

## PENTECOST—the fulfillment of Pascha

*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2: 1–4*

BY THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT upon them, the Apostles were empowered to live the resurrection of Jesus Christ; and not just them, but this life is available for every person. The Holy Spirit—not an impersonal *life force* but a Divine Person, turned everything upside down. He made the fishermen into theologians and gave them, and the Church, the grace, power and courage to announce—in every language—that the Risen Jesus is Lord. Caesar isn't Lord (although Caesar said he was a son of god); the ego isn't Lord, politics isn't Lord, our belly isn't Lord, and our intellect isn't Lord. Those who hear the announcement that Jesus is Lord, and who confess, repent and are baptized, also receive the Holy Spirit and they too are made children of the Most High God. His children are called together into the unity of love, life and uncreated Grace of the Holy Trinity, a unity from above, not man-made or man directed. Those living this unity, called to worship in His name are called the Church, where God's sanctifying Grace (the Holy Mysteries) are given not just for them only, but for the "life of the world."

Jesus Christ said: *If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified).* John 7:37–38. These are not empty words, but should be

true in the lives of the followers of Jesus. St. Philaret of Moscow remarked that perhaps unto us also the "Holy Spirit is not yet given" in the sense of living by the Spirit—because Jesus is not yet glorified in us each day. Perhaps we have as yet only received Jesus as a prophet, a man, rather than as our King, our Lord, the master of our life, so that no thought, no desire, no intention should arise in us without his will.

What are we to do, who live according to the spirit of the world, yet desire to live according to the Holy Spirit? What will become of us who procrastinate in prayer, almsgiving, who postpone forgiving others, worship, repentance, self-examination, and spiritual labor, fasting, and love? What will become of us, who are dead in the spirit, cold and dry, like the bones dispersed in the valley in Ezekiel's vision? "Can these bones live?" asked God of the prophet in that passage which we read at Matins of Holy Saturday. God wishes that the Holy Spirit, Whose Temple we are by virtue of Baptism/Chrismation, quicken us, empower us, convert us.

No doubt the Lord looks down on these spiritual skeletons of ours with compassion, and with impatient desire—so to speak, so that they may be made alive by the Spirit. "As a lamp," wrote St Simeon the New Theologian, "although it is full of oil and has a wick, remains dark unless it is lit with fire, so the soul is quenched and dark until it is touched by the light and grace of the Holy Spirit."

The feast of Pentecost—the Descent of the Spirit—is celebrated with a **Vigil on Saturday, June 2 at 5 PM**, and the **Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 3** followed by Kneeling Vespers. On Monday we celebrate the *Day of the Holy Spirit* with Liturgy, June 4, at 9 AM.

### HOLY COMMUNION

We welcome our visitors and our guests this morning, and would remind them, as well as all Parish and Church members, that the reception of Holy Communion is reserved for Baptized and Chrismated Orthodox Christians. No Orthodox Christian should approach the Chalice to receive Holy Communion unless he or she has prepared by fasting, Prayers Before Holy Communion and a regular and **recent participation** in the Holy Sacrament of Confession. *Recent* means: within the last month. If you are a visitor to the Church, and would like to speak to a priest about Orthodoxy, please call or see Fr. Lawrence after the Divine Liturgy.

## 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: [www.saintseraphim.com](http://www.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
Deacon Jeremiah Crawford .....	823-5878
Deacon Nicholas Carr.....	588-8753
Sub-Deacon Marc Richardson .....	545-4047
Nicolas Custer, Choir Director .....	584-9491
Nilus Veenis, Sacristan .....	526-2284
Serge Anderson, Parish Council Warden.....	291-7452
Petar Griovski, Treasurer .....	762-4742
Bonnie Alexander, Recording Secretary.....	778-8528
Lisa Moroz, Sisterhood President.....	360-5119
Parmenas Davis, Church School Coordinator.....	823-2921
Serge Anderson, Teen Group Coordinator .....	291-7452
Lisa Moroz, Middle School Coordinator .....	360-5119
Shenina, Scrip Chairperson.....	321-7417
Eleni Rose, Agape Meal Coordinator .....	480-6106

work, there are just a lot of emitters to tend. 2) Light gardening, including dead-heading flowers, and trimming. These are only two items out of many, so, if there are extra volunteers, projects and tasks will be found for you. I am also looking for someone who might be interested in taking over the care of the roses. This would include cutting them back twice a year, feeding them, dealing with various problems. Alla Keyes is very knowledgeable about rose care and can direct you. The parish also needs someone to help once a week with hand watering, especially while I am away for two weeks in June. You can reach me by email or call 585-8199. — *Thanks, Matushka Ann*

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SHOWER** for Rachel Dovey (the Baby is a girl). June 8th at 6:30; a light supper and fellowship in the Parish Hall. Rachel is registered at *My Baby News* and at *Sweet Pea Children's Boutique*, in Cotati (*Sweet Pea* is a consignment shop). RSVP to Bobbi (477-8418) or Lukia (538-7151).

