

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Seventy-Five Years of Feasts

On October 1, 2011, our Parish will mark 75 years of Holy Orthodoxy in Sonoma County, and celebrate the Feast of the Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary for the 75th time.

The celebration will begin with the *Akathist for the Protection of the Virgin*, sung on Thursday evening, September 29, at 6 PM. The Lesser Blessing of Water (traditionally done before a Great Feast) will be served on Friday morning, September 30, at 9 AM.

The Vigil for the Feast of the Protection of the Holy Virgin will be served on Friday, September 30 at 6:30 PM, with His Grace, Bishop Benjamin presiding.

On Saturday, October 1, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 AM. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, there will be a procession from the St. Seraphim Church to the Protection Church, to sing a short service of Thanksgiving. Following the Liturgy and prior to the Banquet, refreshments (coffee, juice, water, etc.) will be available in the courtyard. The banquet is a catered meal; tickets will be \$30 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under. A booklet on the "History of the Parish" is now being prepared for printing, and will be for sale in late September.

We are extremely blessed to host a very special guest for the feast, Father Thomas Hopko, former Dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary, and a well-known author and speaker. Fr. Thomas will offer the homily at the Liturgy, and will give the address at the banquet.

Vespers will be served at 5 PM, to give thanks to God for the blessings of the day.

How to prepare for this, the Feast Day of our parish? All of us, young and old, should set aside time now for the Vigil and the Liturgy on October 1 (fortunately, a Saturday). All of us should, without fail, spiritually prepare as much as possible, and make a Confession sometime in the week or two prior to the Feast. And of course, we should all prepare ourselves for reception of Holy Communion at the Lit-

urgy. Receiving Communion, is among many other very great and awesome things, the way we manifest our membership in the Body of Christ. It is our communion with the Lord Jesus Christ, and our communion with each other.

I hope you will consider this banquet to be an important part of the celebration of the feast day. If the cost is more than you can afford, please remember that the \$30 *per person* does not actually cover all the expenses of this banquet. We have done all we can to keep the celebration affordable, and so I hope you will do everything possible to attend, and to hear Fr. Thomas speak.

If you would like to help those who cannot afford a ticket, here are three simple ways in which you might show your love and generosity to others:

- If you have financial means, please invite someone who may not have the means to purchase a ticket, to be your guest.
- If you would like participate in partial giving towards a guest, there will be a contribution box. \$5 or \$10 or whatever you can give will go towards helping someone attend.
- If you are not free to attend the Banquet, for whatever reason, think about buying a ticket, which can then be given to someone else that needs it.

GLENDI –WORK PARTY

Perhaps you haven't heard yet: there is no Glendi this year. The Press Democrat was kind enough to post a notice the other day to that effect. Parish participation in our festival is really an amazing thing, with over a hundred people giving of their time to make the Glendi a success. This year's event would have been on Saturday, September 17. Since our volunteers will no doubt feel at a loss on that day with no Glendi, a work party has been scheduled, to start at 9 AM. Work will include: mowing, trimming hedges, cleaning church windows, cleaning the Pro-

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

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 Emeritus	473-0314
Fr. John Schettig, Assistant Pastor	318-1559
Fr. John Ramos, Attached	570-9849
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
Lisa Moroz, Acting Sisterhood President	360-5119
Parmenas Davis, Church Sch Coordinator	823-2921
Youth Group Coordinator	open
Scrip, Shenina	321-7417
Eleni Rose, Agape Meal Coordinator	480-6106

cession path to and from the old church, making a run to the dump, and so forth. A list of to-do items will be prepared on Sunday, August 28, after Liturgy.

UPCOMING BAPTISM

We are pleased to announce the upcoming reception into the Church by Holy Baptism of catechumen Charles Fleshman on Sunday, September 11, at 9 AM. Please keep Charles in your prayers.

FEASTS IN SEPTEMBER

The Church New Year begins on September 1. We will have Vespers on Wednesday, Aug. 31, followed by a talk by Fred Theodore Krueger on the unique Eastern Orthodox approach to caring for God's creation.

The first major Feast of the Liturgical Year, not surprisingly, is that of the *Birth of the Mother of God*. Vigil and Liturgy will be served. Please consult the calendar.

