

The Feast of the Protection of the Virgin

THE FEAST OF THE PROTECTION of the Mother of God was established following a vision of our Holy Father Andrew, the Fool-for-Christ during the course of a Vigil in the Church of Blachernae* at Constantinople. At the fourth hour of the night, October 1, while deep in prayer, the Saint lifted up his eyes to heaven and beheld the holy Mother of God watching over the congregation as she covered the faithful with her Veil. Epiphanius, the disciple of Saint Andrew, who was also accounted worthy of looking upon this wonder, confirmed the truth of the vision. Whereupon the Saint hastened to the altar, opened the coffer containing the precious Veil of the Queen of the word and, standing in front of the royal doors, extended it above the worshippers. Upheld by an invisible power, the Veil hung in the air and was of such size as entirely to cover the great congregation. Then, amid a shattering burst of light, the Mother of God went up into Heaven and out of sight, but leaving the Christian people in possession of her holy Veil as a pledge of her loving Protection. Many a time did the Mother of God give clear evidence of her protection of the imperial City and, by analogy, of the entire holy Church of Christ, which is the new Jerusalem. Indeed, everywhere and at every moment, the Sovereign Lady of the world casts her Veil mystically over Christians as she makes prayer and intercession for the salvation of the world to her Son and Lord. (from the *Synaxarion*, pg. 250-251).

• FROM THE WEBSITE OF THE OCA:

At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting St Andrew in contemplation of her. The *Primary Chronicle of St. Nestor* reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan [Slav] fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in

the years 864-867 or, according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered important by the Slavic Churches but not by the Greeks. *The Primary Chronicle of St Nestor* also notes the miraculous deliverance followed an all-night Vigil and the dipping of the garment of the Mother of God into the waters of the sea at the Blachernae Church, but does not mention Sts. Andrew and Epiphanius and their vision of the Mother of God at prayer. These latter elements, and the beginnings of the celebrating of the Feast of the Protection, seem to postdate St. Nestor and the Chronicle. A further historical complication might be noted under (October 2) dating St. Andrew's death to the year 936.

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, "Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and, venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."

* An All-Night Vigil was celebrated before a wonder-working icon of the Theotokos every Friday evening at the Blachernae Church (pronounced *Vlakhernai*). The Church was part of the imperial palace, and near the great protective walls of the City. During iconoclasm (7th-8th centuries) the entire iconographic program of frescos was destroyed by the heretics, and replaced with nature scenes! The Blachernae Church was restored after the "Triumph of Orthodoxy" in 842 AD. The Church was entirely destroyed during the conquest of Constantinople in 1453. A small church was eventually rebuilt at the site, over the place of a holy spring, and may be visited now. For more information on the Blachernae Church, see the following:

<<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_St._Mary_of_Blachernae_\(Istanbul\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_St._Mary_of_Blachernae_(Istanbul))>>

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

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. He is available Tuesday-Saturday, from noon onwards each day.

PARISH CONTACTS

Fr. Michael Margitich, Pastor Emeritus473-0314
Fr. John Schettig, Assistant Pastor318-1559
Fr. John Ramos, Attached.....570-9849
Deacon Jeremiah Crawford377-4094
Deacon Nicholas Carr588-8753
Sub-Deacon Marc Richardson545-4047
Nicolas Custer, Choir Director584-9491
Serge Anderson, Parish Council Warden.....291-7452
Petar Griovski, Treasurer762-4742
Bonnie Alexander, Recording Secretary778-8528
Lisa Moroz, Acting Sisterhood President360-5119
Parmenas Davis, Church School Coordinator.....823-2921
Youth Group Coordinatoropen
Shenina, Scrip Chairperson.....321-7417
Eleni Rose, Agape Meal Coordinator480-6106

ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL

BAZAAR

Saturday, OCTOBER 8

10:30AM - 3:00PM



Traditional Slavic Foods

Live Music • Handmade Crafts • Silent Auction • Rummage Sale
Church Tours throughout the day. Learn about Orthodox Icons and Music.

PROGRAM:

11:00 am Nicolai Ensemble Performance
1:00 pm St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Choir Concert:
"From the Hills of Northern California"
4:00 pm Vespers Service

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

102 Ross Avenue • San Anselmo, CA • 415.454.0982 • stnicholasmarin.org

UPCOMING SPIRITUAL TALKS:

Dimensions of Noetic Prayer is a four part series of talks presented by Vincent Rossi on the art and practice of inner prayer according to the teaching of the holy neptic Fathers of the Philokalia. It covers the indispensable keys to the practice of the Jesus Prayer, the Prayer of the Heart and unceasing prayer, and culminates in a look at the possibilities and actuality of contemplation and the experience of union with God. The first talk is entitled and is about *Climbing the Ladder of Prayer*; the second is entitled and will cover *Between Passion and Dispassion: Growth in Attention and Prayer*; the third will focus on *Approaching Pure Prayer and the State that Jesus Confers*, and the last will be entitled *Heaven in the Heart: Prayer as the Door of Contemplation*. Because of the absolute centrality of the subject and the depth in which it will be covered, Vincent requests that anyone wishing to attend these talks should commit to attending all four, and should optimally be a communing Orthodox Christian and in an active relationship with a spiritual father or mother. If you are interested, please sign up for the class with either Vincent or Fr. Lawrence. There is no fee for this class. **Dates of talks: Wednesdays, October 12, 19 and 26, at 6:30 PM sharp. The final talk will be on Sunday, November 6, 2011, at 4 PM, at the Monastery in Calistoga.**

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP will meet on Wednesday evening, October 5, at 7 PM, at the home of Barbara and Craig Owens, 1709 Walnut Creek Drive, Santa Rosa CA. 95407, (707) 544-1948. This is part 3 of the book "Father Arseny." The next book for the November 2nd meeting (first Wednesday of the month) will be "Discerning the Signs of the Times"—available in our bookstore. Location for the November meeting to be determined.
- THE SATURDAY BEFORE SAINT DEMETRIOS DAY (this year, Oct. 22) is a Soul Saturday, with a Memorial Divine Liturgy. St. Sergius of Radonezh instituted this memorial Liturgy, on October 20, 1380, for the memory and repose of Orthodox Christian soldiers. If you have Orthodox soldier relatives or friends that have gone to their rest, please do send in their names for commemoration at this unique service.
- MANY THANKS are due to those who labored long and well in the preparation of our Parish Feast. There are too many names to mention (what a wonderful problem!) and besides, the Lord knows the effort and heart of each and every person, and will reward according to His great mercy. We are all grateful to Almighty God for our Bishop Benjamin, and for Father Thomas Hopko, for joining in our celebration, for preaching and speaking to us at the banquet. We are mindful, too, of the great sacrifices, offerings and faith of the parish members who have come before us. We ask God to grant them rest and eternal memory, and we give thanks for all that they did.
- YOUNG ADULTS' RETREAT, October 28-30 at the Monastery of St. John of SF, in Manton, CA. The retreat will be entitled: "Getting to know God" and will be guided by Archimandrite Meletios, Abbot of the Monastery. The retreat is geared to college-age adults. The participants will join the monks for all monastic services and meals. There will be abundant opportunity for the young people to meet each other and engage in spiritual dialogue. The cost of the retreat is \$120.00 per person for the entire week end. Scholarships are available, so that no one is turned away. Those who are interested are invited to contact Father Lawrence, who will assist in making arrangements for the trip to Manton.
- MANY YEARS and best wishes to Daria and Craig, who will be united in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, October 9, at 1:30 PM. Many of you know Daria (Serbian Orthodox background, by the way) as the dear friend of John and Deanna Panages.
- UPCOMING RETREAT: Archpriest John Dresko, rector of St. Paul Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, NV, will be giving a talk on Orthodoxy and stewardship entitled "Caring for God's Gifts" on Saturday, November 12, 2011, starting mid-afternoon. More information about the time, as well as the topics to be discussed, will be confirmed by next week.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Thursday, August 25, 2011

We began with prayer at 7:05 pm. Attending: Fr. Lawrence Margitich, Serge Anderson, Bonnie Alexander, Lew Baer, Preston Booker, Gary Collins, Petar Griovski, Ole Kern, Sergei Moroz, Nick Nicholson, Debbie Buse, Lisa Moroz (Sisterhood President). Absent: Denise Pellizzer

1. July 28, 2011 meeting minutes were accepted as submitted.
2. Rector's Report:
 - (a) Spent 3 days in Manton this week. Fr. Nectarios asked us to host a fundraising dinner for the Monastery after our new hall is finished (sometime before Lent begins). Of course, we will do this.
 - (b) Baptism of Catechumen, Charles, on Sept. 11. Father needs help setting up around 7:45 am;
 - (c) As leaders in the parish, Council members should be attending Vespers frequently.
 - (d) Fr. Lawrence and Father Michael will be at Nativity of Christ this Sunday for Fr. Constantine's retirement liturgy. Please be sure doors and windows are closed; altar doors are locked and the gate is closed.
 - (e) Council Members should make an effort to stop by during the week to monitor building progress. This is good for the workers and good for Fr. Lawrence; you can answer questions knowledgeably.
 - (f) Discussion about using grey water from the hall on the grounds to limit stress on the septic system and the well.
3. Treasurers' Report—July, 2011
 - (a) We are in the red for July because collection for Fr. Andrew is not reflected in July, but will show up in August;
 - (b) We spent lots on charity in July.

