

## Care of the Creation

*Excerpt from a speech by His Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople:*

...Dear friends, if we do not live more simply, we cannot learn to share. And if we do not learn to share, then how can we expect to survive? This may be a fundamental religious and spiritual value. Yet it is also a fundamental ethical and existential principle. Each of us is called to draw a distinction between what we want and what we need, or – more importantly – what the world needs. Greed and gratification reduce the world to a survival of the fittest; whereas generosity and gratitude transform the world into a community of sharing. We are invited to pursue a way of sacrifice – not a sacrifice that is cheap, but a sacrifice that is costly. As King David once said: “I will not offer to the Lord my God a sacrifice that costs me nothing” (2 Samuel 24.24). We must be prepared to make sacrifices – material and financial – that are genuine and even painful. And in this regard, whether we like it or not, more is demanded from the rich than from the poor.

Of course, sacrifice is primarily a spiritual issue and less an economic one. Similarly, in speaking of the environmental crisis, we are referring to an issue that is not technological or political, but ethical. The real crisis lies not in the environment but in the human heart. The fundamental problem is to be found not outside but inside ourselves, not in the ecosystem, but in the way we think.

Without a revolutionary change within ourselves, all our conservation projects will ultimately remain insufficient and ineffective. We know what needs to be done and we know how it must be done. Yet, despite the information at our disposal, unfortunately very little is done. It is a long journey from the head to the heart; and it is an even longer journey from the heart to the hands....



## THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH

ST PAUL DISCUSSES SIN in the *Epistle to the Romans*. Using this scriptural teaching of the Holy Apostle, the Orthodox fathers teach that the sin of Adam led all his descendants to inherit death, corruptibility, spiritual illness

(which brings death of the soul and then the death of the body), and a powerful inclination away from God—willing and unwilling—because of impulses and desires caused by sin, which are contrary to the nature with which man was created (*passions*). Of course, sin means failure, missing the mark, falling off of a true path. Sometimes, very often in fact, we define sin as certain specific morally wrong actions, transgression. This is only part of the picture, because the acts of sin are only symptoms of something else, which is a diseased condition of the soul, ignorance, and the passions. Sin is a rejection of personal communion with God, a failure of love. Willingly or unwillingly done, sin is enslavement and loss of freedom.

When St Paul wrote that the “wages of sin is death” he meant that sin is our fatal illness, it kills us, soul and body by shutting down the relationship between us and God. The “wages” are not a punishment from God—Who did not create death—but a result of sin. Without exception, the fathers of the Church refuse to blame God for death. If God created death, well, he could just as easily have abolished it by the same type of divine command. No divine command from God in his holy heaven could change the fact that man preferred himself to God. Yes, God permitted death, and He did that out of mercy, so that “evil would not be eternal” to quote one of the Holy Fathers. Adam died because he sinned; now we sin because we die: the “sting of death is sin” says St Paul. Death is therefore the root, and sin is the thorn that springs from it. At the same time, sin is the seed, and death a terrible and rotten fruit.

Death prevents us from living an eternal life of death, dying and suffering, and we are free from death by the death of Christ. Our death is first, an entry into His Presence, and secondly, the “seed” of the resurrection of our body. We are not made to be disembodied souls, or angels, or whatever. We are humans—and our resurrection is the restoration of human life as God intended.

St Paul also wrote that the “last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” And Christ has already accomplished this victory over death in Himself, and we that are **in Christ** by Baptism, Chrismation, Communion and the sharing of His Divine Uncreated Energies enter into the Kingdom now, even before our death, and become bearers of the Holy Spirit, rather than bearers of death.

—Father Lawrence

## 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 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 |

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **MANY YEARS:** The parish rejoices on the occasion of the baptism of Edith Dovey, on Sunday, August 19. Many Years. We are looking forward to baptizing the child of Huwan Tekeste, on Sunday, August 26, and the child of Brendan and Eirini Schettig on Sunday, September 16 at 10:30 AM, following the Divine Liturgy.

• **RECEPTION OF CATECHUMEN:** Alberto Vincent Ramirez will be received as a Catechumen prior to Liturgy on Sunday, August 26. Alberto (most call him Tito) is engaged to Mica Anastasia Castillo, and has been preparing for baptism for a couple of months now. God-willing he will be baptized on Sunday, October 7, at 9 AM, and he and Mica united in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, October 14.

• **LECTURE ON TUESDAY, August 28 at 7 PM.** The eminent Mr. Alexis Liberovsky, Archivist for the Orthodox Church in America, will be speaking on the history of major Russian Orthodox archival resources in North America, from the Alaskan period until today, with a focus on Saint Tikhon. He will also help us to create/preserve parish archives, doing oral history, etc., and hopes to show photos of our parish that are in the OCA Archives in NY.

• **LUNCH FELLOWSHIP:** The next Senior Fellowship Luncheon will be on Thursday, August 30 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. **OUR CHOIR AND SISTERHOOD** has once again brought honor to the Parish by their participation in the events at Fort Ross. Our choir, with invited additional singers, sang the Liturgy responses in English, under the direction of Nicolas Custer; our Sisterhood, led by Lisa Moroz, did their part in preparing and serving lunch at the Fort. May the Lord reward them all for their efforts to glorify God and care for the neighbor.

