayer at 2:20 p.m.

## RECTOR'S REPORT TO THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

*"...my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."  
(1 Corinthians 15:58)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you, fellow servants and beloved of the Lord. The scriptural verse above was chosen because it reminds me that the Savior cares for each of us. I may be weak, prone to sin and negativity, overcome by thoughts and cares, but the Lord is strong. Faith is a gift from Him, and that faith is strong. It gives us the love and devotion to do the "work of the Lord" — worship, prayer, charity, forgiveness, acquisition of the Godly virtues and evangelism that naturally follows. Although our work may be humble, quiet and hidden, yet it is not in vain. God will bless those efforts with His grace.

As we recall some of the parish events and activities during the past year, I give thanks to God for His help, His many blessings and for the times He has sent us corrections. I give thanks to God for the members of this blessed parish, united in "Jesus Christ, Himself being the chief corner stone in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:17). Take a careful look at the list of Ministries which have been listed in this booklet. I see in that long list of activities the many devoted parish members working for the upbuilding of the Church, for mutual support and for the glory of God. I thank God for each and every one of you.

Below are listed some activities that we accomplished, witnessed or supported during 2017. Following that, are some ideas for 2018, not my own, but those discussed at the Parish Council, Master Plan or Sisterhood Meetings and in conversations with many of you who offer your counsel and concerns.

### MISC. PROJECTS, PROGRAMS & EVENTS DURING 2017

*Items Appear in No Particular Order*

- Our Diocesan Hierarch, Archbishop Benjamin visited us for the Feast of St. Seraphim on January 2, 2017; for a Presanctified Liturgy during Great Lent; and for the Paschal Liturgy on Bright Monday at which he designated our St. Seraphim Church the *Cathedral of St. Seraphim of Sarov*.
- At that same Bright Monday celebration he bestowed the honor and dignity of wearing the Mitre to Archpriest Michael. It has already been noted, but worth mentioning again, that Father Michael was the first OCA priest in almost fifty years to be given the mitre.
- His Eminence was present as well on the Feast of St. Seraphim in July, at which Hieromonk Innocent from the Monastery of St John preached. He came again on the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos on October 1, at which we received the "Iveron Myrrh-Streaming Icon" of the Mother of God. Vladyka Benjamin came again, along with Vladyka Daniel, for the Funeral Services for Fr. Michael on November 13 and 14.

- His Grace Daniel, Bishop of Santa Rosa, visited us on the Third Sunday of Lent for the Vigil and Divine Liturgy of the Veneration of the Cross. We are very grateful for the pastoral care of our holy fathers in Christ and thank them for the continuous prayers in our behalf.
- Festal meals were generously donated, prepared and served for those who came to the Feast Day Liturgies. Those who are responsible for cooking, serving and cleaning at the Festal meals, for those who decorate and clean the church before and after those feast days make a significant offering of time, expertise and stamina. We are all grateful for their efforts.
- Our flower/church decoration ministry adorned the icons each and every weekend and church feast. Especially significant were the beautiful “surrounds” of the festal icons, and the gorgeous greenery for Palm Sunday, Pascha, Pentecost and Nativity. We are extremely grateful to those who give of their time, money and skill to beautify the Church.
- Our Prosphora Ministry met regularly to prepare bread for the Divine Liturgy and Vigils. Matushka Xenia leads a team of dedicated parishioners who understand that they are engaged in a holy work in preparation for the Divine Liturgy.
- We celebrated all of the major feast days of the Church year, those of Great Lent and Pascha, as well as numerous Thanksgiving Services, Travel Blessings, Holy Unctions, Panikhidas, Akathists and Supplicatory Canons. Baptisms and other Holy Mysteries are listed below.
- Our senior and retired parishioners are very grateful to Barbara Owens and those who prepare the meals for the luncheon. This monthly get-together has become very important to our community. We also thank Natasha Collins for her taste and skill in decorating the tables for the lunches.
- Some of our parishioners and clergy participated in the *Walk for Life* last year in San Francisco, and were greatly edified.
- We all received many very profound blessings during the time the Svane family labored for the glory of God here in the Parish for two years. They returned to Norway in July.
- The Sisterhood organized a well-attended retreat on March 11 on *Orthodoxy and Iconography*, with talks by Father Patrick, Catherine Ostling and Matushka Ann.
- Our catechesis program is expanding: Nine parishioners—knowledgeable, experienced Orthodox Christians—teach the catechumens when they “depart” from the Divine Liturgy. Having nine teachers means no one teacher has to be absent from the Liturgy very often.
- Wednesday Evening Talks: Ambrose Inlow gave a talk on the Incarnation. Sister Margarete from Holy Assumption Monastery spoke on the history of the Diaconate, and in particular, the history and ministry of women deacons. Mother Abbess Melania gave a three-part lecture on the book *The Theology of the Body* by Jean-Claude Larchet. She also gave a talk on Love, Sex and Marriage. Fr. Edward Henderson from St. John in Berkeley gave a two-part lecture on the Orthodox Old Believers.
- Classes on the book *Ladder of Divine Ascent* were led by Father Theodor during Great Lent. We might take another look at this book, picking where Father Theodor left off.
- Garret Hamner and Michael Dovey have been meeting with me weekly to study Orthodox Church services, reading and serving, in preparation for the Holy Diaconate.



- Katherine Willens was blessed by Archbishop Benjamin, to serve as a chaplain, and was officially endorsed with a Molieben Service by the Orthodox Church in America on July 4, 2017.
- During this last year our Church School teachers and clergy met a number of times to work on the curriculum for Church School that would serve us for the long term. We are very grateful to Brendan Schettig, Garret and Sarah Hamner, John Gilluly and Father Theodor for writing lesson plans. We have received positive and good critical feedback from parishioners, who are helping us to improve the lessons. I am very grateful to our Church School teachers, especially to Gloria Collins, for her organizational expertise and for her love for God and the children. When this curriculum project is done, it will hopefully be worthy of publication.
- Our Parish Men's Group attended Divine Liturgy in San Francisco Holy Trinity Cathedral on a Sunday in May, after which we saw a Giant's baseball game. We had a work party on the day in which Glendi would have happened, in order to clean and reorganize the storage building.
- We all express admiration, respect and gratitude for the work of our choir director, Nicolas Custer. Very few choirs in the OCA have directors as talented and knowledgeable as ours, and so we must give thanks to God for what we have been given here. All of us give thanks for the dedicated, talented and pious choir members for their sacrifice and hard work. May the Lord richly bless them.
- The Children's Choir continues it's work of learning new hymns and singing a number of Divine Liturgies during the year, as well as singing with the adult choir on selected Sundays.
- The well-known choral ensemble *Cantiamo Sonoma*, led by Carol Menke, gave a wonderful concert in the summer, and two outstanding Christmas concerts here in December. Bob Worth and a small vocal ensemble of *Sonoma Bach* gave a concert here on the Feast of the Annunciation (they plan another concert here on March 17 and 18).
- The *St. Seraphim Week for Children* was organized by our teachers and staff in June, and was well attended. We are grateful for the work done during that week by the teachers and assistants. It has had a profoundly positive impact in the parish.
- The Parish Hall was blessed and dedicated to the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel on July 19, the feast of St. Seraphim, by Archbishop Benjamin. The *Troparion of the Archangels*, was sung by the Children's Choir, in a new composition by Nicolas Custer. An Icon of the Archangels will be painted and mounted inside the Hall, over the south door.
- Two organizational meetings for Glendi 2017 were held in May. At the first meeting we discussed the various limitations facing us (cost increases, lack of parking to sustain a high attendance, lack of key personnel). The meeting brainstormed with the goal of designing a smaller festival. We decided to do some research and reconvene in two weeks in order to discuss next steps. The follow-up meeting was not well-attended, and it looked like perhaps the will of the Parish regarding Glendi was expressed in that fact. Each person at the meeting offered some remarks, after which we unanimously decided—with regret—to cancel Glendi 2017. We recognize that Glendi—as we have known it—is a thing of the past. More modest festivals can, and hopefully will, be organized with adequate parish backing.