**FROM THE BOOKSTORE:** We now have an extensive selection of prayerbooks in stock—from pocket to hard bound. Please take a look at them. Also now on our shelves is a weighty paperback on Orthodoxy and ecology, by our fellow parishioner, Fred Krueger.

## CELEBRATION AT FORT ROSS

Dear Parishioners: On August 25th of this year, in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Ft. Ross, there will be a hierarchical liturgy at the Fort. The concelebration will include hierarchs and clergy from the Moscow Patriarchate (Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfayev), Archbishop Justinian of NY), the Russian Church outside of Russia (Archbishop Kyrill of SF, Bishop Theodosy of Seattle), and the OCA (Metropolitan Jonah and Archbishop Benjamin). As a member of the **Fort Ross Church Committee** I have been asked to handle security for the event. Security will involve monitoring the parking, banquet and altar area as well as other sites. The liturgy is scheduled to start at 10:00 AM and expected to last 4 1/2 hours with processions around the fort and to the cemetery. We expect to have as many as 2,500 people at the event and we may need from 12 to 20 people for security. I have been told that vests and portable radios will be provided to us to make the job easier and to help identify the security people. I am asking anyone who is willing to come and help with security on that day to call me at (707) 462-3279 at home or (415) 706-2658 on my cell, or contact me by email at [gartemoff@yahoo.com](mailto:gartemoff@yahoo.com). — *George Artemoff*

*PS:* Following the festivities at Fort Ross, His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin has invited the distinguished Archpastors, clergy and guests to attend Vespers at our Parish on their way back to San Francisco. All members of our Parish will want to be present at Vespers that evening to greet our guests.

**BEAUTIFICATION OF THE GROUNDS.** Dear Fellow Parishioners: Thanks to all who have helped out with the recent work parties. We have accomplished a lot, and received many positive comments on how beautiful the gardens and grounds appear. Although there isn't a work party scheduled for this month—help is still needed. Things that need doing include: 1) replacement of emitters in the irrigation system at the parking lot hedges. This isn't hard

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MEMORY ETERNAL:** The funeral for Nina Arrabit, daughter of Eugenia Vorobey (one of the early parish founders) was served on Friday, May 25 at Daniels Chapel of the Roses. She was buried in Healdsburg at Oak Mound Cemetery. Nina reposed on Saturday, May 19. May the Lord grant her rest. Her 40<sup>th</sup> Day Panikhida will be served here on Saturday, June 23, at 6:30 PM (following the Saturday evening Vespers). A reception for guests of the family will be held in the Parish Hall after the Panikhida.
- **LUNCH FELLOWSHIP:** The next Senior/Retired parishioner luncheon will be on Thursday, May 31 at Noon, in the Parish Hall. Lunch and beverages will be provided at no charge. Parishioners and spouses over 60 years of age are invited to take part. Please call the Church Office to reserve a spot. Luncheons are also planned for June 14 and July 26.
- **SLIDE PRESENTATION ON THE ORIGINS OF ICONOGRAPHY:** art historian and parishioner Catherine Ostling will present part two of her slide presentations in the Parish Hall on the Origins of Iconography. Wednesday, June 6, at 7 PM.
- **TUESDAY EVENING ROHNERT PARK STUDY GROUP:** You are cordially invited to listen to a series of lectures on Tuesday evenings, 7 PM, at 1352 Oak View Circle, Rohnert Park, 3rd floor. Call Debi Shrimplin at (707) 536-9112 for more info. Talks will be given by Deacon Jeremiah Crawford, Deacon Nicholas Carr and Reader Vincent Rossi. Topics as follows:
  - June 5: Sin—Pimordial, Generational, Personal
  - June 12: The Second Coming of Christ
  - June 19: Same-sex attraction
  - June 26: Death
- **PHOTO DIRECTORY:** The Parish administration has been working to produce a simple format, black & white Parish Photo Directory. Look for it in a few weeks.
- **TABLE TENNIS:** A ping-pong table has been purchased for the Parish Youth (and anyone else). It will be kept in the Storage building, and taken out on Sunday after Liturgy. We are looking for a responsible person to be in charge of setup and takedown each week. The table will be delivered within a week or so.
- **VACATION:** Fr. Lawrence will be away on vacation from June 14 until June 29. Fr. John and Fr. Michael will handle all the pastoral needs. Their phone numbers appear on page 2 of the bulletin.
- **SUMMER CAMP:** Fr. Lawrence offered scholarships for kids to attend summer camp; at this point there are no takers. Registration is “closed,” and there is now a fee for late registration. There are funds for three scholarships. Please contact Fr. Lawrence ASAP, at 707-584-9491, if you have a child who would like to go to camp and you cannot afford to send him/her. The cut-off is June 6.

