

ORTHODOX MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2013, Vol. 22, Issue 10

Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary Parish • Santa Rosa, CA 95407

CHURCH SCHOOL

Our Parish Church School starts this Sunday, September 29, right after Divine Liturgy. Parents are asked to consider the Church School sessions as only supplemental to what is already being discussed and learned at home.

Parents, but especially fathers: it is your duty as the head of the family to lead your little flock in prayer and the reading of the Holy Scriptures daily. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 records God's charge to the entire Jewish nation: "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up." The principle still applies. Teaching our children spiritual truth is a never-ending, non-stop duty. But it is also a tremendous privilege and great joy. You are your child's principle spiritual guide. Don't back away from that role. Don't allow yourself to be intimidated or frustrated into abdicating this responsibility. It is the best thing about being a parent. (*borrowed from Phillip R. Johnson*)

GLENDI 2013

DONE! Glendi day dawned with wind and rain. You may have been tempted, as I was, to be disheartened about the weather. There was a great deal of running around and emergency rigging as we prepared to open. At 10:30 or so, we gathered for our usual Prayer Service outside—with the Precious Cross and a blessing of our own water, Holy Water—and prayed to the Lord to clear the skies and give us strength to do all to His glory. As the sky cleared, some rays of sunlight began to peek through in answer to the very specific prayer we said, and all my negative thoughts flew away. Thank you, Lord, for a good day, and a successful day! And what a success it was.

The two days of the Glendi Festival are done, however, we are far from done with our work. Clean up continues, and we owe our thanks for that to a few who came on Monday and Tuesday, to a few of the parish women who reset the Hall and storage building, and the men of *Anderson Fine Wood Working* who put the equipment away on Wednesday. Financial number crunching continues, post-event analysis continues, our gratitude continues; the giving of thanks to each other—for mutual support, and to the Lord Jesus Christ, for giving us the opportunity to welcome so many guests to our Church. We served them and we opened our Parish home to them to see something of the Orthodox faith in action during the Church Services, the tours and the wonderful choral concerts that touched many hearts. Our guests saw how we treat one another as we work together, and yes, how we celebrate, too. Each year I am amazed at how many people work so

hard to make the Glendi happen—the work before, during and after—and I am grateful to each and every one. I hope that you will all express your gratitude to your collaborators for being there with you. It couldn't happen without your enormous talent, creativity, good will, generosity, brute strength and determination. — *Fr. Lawrence*

GLENDI WRAPUP AND THANK YOU

Many of you have learned of the Post-Glendi Potluck BBQ celebration taking place this Sunday at 4 PM outside the church hall. Please contact Esther Carr for more details on what to bring. The Potluck BBQ is an opportunity to celebrate your efforts and those all of our fellow parishioners and friends.

I am also organizing another more formal **Glendi Wrap Up Meeting** scheduled for **Tuesday, October 15th from 6:30–8:30 PM**. This will be an in-depth discussion with the Glendi Heads, the Glendi Booth Chairs and others. I ask that you complete the brief survey form (you can pick them up at the Candle Desk) and return it with your comments/suggestions.

Before more time gets away from us, I want to express my sincere appreciation again to all of you who helped bake, cook, decorate, prepare the grounds and take down the equipment, those who chaired and worked the booths and those who parked the cars and cleaned and worked in so many ways to make our Glendi such a success. I especially want to thank the following persons who served as

INFORMATION

Protection of the Holy Virgin & St. Seraphim of Sarov Church
90 Mountain View Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Parish office phone: 707-584-9491 / fax: 585-9445
website: www.saintseraphim.com

Our Parish Secretary—Fr. John Ramos—may be reached at the Church office Mon., Tues. and Wed., 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 Emeritus	473-0314
Fr. John Schettig, Assistant Pastor	318-1559
Fr. John Ramos, Attached	570-9849
Deacon Jeremiah Crawford	861-9974
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
Shenina, Scrip Manager	321-7417
Eleni Rose, Agape Meal Coordinator	480-6106
Debbie Buse, Hall Event Manager	696-4986