The second Feast of the year is that of the *Exaltation of the Precious Cross*, which commemorates the finding of the True Cross in Jerusalem, by St. Helen. The wonderful hymns of the Vigil service present a panorama in song and prophetic psalms of the meaning and power of the Cross of Christ. Consult the calendar for service times.

From Father Thomas Hopko—on The Parish

Jesus says that God must be loved first of all with all one's heart. In biblical usage, the heart is the center of a person's being. It is the ground of a person's life, the seat of a person's will, and the source of a person's activity, beginning with

one's words. It is the "place where God bears witness to himself," according to St. Isaac of Syria; the place in a person, according to St. Macarius, which contains God himself, and Christ and the Holy Spirit, and the whole of creation, visible and invisible, spiritual and material, good and evil.

A person's heart reveals what he or she really is, and really thinks, and really wants and really does. "For where your treasure is," Jesus tells us, "there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21) The heart of a parish, if it is Christ's one holy Church, will be totally given to God. In this sense, the heart of an Orthodox Christian parish will be its liturgical and sacramental worship. Worship will constitute the parish's core. It will be the parish's essential mode of self-realization. It will be its basic reason for being, the foundational purpose for its existence and life.

An Orthodox Christian parish is first and foremost a worshipping community. It exists to praise, bless and glorify God, to ceaselessly sing the thrice-holy hymn to the life-creating Trinity. Its essential purpose is to baptize people in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; to enable them to die in Christ and to be raised with Him to newness of life; to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit; to hear God's word, to respond to God's gospel, to confess and repent of our sins, to participate in the eucharistic sacrifice of Christ's Body and Blood; and to actualize God's Kingdom on earth, in spirit and truth, by faith and grace, until Christ comes in glory at the close of the age.

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Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Thursday, July 28, 2011

We began with prayer at 7:04 PM. Attending: Fr. Lawrence Margitich, Bonnie Alexander, Lew Baer, Debbie Buse, Petar Griovski, Ole Kern, Sergei Moroz, Denise Pellizzer. Absent: Serge Anderson, Preston Booker, Gary Collins, Nick Nicholson, Xenia Pribyl. June 16, 2011 meeting minutes were accepted as corrected. [Change "Debbie" to "Denise" in item about selecting colors.]

1. Rector's Report: a) Today is the 10th anniversary of our church consecration; b) The Bishop expressed his approval of the parish during his visit; c) Fr. Lawrence will substitute at Ss. Peter and Paul on Sunday, August 7.
2. 75th Anniversary (Old Business) – Esther Carr a) The committee needs a set amount of funds for immediate printing expenses. The Council agreed. Budget is \$11,000 and we're hoping to bring in \$8,000. b) Tickets will be \$30 for the banquet; c) It was suggested that purchasing tablecloths would be smarter than renting them. That amount (around \$300) will be included in the budget.
3. Treasurers' Report – Statement of June, 2011. a) Pointed out an error on the report; PG&E payment of 12,824.43 should be in the hall construction account; b) \$2270.20 net income; c) Loan from Chase Bank has been approved. We are borrowing \$400,000 and should have the money by Friday.
4. Grounds and Facilities Report: Buildings & Grounds – Protection Cupolas – in Serge's shop. Waterproofing windows in St. Seraphim Altar – bid received from Creative Roofing (\$4,000). Status of fresco painting – Pentecost icon will be finished next week; the icon of St. Mary of Egypt receiving Communion from St. Zosima (beneath the Pentecost icon) will be next. The church will be cleaned up and empty for the anniversary festivities.
5. Cost of grounds maintenance: We have two separate committees: The Landscaping (Mat. Ann heads that up), and the Grounds (Alla is directing our Grounds' Keeper). Grounds' involves weed abatement in the parking lots, mowing and weedwhacking the hillside, trimming large bushes, and dump runs. Annual meeting discussion on this hoped to decrease costs. At this point, because the grounds are so large, and we have no parishioner involvement, we are spending sometimes up to \$1000 per month. We need someone to effectively manage the grounds committee by the end of August.
6. Old Business: Construction Details
7. Next meeting will be Thursday, August 25, 2011. Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:12 p.m.