

## INFORMATION

Protection of the Holy Virgin & St. Seraphim of Sarov Church  
90 Mountain View Ave, Santa Rosa, CA. 95407  
Parish office phone: 584-9491 / fax: 585-9445  
website: [saintseraphim.com](http://saintseraphim.com)

Our Parish Secretary may be reached at the Church office on Tuesday–Saturday, 9 AM to Noon, at 584-9491.

Fr. Lawrence Margitich may be reached at the Parish office phone, or at [lmargitich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmargitich@sbcglobal.net). He is available Tuesday–Saturday, from noon onwards each day.

## PARISH CONTACTS

Fr. Michael Margitich, Pastor Emeritus .....	473-0314
Fr. John Schettig, Assistant Pastor .....	318-1559
Fr. John Ramos, Attached.....	570-9849
Fr. Andrew Cuneo, Assigned.....	914-255-5434
Deacon Jeremiah Crawford .....	377-4094
Deacon Nicholas Carr.....	588-8753
Sub-Deacon Marc Richardson .....	545-4047
Nicolas Custer, Choir Director .....	584-9491
Serge Anderson, Parish Council Warden.....	291-7452
Petar Griovski, Treasurer .....	762-4742
Bonnie Alexander, Recording Secretary .....	778-8528
Xenia Pribyl, Sisterhood President.....	217-7630
Fr. Andrew, Church School Coordinator .....	914-255-5434
Laurel Counts, Youth Group Coordinator.....	795-5739
Scrip, Shenina .....	321-7417
Eleni Rose, Agape Meal Coordinator .....	480-6106

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **FESTAL BLESSINGS:** We welcome our beloved hierarch, Bishop Benjamin, for the Feast of the Repose of St. Seraphim of Sarov, Sunday, January 2. We thank those who so generously gave of their time to make the feast such a wonderful celebration. January 2 is also the feast of St. Juliana of Lazarevsk, so we wish Many Years to our dear Juliana Veenis, and to Juliana Meholick from San Anselmo as well. A happy name day to Genevieve Richardson, celebrating her saint day on January 3.

• **SCHEDULE CHANGE:** The baptisms of Edward O'Brien and Kira van Hall that were scheduled for January 5, during the Vespertal Liturgy of Theophany, have been rescheduled for Sunday, January 9, starting at 9:15 AM. Please keep Kira and Edward in your prayers.

• **ANNUAL MEETING:** Our yearly gathering of the parish membership will take place, as the by-laws mandate, on the first Sunday of February, 2/6/2011. The meeting will begin at 12:30 PM. All nominations for Parish Council are to be finalized with the Parish Council Secretary, Bonnie Alexander, no later than the week prior to the meeting, Sunday, January 30. This is a new procedure not to "control" the vote, but to avoid embarrassing on-the-spot nominees who are not parish members or may not be able to fulfill Diocesan and Parish qualifications.

• **HOUSE BLESSINGS:** A sign-up list will be posted this Sunday for you to arrange house blessings, or simply call any of the clergy to arrange a House Blessing during January and February.

• **THE LITURGICAL SINGING SEMINARY 2011** will be hosted here at our parish on Friday, February 11 and Saturday, February 12. Those interested in helping out with meals, clean-up and hospitality, please see Father Lawrence.

• **PLEDGE BOOKS** are here: if you are interested in having a book of pledge/offering envelopes for each week of the year, see Petar Griovski. The books are a convenient way to remember to bring your weekly offering each week to the Divine Liturgy.

- **PROSPHORA OFFERINGS:** One of the great privileges and responsibilities of the Orthodox Christian is to make an offering at each Divine Liturgy. This offering is a gift back to God—in time, money or talent—in thanksgiving for what He has given us. There is another offering that we should make, one of paramount importance. From the beginning of the Church each Sunday the faithful would bring gifts of money, food, bread and wine to be used for the Church or given to the poor. A portion of the offered bread and wine would be used for Eucharistic offering, and prayers were made for the health and salvation on behalf of, and for those who gave these gifts and for those who had died. The essence of all this has not changed in all these centuries. The small "prospora" bread loaves are brought into the Altar each Sunday with a list of names of those living and departed. The priest prays for each person by name, taking out a small particle of the bread from each loaf and placing it on the plate (disks) holding the bread which will be the Eucharistic bread. The priest is praying for you and with you, not instead of you. As we pray, all the saints pray with us to the Lord. After Holy Communion those particles, which represent each person, are placed into the Chalice and mingled with the Body and Blood. In doing these things, we refer all things to God, the Creator and Fashioner, and give thanks to Him for all things. The witness of the saints and the Tradition is that the prayers offered before the Liturgy are indeed very powerful. This power, from the Lord, of intercession, sanctification and gratitude is something that must go with us as we leave the Liturgy, and spill over into our daily life. Want to know more? If you are interested in hearing more, or having a prayer list in the Altar each Sunday, please speak with either Fr. Lawrence or Petar Griovski. Those who would like for their prayer lists to be in the Altar for each Sunday Liturgy are asked to make arrangements at the candle desk.