Booth Chairs or managed areas of responsibility crucial to Glendi. They all worked very hard, going above and beyond to ensure our success: Joe Anderson—the Glendi Co-Chair; Bonnie Alexander, Serge and Lara Anderson, Carmen Anderson, Dana Ames, George Artemoff, Hala Atallah, Avery, Vladimir and Nona Baer, Vicki and Ray Basch, Maaza Belata, Photini Bohnker, Sam Coon, George Barsi, Rachael and Daniel Bell, Debbie Buse, Preston Booker, Leonard Carl, Catherine Carpenter, Matushka Esther Carr and Deacon Nicholas Carr, Tatiana and Miguel Castillo, Shenina and Sophia Chronopoulos, Chris Clemens, Gloria and Gary Collins, Deacon Jeremiah and Matushka Karin Crawford, Nicolas Custer, Eugenia and Victor Dada, Kristina Daya, Father Patrick Doolan and Father Deacon Moses, Franchesca and Ryan Duval, Vipassana and Sean Esbjorn-Hargens, Ryan Isacc Ferguson, Kathie Franotovich, Bobbi Griovski, Petar and Gabe Griovski, Joe and Judy Gumper, Alla Keyes, Ole Kern, George Kielczynski, Helen Kinnamon, Lana Koloboff, Sue Koura, Patricia Krueger, Geoff John Lake, Father Michael Margitich, Matushka Eleanor Margitich, Matushka Ann Margitich, Justin Margitich, Lisa and Sergei Moroz, Lydia and Nick Nicholson, Catherine Ostling and Greg Sanford, Barbara Owens, Denise and Tom Pellizer, Xenia Pribyl, Mica and Tito Ramirez, Marc Richardson, Eleni Rose, Adriel and Jeff Scarborough, Father John Schettig and Matushka Xenia Schettig, Lahana Singer, Alexander Stameroff, Thom Stewart, Kristine Tellefsen, Cathy and Nilus Veenis, David and Shannon Winterton, Mhret Weldu, Father John Ramos, Herman and Maria Vasquez, and lastly, Father Lawrence Margitich. I am firmly convinced there would not be a Glendi without the hard work, heavy lifting, dedication, direction and guidance provided by our loving and cherished Rector, Father Lawrence Margitich and his family. If I have forgotten anyone, I apologize. The Lord knows your offering and He will repay you doubly. I hope to see all of you at the October 15th Wrap Up Meeting!

—*Esther Schau, Glendi Co-Chair*

A GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT

Many years of planning, saving of funds, skilled artistic talent, and prayers have gone into the painting of the *Pantocrator*—the Savior, Ruler of All—in the dome. While there is a great deal more to paint in the dome itself (angels, seraphim, prophets, decorative designs, etc.) the major component of the dome, the jewel in the crown, is now completed. As you look up through the bars of the scaffold, you now see the Savior, Who holds His Gospel, blessing us. Around Him are words from Psalm 101: “...He hath looked out from His holy height, the Lord from heaven hath looked upon the earth, to hear the groaning of them that be in fetters, to loose the sons of the slain.” These words remind us of our release from the captivity of sin and death by His death and resurrection, and His love for us, His creation. The Divine Liturgy takes on an additional splendor, when we see Him depicted there in the dome, and we remember that it is Christ Himself that celebrates the Liturgy for us before His Father. It is He that is “robed in majesty” — as we sing at Vespers on Saturday evening — His glorified and risen human body seated at the Father’s right hand.