- The annual October *Honoring the Saints* for children was organized in October by Sarah Hamner and team, and was extremely well-attended. This annual event is one of the jewels of the parish year.
- The Annual Poetry and Music night was well organized by Vladimir and Nona Baer and well-attended. Many thanks to all for making this great event happen.
- Annual Children’s Nativity Play: Congratulations to Carmen Anderson, who wrote and directed the play, to Gloria Collins who assisted her, and to all the children who acted. We thank the parents for supporting this event. The Play has become an important element in our preparation for Nativity each year.
- A bell tower for St Seraphim was designed (costs for that covered by a donor), and awaits final construction drawings, approval by the County and funds to build it. A tower is a traditional element of the Church building, necessary for at least four reasons: the sound of the bells carries better from a tower, calling all to worship the Holy Trinity; during processions the bell ringing will not be quite so deafening; bells are secure and safe from theft in a tower (you will recall, we had thefts some years back); most importantly, a tower significantly beautifies and completes the construction of the Church building.
- In December our bells were remounted and new lines strung to the “tongues” (aka clappers), and a simple platform was built with a central post. Although this is a temporary set up (since we will have a bell tower at some point), it was necessary to secure the bells properly to allow proper ringing technique. We thank our donors for this project, and especially Alex DeMaar for building the platform. The gentleman who rehung the bells, Constantine Stade, also conducted a bell-ringing master class for us and a number of area bell ringers.
- A number of security cameras were installed around the property to record at night when there is motion.
- The Sisterhood organized a Parents’ Night Out. Adults got together at the Brodeur home, and the children were cared for here at the Church.
- Piroshki was made twice as a fund-raiser, earning about \$2000 each time.
- We were blessed to receive the Holy Fire from Jerusalem at the Thomas Sunday Vespers.
- The Inlow family went to Pennsylvania so Ambrose could study theology at St. Tikhon’s Seminary. A Seminarian Support Fund had been established here about eight years ago with an anonymous donation of \$15,000, with subsequent offerings of \$10,000. The Parish sends \$1000 per month to the family.
- Thanks to the generosity of Abbess Susanna of Kazan Skete and the efforts of Ambrose Inlow, the Parish published the work of the New Martyr, Archpriest Sergius of Kasimov, *A Spiritual Testament*. The booklet is available in our bookstore.
- Archimandrite Abbot Patrick, our fresco painter, gave a talk on the Resurrectional Cycle of frescoes in September. A BBQ was organized for after the talk. This was in lieu of Glendi.
- Last year we established a “Hospitality Ministry” to concentrate on studying and practicing Orthodox evangelism. Anthony Scott is responsible for organizing the various meetings we have. He was also responsible for creating the very informative survey which allowed us to reflect on our parish life and how well we practice evangelism. During the year two of the

key members of the ministry moved (Ambrose and Kendra), and others had illness or family commitments. The Ministry has not met for a few months. Hopefully, we will begin our work again. Part of the work will be to explore the possibility of an Orthodox mission parish in either Petaluma or Napa. I am grateful to Anthony Scott for the significant amount of work and expertise he brought to the group.

- Two projects have come out of the Hospitality Ministry: A parish brochure, which describes for the non-Orthodox person something about the parish, and a video intro to be posted on the Parish website, which was filmed and edited by Cosmo and Zossima Harrison (final editing being done now). I thank our two young film producers for their diligence and excellent work.
- A number of our parishioners moved out of Santa Rosa this year: Fr Theodor and Matushka Svane and children, Kendra Meshnik, Marina Stant, Brendan and Eirini Schettig and children, Thom and Tatiana Stewart and Catechumen Cathy Moyer (to SF). In March of 2018, Helen Kinnamon will relocate to Fresno. About the same time James and Svetlana Clark will move to Arizona. Perhaps there are others, but we hope not.
- The Church is God’s charity to us. We are called—individually and as a parish—to be like God, Who is always abundant in sending blessings, bestowing His charity on all. Last year charitable work was carried out with enthusiasm and generosity. A number of opportunities exist for participation.
  - We continue to partner with the Redwood Gospel Mission “Angels Unawares” providing dinner and a place to sleep for homeless one night a month during the winter/spring.
  - We continue to partner with the Redwood Empire Food Bank to distribute food on the second Wednesday of each month.
  - We are now providing support not just for one, but for two rooms at Catholic Charities’ Family Shelter on Morgan Street (we send in \$200 per month). One room is for families, dedicated to St. Philaret the Almsgiver. The other room is for administration.
  - The *Families to Families Thanksgiving Dinner* project provided one hundred dinner boxes to those in need. We thank those who provided funds for the dinners, and those who put the boxes together.
  - A number of our parishioners give their time volunteering at various charitable organizations in the area.
  - A Wildfire Relief Fund was established on the first day of the terrible October fires (for a few days the website had the typo, *Wildlife Relief* Fund). Donations from parishes and individuals far and wide poured in to the parish via check, cash and the parish website donation button. Almost \$43,000 was given, and as of the end of December, \$24,000 distributed. Funds are being dispersed weekly to those in need. The Treasurer and the Council help with distribution.
  - The Pastor’s Discretionary Charity Funds, provided by the Parish Council, are used for individuals in need, whether they be parishioners or strangers that come to the door.
- Some years ago funds were given for the building and installation of new doors for St. Seraphim Church. We commissioned the well-known British iconographer Aidan Hart to

design the doors and to paint copper panels, and Michael Dovey to build the doors. The beautiful doors were installed last January. Michael is carving eight small pieces for the top and bottom indentations, and those pieces will be installed within the next few months.

- The bell tower on the Protection Church had significant dry-rot. In addition, there is evidence of a electrical fire under the onion dome many decades ago. Serge Anderson rebuilt the structure using the original onion domes, to be lifted in place on Thursday, January 25.
- Thanks to the work of Brendan Schettig and parishioner assistants, the porch roof at St Seraphim is almost 100% water-tight. We have a few spots to close up.
- New lampadas and counterweights were donated to hang in front of the frescoes of Sts. Constantine and Helen and Sts. Vladimir and Olga. New lampadas were donated to be placed before icons in the nave.
- Funds were donated for a memorial table in front of the Crucifixion in the Protection Church, and for new wooden candles stands for the Protection to replace the sheet-metal stands. These are being made now.
- The parking lot potholes were filled, as was the gravel area behind the Hall. The parking lot needs attention annually.

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2017, Father Michael Margitich ended his long work for the Church, and reposed in the Lord. During the following five days the parish experienced the passover from death to life of the beloved *Pastor Emeritus*. Our two Hierarchs, twenty or so priests, four deacons, and a host of faithful participated in the epic services of the *Funeral for a Priest* and the Divine Liturgy, during which we experienced something of Holy Friday, Holy Saturday and Pascha altogether. It is not possible to express the gratitude my family and I have for the love, labor and prayers that were given by all of you during those blessed days. May God reward each of you for your care. It is also not possible to relate, in these few words recounting the funeral services, how vividly the Kingdom of God was made manifest throughout the Services.

As noted above, we celebrated all the major feast days of the Church Festal calendar; but alas, sometimes only a few parishioners celebrated, rather than many or all. Dear brothers and sisters: let's fully embrace the Feasts, which are a glory and treasure of the Orthodox Faith—in them we are inspired, instructed, enlivened, enlightened, confirmed in faith, and in them we rejoice. Time itself is sanctified. These feasts also provide a way for us to express our love for the Lord, His Most Pure Mother, and His saints. I invite you to carefully consider the calendar of services each month, and the regular Saturday evening resurrectional Great Vespers, and plan to take part. You will reap many spiritual benefits, and our parish and our families will be strengthened in the faith.

## CONCERNS AND IDEAS

### **Youth Activities:**

As always, I am concerned at the lack of events organized for our younger parishioners, aged 18–28. Activities, talks, pilgrimages, music, poetry, events and inter-parish get-togethers for

this age group are essential ingredients for assisting in the building up of faith in Christ and deepening relationships with each other. Organizing such events and activities takes commitment, personnel, time and funds—and I am most certainly convinced that we need to invest in our youth and young adults. However, I also believe that 18–28 year olds are quite capable of organizing events for themselves, and I will offer my encouragement and support for that to happen.

Let us be aware that for the most part, the young adults who attend church, who contribute their labor, resources and time to the parish—come from families who love God, actively pray, remember to celebrate the feast days in one way or another, participate in the Holy Mysteries, who value the lives of the saints, and whose homes have an icon corner, and with it, a Bible and a Prayer Book that are used. Piety is ALWAYS available to any parent, and can help mark a holy path for the whole family. Certainly, there isn't a guarantee about faith and children. Kids make up their own minds, and even if the parents are saints, the child may decide to depart from Jesus Christ. However, we “train up a child in the way he should go,” and then pray that “when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). In any case, let us consider establishing activities for our young adults, help them to organize their own activities, but above all remember that it is in the home that love for God is learned and nurtured.

#### **Bible Study/Men's Get together:**

John Christodoulidis, one of our newer members, suggested a monthly men's Bible Study with coffee and donuts, to be led by me and others, on a Saturday morning at 8 AM. I'm asking around to discover if Saturday is really the best time, or perhaps there is another day.

#### **Lenten Matins:**

During Great Lent we serve 8 AM Matins every Tuesday–Friday (sometimes Presanctified on a Friday will bump the Matins). The Matins lasts about an hour and ten minutes. Come (brave the traffic), attend Matins for ten, twenty, thirty or sixty minutes, or whatever is possible. Start the day focused on the Lord and what it means to repent. Great Lent takes shape and meaning in a very profound and surprising way for those who are able to come to one or two of these services weekly. “Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments,” says Psalm 118:164. As a parish, let us begin the day together with the first of the seven praises.