### ELDER PAVLOS OF SINAI—Monday, June 4:

On Monday evening, June 4, our parish will be blessed with a visit and talk by Elder Pavlos of the Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai. Father Pavlos is the confessor and senior monk of what is the Orthodox Church's oldest monastery. I have heard him speak two times now, and very much encourage all of you, whether young, old, parents, or single people, to come to hear the Elder. He communicates in a very simple manner—with a lively, yet sober humor—gained from four decades of ascetic struggle in the desert, immersed in the Orthodox Tradition. It may seem odd, yet he is able to concisely address our modern problems and questions, and convey the knowledge, lost to the non-Orthodox, that Christianity is not a religious or ethical system, but a personal experience of peace in union with God. His translator, Sister Joanna, has asked us to gather a list of ten or twenty questions from you to give to the Elder to answer. I invite you to send me your questions, and I will pass them on to Elder Pavlos. —*Fr. Lawrence*

## FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON PENTECOST

Today the New Israel—the Church—celebrates the Great Feast of Pentecost the world over. As a prefiguration of what was to come the Old Israel also kept the feast of Pentecost, which took place 50 days after Passover. Here are the names which the Jews used for this day:

- “The Feast of Weeks”—*Shavuot*—since a week of weeks (7 weeks of 7 days + 1) divides *Pesach*, Passover, from *Shavuot*. 7 weeks of 7 days, + 1 day, is an image of the Eighth Day, the Eternal Day of God’s Kingdom, the day beyond the time of this world, represented by the number 7.
- “The Feast of First-Fruits”—*Hag ha-Bikkurim*—on which the first fruits of the early harvest were brought to be offered in the Temple. The seven weeks from *Pesach* to Pentecost are just enough for a new crop of wheat to be planted, nurtured, tended and harvested in time to be

offered. An ancient Christian prayer sees the grain gathered together and transformed into bread as a symbol of the Church, gathered into unity from all the nations.

- “The Feast of the Giving of the Law”—*Hag Matan Torah*—celebrating the giving of the Law. It celebrates the giving of the Law, not the receiving of the Law. The Law was given to Moses on a particular day in a particular year, and Pentecost celebrates that unique event, but, as the Jewish teachers point out, the receiving of the Law is something that should happen every day. The Christian Pentecost celebrates the giving of the Spirit, poured out on the Disciples as tongues of fire descending from above. No longer do we have the Jewish Law; we live under Grace, as St Paul so clearly explains in his epistles (he wrote that the Law of Moses cannot save us since it was only a school master for a time. See Galatians 3:24).

## PURITY OF HEART

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM describes a man who praises another for his good looks, stately manner, wealth, lovely house, fine clothes, and so on. Later the saint said to the speaker: “Why did you not tell me anything about the man himself? Nothing you told me is about the man himself.” What would God see in us? Our acts of charity or those things which make us look good? Does He see us helping others in His Name, or doing it for show or prestige? Do we perform for fame? Would He see us giving of ourselves to others or exploiting or maneuvering others to enhance our own power or satisfy our lust? It is not charity, helping others, good performance or attaining titles that makes us holy: it is what is in our hearts. Dead water can flow from our heart too. Did not Jesus tell us: “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth that which is evil. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” (Lk 6:45) However, Jesus gives us the key to what is “living water:” “For whosoever shall give you to drink a cup of water in my name, because you belong to Christ: amen I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.” (Mk 9:40) So what we do in the name of Jesus is what will be sanctified and be living water; what we do in our names, for our motives, will be damned and be dead water. As Jesus promised at Pentecost, those present, and the entire church right down to us today: “But the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring all things to your mind, whatsoever I shall have said to you.” (Jn 14: 26) “Blessed are the pure of heart...” (Mt 5:8). —Fr. George Morelli, from <http://www.antiochian.org/node/17834>

## APOSTLES FAST

THE WEEK AFTER Pentecost we do not fast on Wednesday and Friday on account of the greatness of the Feast. However, if we look ahead to the following week, we see that the annual Fast in preparation for the Feast of the Apostles Peter & Paul begins June 11. It’s a Fast that follows a great and long festal period in the Church; we probably need the fasting at this point. Now we move on from the festal season of Pascha, following—in our own lives—the Apostles, as they began their great labors with intense prayer and fasting, asking for purification of heart and soul, and spiritual strength to endure the struggles ahead. The Apostles Fast gets our spiritual attention by going against the grain of summer events: in one sense, summer being a time for picnics and BBQs, but in another sense it is most timely and appropriate. If Pentecost is the renewal in us of the Good and Upright Spirit (Ps. 50), then of course we are going to be diligent, steadfast and zealous all the time in loving the Lord, prayer, fasting, worship and works of mercy toward the needy. Having feasted since Pascha, we enter this fast season of Apostolic origin because we need it, now, as we begin a time in which we learn once again how to rely on God’s Holy Spirit day to day and how to live as Christians.