We thank the donors who so generously gave over the last fifteen years for this fresco, and who continue to give toward the painting of the prophets and angels. We are grateful to God for our fresco painters. Please see the wonderful article and photos at the online *Orthodox Arts Journal* at www.orthodoxartsjournal.org.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SPEAKING OF CHURCH SCHOOL:** a teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."
- **WE WELCOME** the Silversmith Family from Riverside, CA., members of St. Andrew's Orthodox Church there.
- **SUNDAY BBQ:** Come and join us this Sunday, Sept. 29, at 4 PM for a potluck BBQ! Bring meat for the grill, a side dish to share (enough to serve 8–12), and a choice of beverage. It will be a wonderful time to socialize together and celebrate this year's Glendi. —*Matushka Esther Carr*
- **PARISH FEAST:** When the Parish was founded in 1936 it was named after the Feast of the Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary. That particular feast, as you all know, is celebrated each October 1. Accordingly, Vigil for the Feast will be served in our Church on September 30 at 6:30 PM, and the Divine Liturgy on October 1 at 9:30 AM. Since so many of you will be at work on October 1, please plan to come for the Vigil the evening before, for all or even just a portion of it. A lively veneration of the All Holy Virgin Mary by parishioners makes a healthy parish; and a parish that celebrates its own feast day—its "Founders" Day—with honor and a full church is a healthy parish. Following the Divine Liturgy there will be a festive lunch in honor of the Feast. Unfortunately, this year, His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin will not be with us. However, we will see him during the Diocesan Assembly the following week.
- **ST. NICHOLAS BAZAAR:** Saturday, October 5, 10:30 AM–3 PM, Vespers at 4 PM. Traditional Slavic foods, live music by the Nikolai Ensemble, homemade crafts, silent auction, choir concert, and more. Let's support our sister Parish. The Bazaar will be held on the Church grounds, 102 Ross Ave, San Anselmo, CA. See the flyer for more info.
- **HARVEST FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 5, NOON–8 PM:** Holy Dormition Orthodox Church, on 1521 Rose Ave, invites you to the annual Harvest Festival: games, dancing, BBQ, horseback rides, tea room, crafts and entertainment. Admission \$5, and \$2 for kids under 12. This event is a fundraiser for St. Michael's Orthodox School.
- **OUR THANKS** to Tom Pellizzer who has been working on a project in the dome. Two of the windows up there need to be converted to provide ventilation. It's more complicated than it would seem.
- **UPCOMING WEDDINGS:** On Sunday, October 13, Vera Rajevsky and Nick Spring will be united in the great Sacrament of Marriage. On Friday, October 18 (by *economia*, since normally weddings may not be held on fasting days), the son of Father Damian and Matushka Joann from Arizona, will be married here. Of course, there are no private services in the Orthodox Church, and all are invited to join in the wedding ceremonies. "...for by Thee is the husband united to the wife. Unite them in oneness of mind: wed them into one flesh..." (from the Wedding Service). The receptions are by invitation.
- **THE SENIOR LUNCHEON** is scheduled for Thursday, October 17th from 12 Noon–1:30. If anyone is interested in preparing the luncheon for about 25–30 or our wonderful seniors, please contact Fr. Lawrence or Barbara Owens. These luncheons are a special time together monthly for all "seniors" in the parish. If you consider yourself a senior or even if you are 80 years old and still consider yourself a kid (no ID is required), please come and join us.
- **SISTERHOOD BENEFIT DINNER:** November 2nd. Don't forget to send in your reservations to the Anniversary/Birthday Celebration in honor of Matushka Eleanor and Father Michael which will take place on Saturday, November 2. Reservations are needed as soon as possible. You can either drop them in the basket at the candle stand or return them by mail. A fun and special evening is being planned, so don't hesitate to reserve your space. If you have any questions, please contact Esther Schau or Barbara Owens.
- **FROM OUR CHANCELLOR, Fr. Ian MacKinnon:** Please pray for Father Laurent Cleenewerck of St. Innocent Mission in Eureka, CA. Father Laurent is undergoing surgery on Friday for the removal of a cancerous growth. His spirit are good, but this, of course, is a serious operation. Hopefully he will know the outcome on the same day.
- **PLEASE CONTINUE** to pray each day for the suffering people, especially the Christians under great persecution, in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Kosovo and Pakistan.