#### **Charity Ministry:**

Each year after Glendi the Charity committee would meet to discuss distribution of the 10% of Glendi income to charity. With the absence of Glendi and those funds, I would like to ensure that we reestablish this committee to be a support group for those who are managing the “Angels Unawares” (aka Nomadic Shelter), the food bank, Catholic Charities, etc., and to help me with distribution of charitable funds to those in need. Speak with me or Tom and Denise Pellizzer if you are interested in serving.

## **PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS FOR 2018:**

- The Master Plan committee makes recommendations to the Parish Council. Our Master Plan team has been looking at possible timelines for projects and programs. Always high on the

list is maintenance. Along with those many items we hope to develop a plan for the following:

- Convert one of the storage bays in the storage building into two class rooms, and move Glendi storage to the current Sunday school.
- Design and budget for lighting fixtures and islands in the parking lots, using parking lot architect
- Give some attention to the oval lawn (remove crab grass, move gazebo, create some paths, plantings, etc.) with help of a landscape architect
- Bell Tower: planning and fund raising
- Last year I hoped to begin researching where our parish might plant a mission. Petaluma had been high on the list. Napa also appears to be a possibility.
- The Fresco Program will continue this year. There are many frescos that have been commissioned, and those are listed in the report below.

In addition to the normal responsibilities of a parish priest, I also continue to serve the Church and our local community as asked and as time allows:

- Diocesan Council, which advises Vladyka Benjamin on questions regarding the Diocese. This body meets quarterly in San Francisco.
- Chairman of the Liturgical Music Department of the Diocese of the West.
- Mission Board of the Diocese, which provides support to Mission parishes, and in that capacity attend the Annual Mission Parish Retreat each February. Additionally, this team meets twice a year.
- Liturgical Music Department of the Orthodox Church in America providing support and settings of hymns which are posted on the OCA website; I assist in organizing choirs, and conducting at the national OCA All-American Councils.
- Confessor for the Sisters of the Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, and help with supplying priests for their Divine Services.
- Occasional attendance at Catholic Charity events.

*With love in Christ,  
Archpriest Lawrence Margitich*

## Holy Mysteries in 2017

### Baptisms in 2017

8 (10 in previous year)

- Daniel David Dahl April 21, 2017
- Caspian David Duval May 21, 2017
- Keri-Elizabeth Weigle June 4, 2017
- Norman Peter Vachon June 4, 2017
- Jeremy Juriansz June 10, 2017
- Veronica Mikrikov June 29, 2017
- Moses Morgan October 29, 2017
- Jaxon Michael Grigsby November 25, 2017

### Marriages in 2017

5 (0 in 2016)

- Nicholas Hoffman/Tyler Rose Counts January 22, 2017
- Dustin Thomas Pellizzer/Bryanna Tablar May 7, 2017
- Hanne Aftim/Rebekah September 3, 2017
- Abraham Soudah/Ghada Simonides October 1, 2017
- Joseph Anderson/Emilia Lewis October 8, 2017

### Funerals in 2017

4 (5 in 2016)

- Anne Stewart May 23, 2017
- Christopher Stewart July 14, 2017
- Berchiko Sebhat Bairu October 29, 2017
- Archpriest Michael Margitich November 11, 2017

### Catechumens as of January 21, 2018:

Jeanie Carl, Jeannette and Mark Reiss, Maiah Lucas, Alexander Fuentes, Sonya, Luc and Lilly Elm, Jordan Morgan, Sarah Stewart

<b>Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church</b>						
<b>YTD Expenses &amp; Annual Budget</b>						
<b>January through December 2017</b>				<b>01/15/2018</b>		
				<b>Cash Basis</b>		
			<b>Jan - Dec 17</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>	
<b>Income/Expense</b>						
<b>Income</b>						
<b>Building Fund Income - Moved to Fund Balance Building (see separate report)</b>						
				50,000.00	0.0%	
				42,000.00	0.0%	
			3.20	6.00	53.33%	
<b>Total Building Fund Income</b>			<b>3.20</b>	<b>92,006.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	
<b>Candles Income</b>			<b>16,101.79</b>	<b>15,500.00</b>	<b>103.88%</b>	
<b>Charity Rec'd</b>						
<b>Wildfire Relief Fund - Moved to Fund Balance Wildfire Fund (see separate report)</b>						
			16,857.47	15,000.00	112.38%	
<b>Total Charity Rec'd</b>			<b>16,857.47</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>112.38%</b>	
<b>Designated Gifts Income - Moved to Fund Balance Designated (see separate report)</b>						
			25,500.00	25,000.00	102.0%	
			3,050.00	3,000.00	101.67%	
<b>Icon Fund Income - Moved to Fund Balance Icon (see separate report)</b>				35,000.00	0.0%	
			3,120.00	20,000.00	15.6%	
			2,129.55	25,000.00	8.52%	
			0.00	3,000.00	0.0%	
			2,182.00			
			16,596.58	15,000.00	110.64%	
			3,436.00	2,500.00	137.44%	
<b>Seminary Assistance - Moved to Fund Balance Designated (see separate report)</b>						
<b>Special Appeals Income</b>						
			6,635.00			
			13,331.00			
			0.00	15,000.00	0.0%	
<b>Total Special Appeals Income</b>			<b>19,966.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>133.11%</b>	
			16,088.30	16,000.00	100.55%	
			250,371.59	145,000.00	172.67%	
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>375,402.48</b>	<b>427,006.00</b>	<b>87.92%</b>	
<b>Gross Total</b>			<b>375,402.48</b>	<b>427,006.00</b>	<b>87.92%</b>	



<b>Expense</b>					
		<b>Altar Needs</b>	3,797.03	3,000.00	126.57%
		<b>Bank Expenses</b>	615.56	200.00	307.78%
		<b>Building Fund Expenses - Not included in Fund Balance Building</b>			
		Architectural Services	7,090.03		
		Bank Loan - New	3,500.00	50,000.00	7.0%
		Construction Expenses	6,750.00		
		Parishoner Loan	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
		Repairs & Improvements	0.00	25,000.00	0.0%
		Russian Home of Mercy 2	0.00	9,045.00	0.0%
		<b>West American Bank</b>			
		Interest	29.86		
		<b>Total West American Bank</b>	29.86		
		<b>Building Fund Expenses - Other</b>			
			6.85		
		<b>Total Building Fund Expenses</b>	17,376.74	94,045.00	18.48%
		Candle Expenses	12,928.98	13,000.00	99.45%
		<b>Charity Expense</b>			
		Wildfire Relief Fund - Moved to Fund Balance Wildfire Fu	-0.60		
		Charity Expense - Other	14,685.92		
		<b>Total Charity Expense</b>	14,685.32		
		Choir Director	23,532.06	24,000.00	98.05%
		Designated Gifts Expense - Moved to Fund Balance Designat	285.00	1,500.00	19.0%
		Diocesan Assembly Expenses	0.00	2,850.00	0.0%
		<b>Diocese of the West</b>			
		Diocesan Proportional Giving	40,927.66		
		Diocese of the West - Other	0.00	32,000.00	0.0%
		<b>Total Diocese of the West</b>	40,927.66	32,000.00	127.9%
		<b>Education</b>			
		Adult Classes	991.23		
		Church School	534.71		
		Pamphlets	176.68		
		Retreat Expenses	1,647.42		
		Youth Group Expenses	0.00	4,000.00	0.0%
		<b>Total Education</b>	3,350.04	4,000.00	83.75%
		Garbage	5,567.87	5,600.00	99.43%
		<b>Government Costs</b>			
		County Taxes	5,748.61		

				<b>Permits</b>	1,453.00			
				<b>State fees and taxes</b>	20.00			
				<b>Government Costs - Other</b>	0.00	7,000.00		0.0%
				<b>Total Government Costs</b>	7,221.61	7,000.00		103.17%
				<b>Icon Fund Expense - Moved to Fund Balance Icon (see separate report)</b>		25,000.00		0.0%
				<b>Insurance</b>				
				<b>Property</b>	6,472.00	6,600.00		98.06%
				<b>Worker's Compensation</b>	3,055.03	3,000.00		101.83%
				<b>Total Insurance</b>	9,527.03	9,600.00		99.24%
				<b>Interest Expense (Loans)</b>				
					16,583.06			
				<b>Internship Expenses</b>				
				<b>Intern Rent</b>	11,200.00			
				<b>Intern Stipend</b>	12,775.00			
				<b>Internship Expenses - Other</b>	280.00	20,000.00		1.4%
				<b>Total Internship Expenses</b>	24,255.00	20,000.00		121.28%
				<b>Miscellaneous Expense</b>				
					7,791.73	2,000.00		389.59%
				<b>Mission and Evangelism</b>				
					896.78	5,000.00		17.94%
				<b>Office expenses</b>				
				<b>Copy Machine</b>	708.16			
				<b>General Supplies</b>	1,117.31			
				<b>Parish on-line software</b>	2,680.99			
				<b>Parish Website</b>	300.00			
				<b>Postage</b>	168.35			
				<b>Printing and Copying</b>	1,081.44			
				<b>Office expenses - Other</b>	3.25	8,000.00		0.04%
				<b>Total Office expenses</b>	6,059.50	8,000.00		75.74%
				<b>Parish Hall Manager</b>				
					550.00			
				<b>Pass Thru "Expense"</b>				
					1,492.50			
				<b>PG&amp;E</b>	9,759.08	8,000.00		121.99%
				<b>Phones</b>				
				<b>Cell</b>	900.00			
				<b>Office</b>	809.10	2,000.00		40.46%
				<b>Total Phones</b>	1,709.10	2,000.00		85.46%
				<b>Priest</b>				
				<b>Car Allowance</b>	2,999.82	3,000.00		99.99%
				<b>Compensation</b>	48,652.18	50,000.00		97.3%
				<b>Medica/Life Insurance</b>	20,822.38	22,000.00		94.65%