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## JUNE 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27 - Holy Fathers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Confessions</li> <li>• 10 AM, Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:45, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal &amp; Hot Dog Party for Kids</li> <li>• 12:45 PM, Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	28	29	30	31	June 1	<b>2 - Memorial Saturday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 1 PM, Decorating for Pentecost</li> <li>• 5 PM, VIGIL for Pentecost</li> </ul>
<b>3 - PENTECOST</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Confessions</li> <li>• 10 AM, Liturgy, followed by Kneeling Vespers</li> <li>• 12:30 PM, Pot-luck Agape</li> </ul>	<b>4 - Holy Spirit Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• <b>6 PM, Vespers, Talk by Elder Pavlos of Sinai</b></li> </ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fr Lawrence in SF at Mission Board Mtg all day</i></li> <li>• 7 PM, Study Group in Rohnert Park*</li> </ul>	<b>6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fast Free Day</i></li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> <li>• <b>7 PM, Slide Presentation on Iconography Part 2</b></li> </ul>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim</li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fast Free</i></li> </ul>	<b>9</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Baptism of Bnyen Fitwe</li> <li>• 4:30 PM, Panikhida for Sakovich family</li> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<b>10 - All Saints</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Confessions</li> <li>• 10 AM, Liturgy</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sts. Peter &amp; Paul FAST BEGINS</b></li> </ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM, Study Group in Rohnert Park</li> </ul>	<b>13</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship</b></li> <li>• 6 PM, Akathist to St. John of SF</li> </ul>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<b>17 - All Saints of Russia/Amer.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Confessions</li> <li>• 10 AM, Liturgy</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> <li>• 12:45, Choir Rehearsal</li> </ul>	18	<b>19</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM, Study Group in Rohnert Park</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim</li> </ul>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers</li> <li>• 6:30 PM, 40<sup>th</sup> Day for Nina Arrabit</li> </ul>
<b>24 - Nativity of St. John</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Confessions</li> <li>• 10 AM, Liturgy</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	25	<b>26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM, Study Group in Rohnert Park</li> </ul>	<b>27</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Great Vespers for Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</li> </ul>	<b>29 - Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>	<b>30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, VIGIL</li> </ul>

\* "Study Group" – Tuesdays at 7 PM, meeting at 1352 Oak View Circle, Rohnert Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Call Debi Shrimplin at (707) 536-9112 for more info. Topics: June 5: *Sin-Pimordial, Generational, Personal*; June 12: *The Second Coming of Christ*; June 19: *Same-sex attraction*; June 26: *Death*

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

JULY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 - Sts Cosmas &amp; Damian</b> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon: Agape Meal • 12:45 PM, Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>  • 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting	<b>3</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <i>Fr. Lawrence at St. Nicholas Ranch for Summer Camp</i> </div>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  • 5 PM, Great Vespers
<b>8 - Martyr Procopios</b> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon: Agape Meal • 3 PM, Hubbard/Burch Wedding and reception	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  • 6 PM, Vespers	<b>12</b>  • 8 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy for Sakovich family • <i>Fr. L in SF at Diocesan Council Mtg.</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  • 5 PM, Great Vespers
<b>15 - St. Vladimir</b> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon: Agape Meal • 3 PM, Wedding (group from Sacramento)	<b>16</b>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <b>St. Seraphim Week for Kids: 9 AM–Noon</b> </div>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  • 6:15 PM, Vigil for St. Seraphim	<b>19 - St. Seraphim Day</b> • 9:30 AM, Liturgy for St. Seraphim and Festal Meal • Time <i>TBA</i> , Vespers for Prophet Elijah	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  • Time <i>TBA</i> , Kazan Icon Feastday Liturgy at the Kazan Skete  • 5 PM, Great Vespers
<b>22 - St. Mary Magdalene</b> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon: Agape Meal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  • 6 PM, Vespers	<b>26</b>  • <b>Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship</b> • 6:30 PM, Akathist to St. Panteleimon • 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  • 5 PM, VIGIL
<b>29 - Martyr Seraphima</b> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon: Agape Meal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  • 6 PM, Vespers for the Procession of the Cross	<b>AUGUST 1</b>  • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Procession of the Cross	<b>2</b>  • 6 PM, Supplicatory Canon	<b>3</b>  • 6 PM, Supplicatory Canon	<b>4</b>  • 5 PM, Great Vespers