GOD'S PROMISES TO US ARE SURE

...God says through King David in Psalm 41:1, "Blessed is he who considers the poor; the *Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.*" And note Proverbs 11:25, "...*the generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.*" Or how about Ecclesiastes 11:1, "Cast your bread upon the waters, for *you will find it after many days.*" Still murky? Then listen to the Lord speak through the prophet in Isaiah 58:10, "If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then *your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday.*" Or what about God's word in Malachi 3:10, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me in this," says the Lord of hosts, "I will not open for you the windows of heaven and *pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.*" The Lord Jesus sums up this divine dynamic in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Stinginess towards the genuinely needy and towards God brings want, while generosity brings blessing. That's His promise! —*Father Philip Speranza*

PREPARING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Our practice in the Orthodox Church in America is to prepare ourselves for receiving Holy Communion by fasting from meat and dairy on Wednesdays and Fridays, keeping a daily prayer rule, and praying the Prayers of Preparation during the days prior to the Liturgy. Saturday evening Vespers is also a wonderful—and we may add, necessary—beginning to the Lord's Day. Those age seven and older who are receiving each week, should confess at least once a month, and certainly more if your conscience reminds you.

SUNDAY MORNING CONFESSIONS: Please, try to make your confession on a day other than Sunday morning, in order to leave time for those who travel far to attend Liturgy, and for the elderly, to make a Confession.

UPCOMING DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY — A BLESSING FOR OUR PARISH

Our Parish has been given the responsibility to host this year's Diocesan Assembly, at which a hundred or so delegates (Priests, Lay People and Archbishop) will gather to participate in meetings, church services, fellowship and meals. This is a great blessing for us as a parish, and I hope you will get involved. You're asking yourself: "but, how can I help." Bonnie Alexander and crew will be handling registration, Serge Anderson will be in charge of the meals, and Debbie Buse will organize a welcoming committee and take care of the Hall set up. There will be many opportunities for you to help—just talk to the people in charge.

We will expect some clergy to arrive on **Monday, October 7th** for a talk on pastoral issues, which continues on **Tuesday, October 8**, followed by registration of delegates at 3 PM. Refreshments will be provided. Vespers will be served at 5 PM.

On **Wednesday, October 9**—the day commemorating St. Tikhon of Moscow—the ***Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will begin at 9 AM***, followed by breakfast, after which the Assembly will formally begin. I certainly hope and expect that many of you will attend the Divine Liturgy—after all, it is the day of St. Tikhon, who is an important saint for us. I've noticed that the participation of parishioners at the Diocesan Assembly Liturgies in other parishes is extremely minimal—and that is rather sad. *Vespers at 6 PM*, on Wednesday, followed by dinner in the Hall and an evening session.

Things will wrap up by noon on **Thursday, October 10**. Please consider giving some of your time and effort to make the 2013 Assembly a memorable one for the delegates, and to see a little bit of how the Diocesan Parishes, Faithful and Archbishop work together. —*Fr. Lawrence*

I WILL NOT SPEAK OF THY MYSTERIES

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord in Thy Kingdom.

There are many who are not Orthodox who are not hostile to our Lord, but rather they are misled or even simply untaught. I don't believe there is any prohibition expressed or implied in speaking with others outside the Church who are sympathetic to Christ. Even when we don't agree about dogma, still there is room for discussion. Sometimes it is not wise to go into the depths of dogmatic analysis about the Mysteries, but that's the case with anyone—even Orthodox Christians.

When the prayer says "I will not speak of Thy Mysteries to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss..." there are a whole range of things that we haven't considered. Remember it is not *our* "enemies" about which we are speaking here—but rather the enemies of Christ, those who are hostile to our Lord Jesus Christ, not those who are seeking Him (even in their own mistaken way). Thus I think, if we are to look at just this phrase, we have to make a differentiation between those who wish only to mock Christ, or to crucify Him again, and bury Him so deep He'll never get out (as if that were possible), on one hand, and those who do not know Him but are seeking Him, on the other.