				<b>Retirement Payment</b>	9,020.00	9,000.00	100.22%
				<b>Total Priest</b>	81,494.38	84,000.00	97.02%
				<b>Property Maintenance</b>			
				Facilities maint and repairs	8,195.05		
				Grounds Keeping Services	6,750.00		
				Petty Cash Expenses	1,650.00		
				Purchases	3,692.01		
				Property Maintenance - Other	0.00	30,000.00	0.0%
				<b>Total Property Maintenance</b>	20,287.06	30,000.00	67.62%
				Prosphora Expense	24.39	200.00	12.2%
				Second Priest	15,500.00	15,600.00	99.36%
				Secretary	13,200.00	14,400.00	91.67%
				<b>Seminary Assistance - Moved to Fund Balance Designated (see separate report)</b>			
				<b>Special Appeals Expense</b>			
				Christmas Appeal Expense	350.78		
				Paschal Appeal Expense	406.76		
				<b>Total Special Appeals Expense</b>	757.54		
				Stewardship Materials	134.55		
				<b>Sunday Lunch Expense</b>			
				Hall Cleaning	15,602.87	10,500.00	148.6%
				Kitchen Supplies/Food	1,562.99	5,000.00	31.26%
				Sunday Lunch Expense - Other	3,877.05		
				<b>Total Sunday Lunch Expense</b>	21,042.91	15,500.00	135.76%
				Travel Expenses	805.59		
				<b>Total Expense</b>	362,158.07	426,495.00	84.92%
				<b>Net Income</b>	13,244.41	511.00	2,591.86%
				<b>Net Income</b>	<b>13,244.41</b>	<b>511.00</b>	<b>2,591.86%</b>

# Wildfire Relief Fund 2017 Statement

Protection of the Holy Virgin Parish/Saint Seraphim Cathedral

## Donations Received:

Via Square (mostly individuals)	\$12,100.00
Checks/Cash Received from individuals	\$17,360.00
Checks Received from groups	\$13,238.00

**Total Donations as of 12/31/2017: \$42,698.00**

## Expenditures:

Square Fees	\$351.00
Donations to individuals	\$12,650.00
Donations to partner groups	\$6,500.00

**Total Expenditures as of 12/31/2017: \$19,501.00**

**Balance as of 12/31/2017: \$23,197.00**

The October wildfires have affected the entire county. We all know those who have lost everything, who have had damage, who had close calls, who lost their schools, businesses, places of work. The fire began the night of October 8th as the parish had been celebrating the marriage of Joe and Emma Anderson. We all remember the anxiety of the first days, checking on who was safe and who had suffered the loss of everything. In the first days of the fire, as contingency plans were made to evacuate the church property our Parish Council decided to establish a Wildfire Relief Fund to provide a way for our parish to help our members and friends who had suffered some sort of loss and were in need of support. By Friday, October 13th there was a place on our parish web site for people to make donations for Wildfire Relief.

Over that first weekend we received over \$2000 in donations from our web posting and an additional \$2700 in checks on Sunday. On Monday, October 16th we wrote checks for \$1000 each to two families who had been burned out. By the following weekend we had begun to receive checks in the mail from Orthodox parishes both in the California and from out of state.

During 2017 our Wildfire Relief Fund helped 12 individual/families who burned out or who suffered loss of wages or damages to their property due to the October wildfires. We will continue to help these and others as they come to the attention of Father Lawrence and the Parish Council.

As Father Lawrence became aware of other groups working to aid the fire victims, it was decided that we would redirect some of our relief funds to those organizations. To date we have made donations to 5 partner groups. These groups include an ad hoc group established to help 8 Eritrean families who were burned out; Catholic Charities; Homemakers of America; Habitat for Humanity; and The Living Room. *Prepared 12/31/2017*

## Equity Account - Fund Balance Icon

### 2017 Icon Fund Income:

Unspecified (Richardson/Christ the Savior Brotherhood)	\$80,550.00
Tsar Martyr Nicholas	\$ 900.00
North Nave Clerestory (general)	\$ 4,767.00
Forty Martyrs of Sebaste	\$17,750.00
NN03/04 Holy Women at the Tomb	\$ 400.00
NN05-Mary Magdaline before Christ	\$ 3,100.00
St Aidan of Lindasfarn	\$ 800.00
St Anna	\$ 950.00
St Xenia of Petersburg	\$ 1,500.00
Sts Paisius and Porphyrios	\$ 1,440.00
<b>Total 2017 Donations</b>	<b>\$112,157.00</b>

### 2017 Icon Fund Expenses:

NN02 - The Resurrection	\$12,000.00
Tsar Martyr Nicholas	\$ 1,089.88
General Fresco Expenses - scaffold parts	\$ 467.54
NN03/04 - Women at the Tomb	\$12,000.00
NN01 - Guards at the Tomb	\$ 4,000.00
<b>Total 2017 Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 29,557.42</b>
<b>Fund Balance Icon Net</b>	<b>\$ 82,599.58</b>

## Equity Account - Fund Balance Building

### 2017 Donations by Old Budget Category:

Donations to the Building Fund	\$40,053.23
Glendi-Sisterhood Dnations	\$ 6,000.00
Interest on Checking	\$ 3.59
<b>Total Donations:</b>	<b>\$ 46,056.82</b>
<b>Fund Balance Building Net</b>	<b>\$ 46,056.82</b>

## Equity Account - Fund Balance Designated 2017

	Income	Expenses	Balance
<b>Categories currently Included:</b>			
Seminary Assistance	\$12,050.0	\$5,000.00	\$7,050.00
<b>Designated Offerings - Non-Icon:</b>			

Areas Designated	Area Income	Area Expense	Net available
Special Projects	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 833.98	\$ 1,716.02
Vineyard/Griovski Memorial	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00
Svane Gift	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -
Bell Project	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,700.00	\$ -
Margitich TBD	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Fr Michael Memorial	\$ 9,189.11	\$ 839.96	\$ 8,349.15
Scholarships/Desig. Travel	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 5,900.00	\$ 900.00
Fr Michael Funeral	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -
Paritioner Designated	\$ 1,313.03	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,013.03
Retreats/Classes	\$ 600.00	\$ 857.40	\$ (257.40)
Other	\$ 1,555.00	\$ 1,492.50	\$ 62.50
<b>Totals - Non-Icon Designated Gifts:</b>	<b>\$34,707.1</b>	<b>\$16,823.84</b>	<b>\$17,883.30</b>
<b>Totals - Fund Balance Designated:</b>	<b>\$46,757.1</b>	<b>\$21,823.84</b>	<b>\$24,933.30</b>

<b>Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church</b>		
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		<b>01/15/2018</b>
<b>As of December 31, 2017</b>		<b>Cash Basis</b>
		<b>Dec 31, 17</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Checking/Savings</b>		
	Chase 5525 - Building Fund	1,510.81
	Chase 7888 - Building Fund	5,087.97
	Choir Bank Account	2,649.65
	Main Checking- WestAmerica Bank	53,368.58
	Rental Account	2,022.05
	WestAmerica Special Projects	128,759.88
	<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>193,398.94</b>
	<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>193,398.94</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
	<b>Buildings &amp; Property</b>	2,700,000.00
	Duplex	-1,658.00
	<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2,698,342.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,891,740.94</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		
	Chase Loan	203,346.11
	Parishoner #2	45,445.15
	<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>248,791.26</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>248,791.26</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
	Fund Balance Building Fund	46,056.82
	Fund Balance Designated	24,933.30
	Fund Balance Icons	82,599.58
	Fund Balance School and Youth	245.00
	Fund Balance Wildfire Relief	23,197.00
	Fund Legacy	-548,402.35
	30000 · Opening Bal Equity	2,711,778.77
	32000 · Retained Earnings	289,297.15
	Net Income	13,244.41
	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>2,642,949.68</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		<b>2,891,740.94</b>