4. Grounds and Facilities Report:
 - A. Buildings & Grounds
 - i. Protection Cupolas – will be installed by the anniversary celebration.
 - ii. Waterproofing windows in St. Seraphim Altar – bid (about \$4,000) has been signed and returned to the roofing company.
 - iii. Work Party 9/17: We should look around for possible projects; Mat. Ann has a list of projects; we'll develop a list of projects and prioritize it for the work party. Sergei and Preston will consult with Alla and Mat. Ann and develop the list.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Construction Details: Foundations are being poured; framing; should be ready by 9/15. We are aiming for roof to be on by October 1 with completion around thanksgiving. Besides construction, there are many projects (electrical, plumbing, septic) correcting aspects of the property that have to be done; most of them are completed. Some preventative projects have also been undertaken (e.g., French drains near Fr. Lawrence's office). There will be a concrete walk between new hall and storage building to allow for wheeling items from hall to storage. Regarding landscaping, grading and topsoil is all that is included in the project. This will be revisited nearer the end of the project to see how our resources are holding out. A sprinkler system is highly recommended and should be discussed with the landscaping committee to determine if preliminary. Play structure is definitely going to happen. Serge will contact the company to negotiate the price. Installation of kitchen appliances is targeted to begin the second week in November. Demand for use of the new hall is going to be great. We need to develop a rental cost schedule and appoint someone to oversee rentals. **The Sisterhood will develop recommendations. Subcommittee start: Nick Nicholson, Bonnie Alexander, Debbie Buse and Lisa Munoz.** Questions: Demolition vs. just raising the roof? Although the initial intention was to raise the roof, it was much less expensive to tear it down and start again.
 - B. 75th Anniversary Celebration: (a) Fr. Thomas Hopko will come to preach at the Liturgy and speak at the banquet; (b) Anniversary Book going to printer by Wednesday; about 150 pages printing should be well within budget. (c) Lisa reported that Sisterhood will help with the reception immediately following Liturgy; We need to know who is tasked with setting up tables, etc. (d) Suggestion that parishioners donate to enable people who can't afford tickets. Additional discussion of tickets for clergy and visiting singers. Petar volunteered to manage the donation box. Lew and Ole to get a count of guest singers to supply them reservations.
6. Old Business:
 - A. Parish Website: We have had our website for 12 years and we have not spent any money on it. Bishop Benjamin suggested Orthodox Web Solutions as a vehicle for upgrading and maintaining the site. Cost for conversion would be \$300, yearly fee at \$275, and custom work the balance of \$1000; Motion: spend \$1000 to get our website up to speed. m/s Serge/Petar. Discussion: why do we need to move it; what's wrong with it now? No webmaster at present. No one here knows how to keep it current. We all need to review the site and vote at the next meeting.
 - B. Security: The sensors we have are good for the front of the property; the rear area is vulnerable. We need cameras on the back of the property. Motion sensor lights would be helpful. Sergei suggested motion sensor lights near the doors where electrical is already in place. He will talk to Tom Pellizzer about the feasibility of this.
7. Next meeting will be Thursday, September 22, 2011. Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:45 p.m.

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

OCTOBER 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				29	Sept. 30	1-Protection
				• 6 PM, Akathist to the Protection, Confessions to follow	• 9 AM, Blessing of Holy Water • 6:30 PM, Vigil	• 9:30 AM, <i>Greeting of Bishop & Liturgy</i> • Noon, Anniversary Banquet • Vespers, <i>Time TB4</i>
2 - Sts. Cyprian & Justina • 9-10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School	3	4	5	6	7	8
		• 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group (Orthodoxy & the Protestant Reformation)	• 6 PM, Vespers • 7 PM, Women's Book Group, Owens' home	• 9 AM, <i>Divine Liturgy, St. Innocent of Alaska</i> • 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim		• San Anselmo/St. Nicolas Bazaar • 5 PM Great Vespers, Confessions
9 - St. Tikhon of Moscow • 9-10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • 1:30 PM, Wedding	10	11	12	13	14	15
		• 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group	• 6 PM, Vespers • 6:30 PM, Talk on Prayer	• 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim		• 3:30 PM, Catechism • 5 PM Great Vespers, Confessions
16 - Fathers of the 7th Council • 9-10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School	17	18	19	20	21	22
		• 9 AM, <i>Divine Liturgy for Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke</i> • 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group	• 6 PM, Vespers • 6:30 PM, Talk on Prayer	• 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim		• 9 AM, <i>Memorial Divine Liturgy—St. Demetrios Saturday</i> • 3:30 PM, Catechism • 5 PM VIGIL, Confessions
23 - Holy Apostle James • 9-10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School	24	25	26	27	28	29
		• 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group	• 9 AM, <i>Divine Liturgy, St. Demetrios of Thessalonika</i> • 6 PM, Vespers • 6:30 PM, Talk on Prayer	• 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim • 7 PM, Parish Council		• 3:30 PM, Catechism • 5 PM Great Vespers, Confessions
30 - Sts. Zenobius and Zenobia • 9-10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School	31	November 1	2	3	4	5
						• 5 PM, Great Vespers, Confessions

Fr. Lawrence & Marushka Ann in Seattle at the All-American Council until Friday, Nov. 4