Secondly let's not stop at just this phrase, but consider the entire sentence, "I will not speak of Thy Mysteries to Thine Enemies, nor give Thee a kiss as did Judas, but like the thief will I confess Thee..." This prayer speaks more about the condition of our own heart more than simply who we do and do not speak to. To "give a kiss as did Judas" enlightens the meaning of the previous phrase about talking and shows us that the intent here is that we are praying that we do not become hypocrites who "follow" Christ in one moment and "deny" Him the next (by receiving the Mysteries but not changing our sinful lives for example) as did Judas. When we consider the third phrase in addition to the previous two, that is reinforced for it brings in the image of the two thieves crucified with

Christ, one who cursed and mocked Him and the other who repented and confessed Him to be God. We ask that we may be found to be like the latter rather than the former—that we might repent of our sins and confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God not only by our words but with the entirety of our lives. This prayer is not really about who we do and do not talk to about the Holy Mysteries, it is about our own heart, whether we are the "enemy" of Christ, whether we are hypocrites who confess and deny with the same tongue, whether we mock Him or repent and confess Him. I guess the best question to ask when praying this prayer is not "Who are the enemies of Christ?" but "Am I an enemy of Christ?" —*Fr David Mosey, from an internet discussion*

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

IOCC Metropolitan Committee of Northern California invites you to the 21st Annual Remembering Home Banquet:

PASSPORT to HOPE

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF

Faith, Culture & Culinary Delights

In support of the global humanitarian work of International Orthodox Christian Charities

Sunday, November 10, 2013

Reception/Silent Auction: 5:00 p.m.
Dinner and Entertainment to follow: 6:00 p.m.

Cajun, Greek, Middle Eastern and Ethiopian Cuisines
Zydeco music and dance performance

Tickets: \$50 per person • Please RSVP by October 30, 2013

HOSTED BY

NATIVITY OF CHRIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
1110 Highland Drive • Novato, CA 94949

Register online at www.iocc.org/rememberinghome
For more information call 415-883-1998
or email nchurch@pacbell.net



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SPIRITUAL ADVICE

Watch carefully so that the thieving thought does not creep in, which says that you live better and more attentively than others. It is so dangerous that you will not even notice how, from a poppy seed falling on the heart, it will grow into a giant pharisee, turn into complete arrogance and more. Before the Lord it is better to be a sinner with repentance than a righteous person with pride. —*St. Macarius of Optina*

Whatever you do, on no account condemn anyone; do not even try to judge whether a person is good or bad, but keep your eyes on that one evil person for whom you must give an account before God—yourself. —*St. Ignatius Brianchaninov*

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

OCTOBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the Protection 	1–Protection of the Virgin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Protection (<i>Parish Feast Day</i>) 	2	3 [Fr. L in SF all day at Mission Board meeting]	4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers
6 – St. Innocent of Alaska <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	7 - Diocesan Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3–6 PM, <i>Pastoral Lecture for Clergy</i> • <i>Dinner</i> • 7:30–9:30 PM, <i>Lecture continues</i> 	8 - Diocesan Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, <i>Lecture continues</i> • 3 PM, Registration & refreshments • 5 PM, Vespers 	9 - Diocesan Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy • Breakfast followed by Assembly • 6 PM, Vespers & dinner 	10 - Diocesan Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Breakfast & concluding Session 	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, <i>Wedding Rehearsal</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers
13 – Holy Fathers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • 3 PM, Wedding of Nick and Vera. Reception in Hall 	14	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 PM, Glendi Wrap Up Meeting 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noon, Senior Luncheon • 4 PM, <i>Wedding Rehearsal</i> 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. Luke • 2 PM, Koults Wedding 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechesis • 5 PM, Vigil
20 – Martyr Artemios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	21	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Akathist • 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting 	25	26 - St. Demetrios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 3:30 PM, Catechesis • 5 PM, Great Vespers
27 – Martyr Nestor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM, Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	28	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers for the Unmercenary Healers Cosmas and Damian 	NOVEMBER 1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, Great Vespers • 5 PM, <i>Benefit Dinner for Fr Michael & Matushka Eleanor</i>