# **AUDITORS' REPORT**

**To be distributed at the Meeting**



<b>2018 Proposed Budget: Income</b>							
		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	<b>2018</b>
<b>Building Fund Income</b>							
	Designated Donations/Pledges	\$ 50,000	\$ 42,700	\$ 25,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 50,000
	Glendi-Sisterhood in lieu of Glend	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 27,500	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 0
	Misc./Designated Donations	\$ 15,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 53,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 57,000
		<b>\$ 107,000</b>	<b>\$ 105,700</b>	<b>\$ 77,500</b>	<b>\$ 178,000</b>	<b>\$ 175,000</b>	<b>\$ 107,000</b>
<b>General Fund Income</b>							
	Candles	\$ 15,500	\$ 15,500	\$ 15,500	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,000
	Charity	\$ 15,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 18,000
	Duplex Rental	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 25,000
	Hall Rental	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
	Icon Fund	\$ 35,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000			\$ 40,000
	Intern support from other sources	\$ 20,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000			\$ 0
	Miscellaneous	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500			\$ 15,000
	Missions and Evangelism	\$ 3,000					\$ 4,000
	Plate Offering	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 20,000
	Prosfora	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,500
	Special Appeals	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 11,500	\$ 13,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 20,000
	Seminarian Assistance						\$ 12,000
	Tithes and Offerings	\$ 145,000	\$ 167,406	\$ 159,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 128,000	\$ 169,000
	Sunday Lunches	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 16,000
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 320,000</b>	<b>\$ 532,806</b>	<b>\$ 464,500</b>	<b>\$ 234,500</b>	<b>\$ 225,500</b>	<b>\$ 362,500</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 427,000</b>	<b>\$ 638,506</b>	<b>\$ 542,000</b>	<b>\$ 412,500</b>	<b>\$ 400,500</b>	<b>\$ 469,500</b>
<b>2018 Budget Expenses</b>							
		2017	2016	2015	2013		<b>2018</b>
<b>Building Fund Expenses</b>							
	Chase Bank	\$ 50,000	\$ 44,736	\$ 38,400	\$ 40,082		\$ 40,000
	OCCIF	\$ 9,045	\$ 38,400	\$ 43,200	\$ 44,743		\$ 0
	Parishioner #1	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800	\$ 11,050		\$ 9,000
	Icon Fund Expense	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 35,000			\$ 25,000
	Building Capital Expenses	\$ 25,000					\$ 35,000
		<b>\$ 116,545</b>	<b>\$ 118,936</b>	<b>\$ 127,400</b>	<b>\$ 95,875</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 109,000</b>

## 2018 Proposed Budget: General Fund Expenses

Altar Needs	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,300	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500
Bank Expense	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 200		\$ 200
Candles	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,500	\$ 14,500	\$ 12,000		\$ 13,000
Choir Director	\$ 24,000	\$ 22,500	\$ 13,800			\$ 24,000
Diocesan Assembly Expense	\$ 2,850	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 600		\$ 0
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 32,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 14,000		\$ 32,000
Education/Youth Groups	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,300		\$ 4,000
Garbage	\$ 5,600	\$ 5,600	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500		\$ 5,600
Govt. Costs (Taxes & Permits)	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000		\$ 7,000
Honoraria	\$ 1,500					\$ 1,500
Insurance: Property	\$ 6,600	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,300		\$ 6,600
Insurance: Workers Comp.	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300		\$ 3,000
Intern	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000			\$ 0
Misc.	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 900		\$ 1,500
Missions	\$ 5,000	\$ 0	\$ 1,000	\$ 500		\$ 5,000
Office Expenses	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,300	\$ 8,100		\$ 7,000
P G & E	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,000		\$ 8,000
Phone/Internet	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 500		\$ 2,000
Fr. Lawrence Margitich*(A/B)	\$ 84,040	\$ 81,000	\$ 79,500	\$ 0		\$ 83,640
Property Maintenance	\$ 30,000					\$ 30,000
Prosphora	\$ 200					\$ 200
Second Priest	\$ 0					\$ 55,000
Fr. John Schettig - Confessor	\$ 15,600					\$ 15,600
Secretary	\$ 14,400	\$ 14,400	\$ 12,000	\$ 7,200		\$ 14,400
**Seminarian Assistance						\$ 12,000
Sunday Lunch: Hall Cleaning	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,500	\$ 9,600		\$ 10,500
Sunday Lunch: Hall Supplies	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,060	\$ 5,900		\$ 5,000
Travel: All American Council						\$ 1,850
	<b>\$ 307,490</b>	<b>\$ 256,100</b>	<b>\$ 239,960</b>	<b>\$ 87,400</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 351,090</b>
<b>Grand Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 424,035</b>	<b>\$ 375,036</b>	<b>\$ 367,360</b>	<b>\$ 183,275</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 460,090</b>
*2017 (A) Salary \$52,500 ; Medical Ins \$22,000; Life Ins \$400; Car/Phone Allowance \$3,900; Retirement \$5,240.						
*2018 (B) Salary \$67,000; medical and dental ins now comes out of salary; Life Ins \$400; Car/Phone Allowance \$4,500; Retirement \$6,360; extra into retirement \$5,380						

\* Motion regarding Seminarian Assistance passed 5/16/17. We need to revisit according to the motion.

## SISTERHOOD REPORT TO THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

With our thanks to the Sisterhood Officers Juliana Veenis, Treasurer, Deanna Panages, Secretary and Eleni Rose, Correspondence Secretary, and in their consulting roles, Barb Owens and Vicky Basch.

As in years past, the Sisterhood held fundraisers in 2017 which provided us with the financial means to care for the beautification of our two churches, various events, vestments for our clergy, maintenance of the kitchen, charitable causes within our parish family and in our community. We also support the agape meals, the flower committee and mercy meals among other areas.

Our three glorious feast day luncheons are supported with much work given by a few people. We thank Barb Owens leading the set-up making the parish hall look so lovely with help from dedicated volunteers. Thanks to Esther Carr and Serge Anderson for cooking such wonderful menus. With appreciation for our dedicated volunteers that consistently help with serving and clean up making our feast day luncheons so special. We welcome new folks to consider participating and volunteering.

In the beginning of 2017, we hosted a Retreat on Icons and we had hoped to host the Retreat on Marriage in October 2017 but with the devastating wildfires this was postponed and was held in 2018.

This year we purchased new vestments for the clergy and others. We also established a Sisterhood Page on our St. Seraphim website and posted our 2017 budget with thanks to Fr. Theodor for his help.

Moving forward in to 2018, Fr Lawrence has proposed the topic of opening the Sisterhood up to more parish wide participation by taking some of the ministries that currently come under the Sisterhood to become ministries under the Parish. We have had some very good meetings open to the parish on this topic, with more to come. Many of the Sisterhood ministries are already being handled without much “Sisterhood” oversight. Examples would be the Flower Committee, Piroshki Production, Agape Meals, Mercy Meals to list a few. We look forward to developing these changes to the Sisterhood in the coming months to better understand how this would work and what would remain under the Sisterhood as a ministry. Some elements we will review would be changing from formal officers to ministry leaders, closing our bank account and working within a budget from the Parish finances and what our mission and purpose would become. We welcome attendance in these meetings to bring your ideas and input.

The heart of the Sisterhood is simple as each of us is called to serve our Lord and our church in ways that allow God’s love to shine through us, for the benefit of others. It has been a blessing to serve in this role. Thank you all for your understanding, forgiveness, participation, love, prayers and guidance towards our efforts serving our parish and community.

*With love in Christ, Kira Staykow, Sisterhood President*

# SISTERHOOD FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Parish Of The Protection Of The Holy Virgin</b> <b>Sisterhood Report</b> <b>For The Year Ending December 31, 2017</b>				
	Revenue	Expense		Net
<b>Income and Special Expenses</b>				
Feast + Funeral Meals	\$ 200.00		\$	200.00
Piroshki	\$ 5,156.00	\$ 496.73	\$	4,659.27
Blini/Bake Sale	\$ 1,213.00	\$ 340.08	\$	872.92
Retreat	\$ 1,405.00	\$ 1,534.22	\$	(129.22)
Hall Cleaning		\$ 200.00	\$	(200.00)
Church Supplies (New Vacuum)		\$ 200.00	\$	(200.00)
Vestments (Income From Parish Half Of A Gift Vestment)	\$ 235.00	\$ 875.00	\$	(640.00)
Clergy gifts- Income from Council 50% of Christmas Gifts	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 2,901.63	\$	(1,851.63)
Charity (Mother's Day Gift Cards)		\$ 200.00	\$	(200.00)
Flowers - Church And Funerals And Birthdays	\$ 1,759.00	\$ 1,690.83	\$	68.17
Income/Expenses Other (Memorium Funds, Sympathy Basket, Farewell BBQ)	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,306.38	\$	(1,206.38)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 11,118.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,744.87</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 1,373.13</b>
2017 Beginning Checking Balance	\$ 6,057.37			
Total Income		\$ 11,118.00		
Total Expenses		\$ 9,744.87		
Checking Current Balance (As Of Ending Of December)		<b>Westamerica Bank Balance</b>		
Memorium Funds Balance (As Of Ending Of December)			\$	1,100.00

## ESCRIP REPORT

Balance on December 31, 2016: .....\$ 2,166.49

Balance on December 31, 2017: .....\$ 2,603.43

**Earnings in 2017: .....\$ 436.94**

We can earn even more, sign up at [escrip.com](http://escrip.com).

Escrip.com has valuable information on how to sign up your grocery store cards, and/or credit/debit cards (it's a secure site).

Our church ID number is 139984808, Protection of the Holy Virgin Parish.

Oliver's Market is a big contributor. Stop by their information desk to sign-up and/or ensure your card is still activated.

If you shop Amazon, (sign-up under [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), a percentage of what you purchase goes directly to the church bank account, it costs you nothing!

Please consider this effortless way to raise funds for our church. I am happy to answer any questions you may have, please contact me at 707-321-7417.

*Thank you!*  
*Shenina*

# Glendi 2017 – Report

The Glendi 2016 donation to Building fund (11/16/2016) was \$20,000. For a wide range of reasons, Glendi 2017 was cancelled. The decision was made in May 2017. As a result of this decision it was decided to transfer (donate) half of the retained seed money to the Building Fund. We plan to retain this account to provide seed money for whatever event we devise to replace Glendi as we have had it in the past, but we expect to make one more transfer to the Building Fund in February 2018, retaining about \$2,000 as seed for a future event.

## 2017 Glendi Account Status

Balance in Glendi Account following 2016 Glendi cycle .....	\$12,039.12
Donation to Building Fund 6/27/2017 .....	\$6,000.00
Balance in Glendi Account 12/31/2017 .....	\$6,039.12

*Submitted by Bobbi Griovski*

# SAINT SERAPHIM BOOKSTORE

## Annual Report to the 2018 Annual Meeting

*Submitted by: Bonnie Alexander*

**Mission Statement:** To serve the Parish of the Protection of the Holy Virgin and St. Seraphim Cathedral, by offering Orthodox reading material and gifts for sale and donating all profits to charity.

**Managers:** Lew Baer (Marketing and Ordering) and Bonnie Alexander (Scheduling and Finances)

**Retail Staff:** Gretchen McPherson, Dana Ames, Lahana Singer and Bonnie Alexander.

<b>Finances:</b>	Opening Balance:	\$4,156.79
	Closing Balance:	<u>\$4,646.01</u>
	Net Income:	\$ 489.22

2015 Gross Sales: \$5,423.84

2016 Gross Sales: \$4,021.11

2017 Gross Sales: \$4,159.16

2017 Year-End Donations: Our total donation will be \$1,500. The recipients are yet to be determined. We will designate a local charity as well as an additional broader entity.

Our gross sales this year were about the same as 2016. We feel fortunate that they didn't fall as much as the previous year. We continue to order fewer copies of new books and order more only if they sell. We are saddened to report that the bookstore was broken into during the week after Christmas. Our cash box and iPad were stolen. We will use an iPad from Glendi to continue processing credit card payments. We also will no longer leave the cash box in the bookstore when it is closed.

We always welcome any suggestions from parishioners. If you have something you would like to see in YOUR Bookstore, please let any staff member know. We are here to serve all of us!

**Staffing:** We are going to miss Gretchen McPherson while she is in Mumbai, India with her daughter and new granddaughter. Dana Ames, Gretchen McPherson and Lahana Singer have served faithfully throughout the year and we thank them profusely. We are looking forward to welcoming Spencer Seraphim Rhodes and adding him to the rotation of volunteers. Lew and Bonnie continue to share the managerial responsibilities. Lew oversees the ordering, marketing and physical aspects of the bookstore while Bonnie takes care of the finances and scheduling.

We are currently looking for one or two people to share the joy of working in the Bookstore. If you are interested, please contact Bonnie or Lew.

*Thanks to everyone for your continued support of St. Seraphim Bookstore!*

## CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT FOR 2018

*“Let everything take second place to the care of our children, our bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (St. John Chrysostom, Homily 21 on Ephesians)*

We have been on our second year of Garret and Sarah Hamner and Brendan Schettig writing our wonderful curriculum. This curriculum has been effective in teaching our children (and teachers) the foundation of our Orthodox Faith. We are learning not only our faith but how we are to live it in our daily lives. We are looking forward to the rest of this school year and going into the third year.

We have also started what we call our *Little's Class*. The children who are too young for class have desired their own class so Adriel Scarborough has led a story time for *Littles*. This has worked out very well and we are very grateful to Adriel for leading this group.

We also have had a wonderful *St Seraphim Week* this past summer with wonderful volunteers. We have grown to the point that we might want to consider having two separate weeks this next summer. One for the younger children and one for the pre teens and teens.

We also had another successful nativity play. It is very exciting to do this every and also so wonderful to see and hear how much the children learn from doing this play every year!

This year we have been able to have two committed teachers for each class.

Littles:	Adrial Scarbourogh (Jeanie Elizabeth helps once a month)
Pre/K:	Niki Myles and Shannon Winterton
1st—3rd:	Vicky Basch and Rebekah Aftim
4th—6th:	John Gullily and Sarah Hamner
7th—9th:	Jeff Scarborough and Emma Anderson
High School:	Garret Hamner, Gretchen McPherson, Brendan Schettig
Subs:	Serge Anderson, Lara Anderson, Joe Anderson, Anastasia Brodeur, Esther Carr, Alexandra Marino

Personally I am grateful for Father, our writers, all our wonderful teachers and substitute teachers and our whole church that supports and love all our children! In Christ,

—Gloria Collins, Church School Director

### Curriculum Overview:

The goal of the curriculum is to gradually introduce and revisit topics throughout the developmental stages of a young person's attendance at the parish school. Topics are chosen for their capacity to impart an authentic sense of the Church and her ethos, and to supplement both the Divine Services and general pastoral instructions. Each year the perspective of the topic shifts: from Holy Scripture to historical and daily applications of the faith, to nuances of the faith in arts and aesthetics, and back to Holy Scripture. Though class time is limited to a mere twenty minutes on a Sunday afternoon, given steady attendance over the course of multiple cycles of the curriculum, we can give our children a rounded exposure to the elements of the Church's teaching. —Brendan Schettig, 2017



## Reports From Each Class

This year, the children of the Church School are learning lessons in “practical theology” meaning, how to live and deepen the faith. Some of the work we’ve done covers the lives of saints, structure of various services, the psalter and psalms, prayer and the Christian life.

### LITTLES

- Teachers: Adriel Scarborough and Jeanie Elizabeth Share
- Location: Large Church School Room
- Attendance: Varies

This fall we started a preschool story-time for the younger children not yet old enough for Church School, but who are interested in having something to do while the big kids learn. We meet outside the hall on a cozy blanket and read 2-3 stories about Christian virtues, Feast days, Bible stories, and Saints. Usually we sing a song or two also. Our core group started with 5 under four year olds and, with recent moves, we usually have three highly involved children and a number of younger ones who come and go. This story time has given the regulars an opportunity to get closer and become better friends, and has developed a strong positive association with Church School. Adriel Scarborough usually leads the story time, with a regular monthly visit from Jeanne Elizabeth, who loves to read a story and teach the children.

### PRESCHOOL–KINDERGARTEN

- Teachers: Niki Myles and Shannon Winterton
- Location: Large Church School Room
- Attendance: 9 children usually, up to 15

We have 9 students regularly and four periodically. The lesson plans are straight forward and good. I mentioned that I like story book stories for my class, and the specific recommendations they’ve given have been great. I love preparing good craft projects for the kids, but have become frustrated by low attendance and waste. I bought individual crayon sets for coloring, which eliminated the distraction of searching for colors. —*Niki*

I feel that the little people are doing well. I sure enjoy this age group. We have averaged 6-8 students each Sunday. I have had as many as 15 one week! They love the stories about the Saints. They also love videos and crafts. I have been able to find a couple of videos to show them, 1 on the Sinai desert and another on the nativity hymn. I have tried to have tangible things for them to take home and look at, to help them remember what we have discussed. One week we made a diptych with St. Florian and St. Demetrios. This was right after the fires and I wanted the kids to remember that we have wonderful brave saints who we can pray to when we are afraid. We also made Christmas ornaments with an icon of the Nativity. Nikki and I have been alternating Sundays so that we still have an opportunity to be with the grown ups or if we have to be away for a week. This has worked very well. —*Shannon*

### **GRADES: 1–3**

- Teachers: Vicky Basch and Rebekah Aftim
- Location: Small church school room
- Attendance: 6–10

We have been using the amazing curriculum that has been written by Garrett and Sarah Hamner and Brendan Schettig. This year's focus has been on applying teachings of scripture, the saints, and Christ to our everyday lives. We are so grateful to the talents of our curriculum writers for creating such an amazing program for us and our parish kids. Space is an issue. We seem to fit in the room well when we sit in a circle during the teaching of the lesson. However, when we need to do our activity we lack a proper table, or the space to put the table. Until we have the space, the students seem to be doing well using binders or clipboards as they sit on the floor to do their work.

### **GRADES: 4–6**

- Teachers: John Gilluly and Sarah Hamner
- Location: Library
- Attendance: Between 7–9

The Upper Elementary class (grades 4-6) is going smoothly. We start with *O Heavenly King*, then practice using a prayer rope, share the lesson (usually a story or mini-talk on a subject), and conclude with a discussion and a hymn to the Theotokos or the Troparion of a particular feast. The students (7-9 students on avg) seem excited to be in class. They get along well and have many questions. Children of this age range seem to be asking more questions about how the particulars of our faith and tradition apply to their personal lives. Many are in public or private school and are beginning to see differences in how the popular culture sees faith, and they want to talk about that. —*Sarah Hamner*

### **GRADES: 7–9**

- Teachers:
- Location: Upstairs above Church
- Attendance: Varies from 2 to 7 depending on the week, usual 2.

Most weeks we have 4 students. Twice we had 5. A few times we had 3 and this week we only had 2. We are settling into a rhythm, and things are going well now that I am having the kids write down their questions and we'll be setting aside some time one of these weeks to answer the best ones. The lesson plans seem pretty good: structured, but with enough vagueness that I can teach to my style without going off script. All in all, it's been pretty good.

—Sincerely, *Jeff Basil Scarborough*

We are having at least three students every class, five if we are lucky. It's very hard to keep them focused and some classes go better than others, but overall I think things are going well. We've been following the lessons pretty closely, but they tend to suggest more abstract and

esoteric conversation than our class is interested in. The students have started asking very thoughtful but unrelated questions. I think eventually, a good format for some lessons will be to 'bullet-pont' the main lesson and then open the discussion up and allow the kids to interact more with the lessons and ask a lot of questions. So far so good!

—In Christ, *Emilia Anderson*

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

- Teacher: Garret Hamner
- Location: Father Lawrence's office
- Attendance: On average we have 3-5 students

The High School class is going well. We tend to have 1-2 students per week. We are going through Father Stephen Freeman's book *Everywhere Present*. We have taken breaks in the reading to discuss the effects of the Sonoma fires on their lives and communities. The students are engaged when they are present and are involved in parish life. —*Garret Hamner*

# Master Planning Committee Report

—Sean Esbjörn-Hargens  
January 15, 2018

## Introduction

The Parish Council established the Master Planning Committee to look ahead at our grounds, buildings and church programs so we can collectively plan and executive key activities for the year and forecast key activities for the next 2-10 years. Upon reviewing priorities, resources, and available talent we develop plans and make studies which we present to the Parish Council in the form of proposals.

This year (2017) was another busy and successful year for our committee as we completed a number of key projects and initiatives informed by our set of priorities that had been revised at the end of 2016

Beginning in March we met approximately every 2-3 months to execute the year 1 priorities of the master plan well as new items that were added to our priority list throughout the year.

Our focus was on both the church grounds/buildings and on our church programs. Each meeting consisted of presenting updates on progress made to date on each priority and in some cases adding new items or deciding to wait on certain priorities.

## Meetings

A total of 5 meetings occurred. Typically on Thursdays from 7 – 8:30 PM. Sean Esbjörn-Hargens served as the facilitator for these meetings. Meetings were held on:

1. March 9th
2. May 18th
3. August 1st
4. December 7th
5. January 11th

## Participants

Each meeting typically had between 5-7 people. Individuals who attended either regularly or for at least one meeting included:

Fr. Lawrence Margitich, Matushka Ann Margitich, Serge Anderson, Tom Pellizzer, George Barsi, Sean Esbjörn-Hargens, Barbara Owens, Joe Marino, Ted Dechant, John Christodoulides

A number of additional people from the parish were present for some of the meetings.

## MASTER PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2017

<b><u>GROUND &amp; BUILDINGS HIGHLIGHTS</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
Maintenance Plan Updates & Review	ON GOING
Back up for wells (Rental/Solar)	IN PROGRESS
Wires	IN PROGRESS
Creating a Landscape Design and Use Plan	IN PROGRESS
New fence at ditch	DONE
Items at the Protection Church	IN PROGRESS
Waterproofing	DONE
White strips on steps	IN PROGRESS
Repair Bell Tower	IN PROGRESS
St. Seraphim porch roof upgraded	DONE
Storage lights converted to photo-cell	DONE
Cleared out the wine barrels from the Storage	DONE
Frescos Funded (St. Seraphim)	IN PROGRESS
Vestment Storage (St. Seraphim)	DONE
Convert Bay to two classrooms (Storage Barn)	IN PLANNING
Move freezer out of Storage Barn	DONE
Established Facilities Manager Position	DONE
Acquire a backup generator for wells/pump house	DONE

<b><u>PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
Planned Giving/Fund Development	Pamphlet created and available
Information on preparing for funerals	IN PROGRESS
Internship program	2015–2017 completed
Apprenticeship program – Readers/Deacons	IN PROGRESS
Men’s Group (Field trips to holy places)	TO BE DETERMINED
Training day for school teachers	IN PROGRESS
Address needs of parish singles	TO BE DETERMINED
Interact with other parishes – social events	TO BE DETERMINED
Yearly Youth trip to monastery	ON GOING
Annual music concerts	ON GOING
Established Seminary FUND	DONE

Website upgrade  
Started *Conley Lane* home sales watch

NEED WEBMASTER  
IN PROGRESS

## **MASTER PLAN: Grounds & Buildings**

### **YEAR 1**

*Update and review Parish Maintenance Plan/Budget as well as  
identify “end of life” projects to include on this sheet*

#### **Create a Landscape Design Plan**

- Design Gazebo Lawn and determine purpose of that area (Low maintenance landscaping), remove crabgrass, move gazebo, redesign walkways, plant tall shrubs/trees
- Design LED lighting plan, parking islands for parking lots

#### **Storage building**

- Develop plan, cost estimates for conversion of two classrooms from one storage bay
- Improve storage in kitchen pantry (Hall)
- Install new double doors at street side of Sunday School room (security reasons)

#### **Internet and Electrical**

- Overhead wires placed in underground conduits

#### **Protection Church maintenance**

- Renovate Sacristy
- Install “on demand” hot water
- Paint gas heater
- paint white strips on front steps
- Complete bell tower/steeple

### **YEAR 3**

#### **Saint Seraphim Cathedral Maintenance/Upgrade**

- Replace window frames
- Finish landscape on south side
- Install a large cross with base at east end of Baptismal Font
- Construct Bell Tower (includes fixing stairway, expanding closet)

#### **Protection Church maintenance**

- Install new Iconostasis

#### **Parish Hall**

- Pavers or concrete under big BBQ, next to Hall

#### **Parking Lot**

- Surface and stripe north parking lot

### **YEAR 5**

#### **Saint Seraphim Cathedral Maintenance/Upgrade**

- Complete floor [post frescos]
- Reseal water-proofing/stucco

#### **Parish Hall**

- Resurface ceiling

### **YEAR 10**

- Replace Pergola

## **MASTER PLAN: Programs**

### **YEAR 1**

- Continue to develop the Apprenticeship Program to train readers and possible diaconal candidates
- Continue training/discussions for Orthodox school teachers and administration
- Continue development of the Sunday School Class curriculum
- Social events with other parishes (e.g., St Seraphim week, Sunday BBQ, Youth camping trip/ other parishes. We need someone to organize and head up the ministry)
- Men's group activities
- Summer Church camp promotion / establish scholarships
- Yearly youth trip to a monastery
- Ongoing adult Christian Education Classes on various topics (Wednesday evening talks)
- Yearly Retreat (e.g., Fri – Sat @ a place like Calistoga, National, or Monterey)
- Continue annual choral concerts (Christmas & 2 others)
- Expand bookstore to be a tech kiosk
- Get job description for and establish a webmaster
- Maintain seminary assistance fund
- Conley Lane Home Watch (homes for sale that parishioners/possible parishioners might want to purchase)

### **YEAR 3**

- Further develop and fund the Internship program
- Start pre-school?
- Plan a pilgrimage to Mt Athos or...
- Develop a plan for developing a mission
- Create youth program and director position



# ICONOGRAPHY REPORT

The **Fresco Plan** and **Price List** are available at any time for your perusal. The income and expense information appears on Page 27.

## **A. PANELS COMMISSIONED AND/OR PAINTED DURING 2017**

1. Royal Passion-Bearer Nicholas
2. *Two icons have been commissioned and are in progress:*
  - a. St. Genevieve
  - b. Holy Archangels for the parish hall

## **B. FRESCOES COMMISSIONED AND PAINTED DURING 2017**

1. Soldiers at the Tomb
2. Descent into Hades
3. Holy Women at the Tomb

## **C. COMMISSIONED, TO BE PAINTED DURING 2018**

1. Christ appearing to St. Mary Magdalene
2. Forty Martyrs of Sebaste
3. Pendentives?
4. TBD (north wall?)

## **D. COMMISSIONED SAINT & FEAST DAY FRESCOS Painting Date TBD**

1. St. Ignatius Brianchaninov
2. St. James the Brother of the Lord
3. Wedding at Cana
4. Samaritan Woman at the Well
5. Healing of the Paralytic
6. Healing of the Blind Man
7. Christ appearing to the two Marys (west wall, peak)
8. Prayer in Gethsemane
9. Feeding of the Multitudes
10. St. Matrona of Moscow
11. St. Lucia of Syracuse (partial funds given)
12. St. Marina
13. St. Joanna the Myrrhbearer
14. St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos
15. St. Nona
16. St. Tatiana
17. St. Moses the Black
18. St. Gerasimos of the Jordan

19. Prophet Daniel in the Lion's Den
20. St. Spyridon of Trymithus
21. St. Panteliemon
22. Sts. Zachariah and Elizabeth, parents of St John the Baptist
23. St. Anastasia the Deliverer from poison
24. Isaac the Syrian
25. St. Luke, *pendentive arch*
26. St Dionysios (in Altar - funds coming)
27. St Alban, Enlightener of Britain (funds coming)
28. St. Paisius of Mount Athos
29. St. Porphyrios of Mount Athos and Athens
30. St. Xenia of Petersburg

### **E. FRESCOS NOT YET COMMISSIONED**

*A sketched out plan of the entire church is available to see where these icons will be placed.*

1. Three pendentives (St Luke already commissioned)
  - St. Matthew, St. John, St. Mark, cost each: .....\$15,000*
2. Four Decorative border on the arches, each: .....\$6,000
3. Sacrifice of Isaac, in the Altar: .....\$12,000
4. Prophet Moses & Burning Bush.....\$8,000
5. Prophet Moses/Burning Bush/Ten Commandments: .....\$8,000
6. Raising of Lazarus: .....\$18,000
7. Way of the Cross: .....\$10,000
8. The Entombment: .....\$10,000
9. Betrayal of Christ: .....\$3,000
10. Mocking of Christ: .....\$3,000
11. Denial of St Peter: .....\$3,000
12. Christ before Pilate: .....\$3,000
13. Sts. Peter and John at the empty tomb: .....\$6,000
14. St. David of Thessalonika: .....\$4,000
15. Christ calming the storm/healing demoniac: .....\$6,000
16. Christ at home of Martha and Mary: .....\$6,000
17. Christ appearing to St. Thomas the Apostle: .....\$18,000
18. Healing of the Ten Lepers: .....\$6,000
19. Dinner at Emmaus with Luke and Cleopa: .....\$12,000
20. On Lake of Tiberius:.....\$12,000
21. Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple:.....\$12,000
22. Icon "Not made by hands": .....\$5,000
23. Three Youths in the Furnace: .....\$6,000
24. Crossing the Red Sea (narthex): .....\$15,000
25. Noah's Ark (narthex): .....\$18,000
26. Jonah and the Whale (narthex): .....\$15,000
27. Raising of Jairus' Daughter (narthex): .....\$6,000
28. Raising of the Widow's Son (narthex): .....\$6,000
29. Places for ***Five Female*** saints (bust) available, each: .....\$1,500

*The following proposal appears with my blessing. —Fr. Lawrence*

Fellow St. Seraphimites,

After attending 27 Glendis—and working at ten of them—I felt a real lacking last year. It was a lacking of the fun, the excitement, the opportunity to welcome friends old and new, the tasty food, the enlivening music, and the all consuming spirited time. It was also a lacking of meetings, work parties, expense, list making, and all consuming post party exhaustion. I hope that this year the deprivation will not be as great as in 2017. Do I wish for another Glendi? Well, sure, just as I believe many of us do. But I also know our participation would have to be far less than in the past.

Thinking about how to revive the positive aspects of Glendi while minimizing the no longer practical sacrifices, I've come up with a three prong approach I hope we will consider and improve upon.

Late last year, Petar mentioned that he would like to see us have a New Year's party—an evening affair—in the parish hall with food, music, and general gaiety. Time grew short, and that idea morphed into celebrating Old Calendar New Year's or just wintertime. Then, the early start of Lent made that undoable *this year* and blunted the first tine on my trident—a general celebration just for us and our close friends.

Prong number two, in my concept, would satisfy our need and desire to present St. Seraphim to the greater community. This has been one of the central reasons for Glendi. At our annual festival we put our best feet forward in order to show our true colors of neighborly love, Christian warmth and genuine happiness to our 2500± guests each year.

Aha! We could make that closer to 25,000 without a single extra parking space. Let us have a procession in the Santa Rosa Rose Parade! It takes place on Saturday, May 19, 2018. (The deadline for entry forms is Friday, March 9th.) We have several processions each year on the parish grounds, so we know what to do. Would we need a float? It would be nice, but it could be very basic. The only requirement is that there be a rose (or roses) featured.

The third point on the trident would be an echo of Glendi to take place on the traditional third weekend Saturday of September: a Gospel music concert with shashlik barbecue, beer garden, wine bar, and bakery sale. This would give the opportunity to welcome guests, provide our usual good eats, have a celebration with a Christian and musical theme, and make a few dollars for Waffles (the Church kitty).

There would be effort involved in all of this, but only short term. There would be minimal expenses for the evening party and concert as ticket sales would cover them. The Parish Council has smiled on the trifecta plan. I encourage us all to get behind it and, once again, make our parish events the heartbeats of our community.

There is planning to be done. Let's start now!

With love and parish pride,  
*Vladimir Baer*

# ELECTIONS TO PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2018

## *General Information*

**Requirements:** With the blessing of the Archbishop all nominations have been submitted no later than one week prior to the Annual Meeting. This allows the nominees to prayerfully consider if they are able or qualified to serve, and to avoid any embarrassment to those who may be nominated yet may not be formal Parish Members. To be nominated or elected to the Parish Council one must fulfill the following requirements:

- 1) Be a baptized, chrismated Orthodox Christian, over 18 yrs of age, attending the Parish for at least three months
- 2) Live in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church spiritually, morally, ethically and be an example of the Gospel life in word and deed
- 3) Make a financial commitment to practice proportional giving, and be willing to care for the good order of the church grounds, finances and community in practical ways
- 4) The Parish Council meets at least once a month. If you cannot attend meetings, do not accept nomination. If a member misses two consecutive meetings, he or she may be asked to step down, depending on circumstances

**Duties (note the similarity to the list above):**

- 1) Attend all Parish Council Meetings & various Council events (help at work parties, Glendi, retreats, etc.)
- 2) Strive to participate in worship, attending Vespers on Saturday at least once a month and Divine Liturgy every Sunday
- 3) Participate in the Holy Mysteries of Confession and Communion on a regular basis here at this parish
- 4) Practice proportional financial giving (stewardship)
- 5) Live according to the Gospel and the teachings of the Orthodox Church

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin has indicated that all newly-elected parish council members are required to read the following documents prior to their first council meeting and compliance be annotated in that meeting's minutes:

*OCA Statute, DOW By-Laws, Policies, Standards and Procedures of the OCA on Sexual Misconduct, OCA's Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse Guidelines, DOW's Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse.*

The documents will be provided to the members.

**Current auditor:** January 2018

Daphne and Charles Russell (James Clark was not available)

**Members whose terms expire at this meeting:**

Serge Anderson, Deacon Jeremiah, Bonnie Alexander, Lisa Wespiser

Kathy Ramos—*Alternate*

**Current Parish Council Members who have one more year to serve:**

George Barsi, Debbie Buse, Theodore Dechant, Freddie Myles, Tom Pellizzer

**Treasurer:**

Martin Thong was elected Treasurer last year. The 2015 Annual Meeting adopted and ratified the proposal that the position of Parish Treasurer be filled by a qualified person, appointed by the rector in consultation with the Council, and serve *ex officio*, with full voting rights (as per the Bylaws, Sec. 6.06). Every two years the position of Treasurer is to be ratified by vote at the Annual meeting, and blessed by the Diocesan Hierarchy. This motion allows the Council to be comprised of nine full members, plus the Treasurer.

## CANDIDATES FOR PARISH ELECTIONS

The Parish Council is comprised of NINE members. This year we need to elect FOUR.

Please vote for FOUR of the names listed below. Nominations have been submitted no later than one week prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations will not be taken at the meeting.

- 1) Serge Anderson
- 2) Bonnie Alexander
- 3) Hanne Aftim
- 4) Gary Collins
- 5) Adriel Scarborough
- 6) Alexander Stameroff
- 7) Katherine Willens

*The FOUR who receive the highest number of votes are elected to the Parish Council for a two year term. The next TWO in the vote count will be the Alternates and will serve for one year, or if needed, will serve out the remaining time of a members term. Alternates are expected to attend all meetings, and should consider themselves as full Council Members.*

## Ending Hymns

**IT IS TRULY MEET**  
sing to “*Joy of the Heavenly Powers*”

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos,  
ever-blessed, and most blameless, and the Mother of our God;  
more honorable than the Cherubim,  
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim,  
who without corruption gavest birth to God the Word,  
the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

### **TROPARION OF THE PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN** TONE FOUR

Today we Orthodox people joyfully keep festival,  
being illumined by thy glorious coming among us, O Mother of God;  
and gazing upon thy most pure image,  
we say with compunction:  
Shelter us with thy most precious Protection,  
and deliver us from all evil, //  
and pray to thy Son, Christ our God, that He save our souls.