• **SISTER PARISH FEAST DAY:** Holy Dormition Parish, on Rose Ave, in Santa Rosa, has invited us to their Altar Feast of Dormition (Old Style): The Festal Vigil will begin at 6:30 PM on Monday, August 27. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 8:30

AM with His Grace Bishop Daniil of the Bulgarian Diocese of American presiding. A festal lunch will follow.

- **GLENDI:** Our Glendi Set-Up Team is looking for volunteers for tasks on the following days:
  - Saturday, September 1, 9 AM. Assembly of pop-up Glendi tents, inventory, cleaning and prep of equipment.
  - Saturday, September 8, 11 AM. Attaching "skirts" and "walls" on Glendi tents, moving in of tables, set-up of Hall
  - Wednesday, September 12 (day time and after work). Continue grounds set up, Kitchen prep work
  - Thursday, September 13 (day time). As above
  - Friday, September 14 (following the Divine Liturgy for the Cross): Prep grounds, prep parking lots, prepare food, post signs on street
  - We need at least 10 adults/teens for the work on Friday, all day, at any point. Please let Father Lawrence, Joe Anderson, or Geoffrey Lake know when you are coming.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Vespers on Saturday, Sept. 15 will be at 4 PM. Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Sept. 16 will be at 9 AM.
- **DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY:** The Parish Council unanimously elected Bonnie Alexander to be the Parish Delegate at the Annual Diocesan Assembly, October 2-4 in Denver. The Assembly is the gathering of all the parish clergy and delegates, with our Diocesan Archbishop in order to approve diocesan budgets, hear departmental reports, and celebrate the Divine Liturgy.

# Parish Council Minutes, Thursday, July 26, 2012

We began with prayer at 7:06 PM.

Attending: Fr. Lawrence Margitich, Serge Anderson, Bonnie Alexander, Debbie Buse, Gary Collins, Petar Griovski, Ole Kern, Sergei Moroz, Lisa Moroz, (Sisterhood President). Absent: Lew Baer, Maaza Belata, Preston Booker, Nick Nicholson and Denise Pellizzer. Guest: Esther Schau.

1. May 24, 2012 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
2. Rector's Report:
  - (a) Thank you to everyone who helped while Fr. Lawrence was on vacation and thanks for those who helped with the recent weddings;
  - (b) Father pointed out that the structure of the OCA works as demonstrated by the recent resignation of the Metropolitan. Don't pay attention to internet speculation;
  - (c) Fr. Lawrence wants to raise the awareness of the parish regarding proportional giving and the meaning of church membership and a published list of members. The council supports this plan. More on this later.
  - (d) Fort Ross Bicentennial—we have been asked to clean the church, to sing and to provide transportation. Gary Collins will determine how many people are going so we can organize transportation.
3. Treasurers' Report—May/June 2012
  - a. Petar explained that in June we had \$6765.52 more in expenses than we had income.
4. Facilities Maintenance Report:
  - a. Cupolas/Repair of Protection Bell Tower: No one showed up for the work party July 14. Last week Serge asked Fr. Lawrence for a blessing to hire Greg Sanford and his crew, given, and the work should be finished by the end of next week.
  - b. Repairs in St. Seraphim: grout in altar tile, sacristy door sheetrock—Herman will take care of these items. Serge pointed out that he needs to use flexible grout.
5. Old Business:
  - a. Monastery Benefit, Nov. 4, 2012
  - b. Fresco/Scaffold Costs Funds for icons in the three triangles have been received. Since we have to work from the top down, Fr. Moses and Fr. Lawrence checked with Marshall Scaffolding and received a bid \$2800 per month rental (set-up, \$14 a day after one month). Discussed purchasing rather than renting.
  - c. Glendi 2012, Esther Schau
    - i. Freezer—review new info We fixed the old freezer and it is up and running. Cost was about \$2500.
    - ii. Preparations: We need to talk up volunteering to our newer members and encourage them to participate. Costs have risen dramatically for radio time. Unloading truck on August 17; work parties Sept 1 and 8.
  - d. Chairs for Church—money given already. We have received a donation of \$2,000 for chairs; they need to be selected. E-mail Fr. Lawrence if you want to have input.
6. New Business:
  - a. Air Conditioner for Glendi Office Will be installed asap.
  - b. Fort Ross—cleaning chapel—Fr. Lawrence will organize this for sometime during the week prior to August 25.
  - c. Work Party—Mat. Ann has requested a work party for various landscaping projects. We will have it on August 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Misc.: Question from Gary Collins from a parishioner re: whether the parish paid for Fr. Lawrence to attend a wedding in Chicago. Petar assured the Council that the wedding party took care of the airfare, and that the parish had nothing to do with it. Fr. Lawrence concurred.
  - e. Hall Rentals—Debbie Buse wants guidance on whether she should keep the security deposit for the recent rental. We agreed that Fr. Lawrence should not be involved in any of the details of hall rentals. The council voted that we should keep the security deposit because they used the hall much longer than contracted for.
  - f. Glendi Truck—will go away after it is emptied on August 17.
7. Next meeting will be Thursday, August 23, 2012. Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:20 p.m.

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## SEPTEMBER 2012

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
|  |   |   |  |   |   | <b>1</b><br>• 9:30 AM Glendi Work Party<br>• 5 PM, Great Vespers with Akathist <i>Glory to God for all things</i>                        |
| <b>2 - Sts. Anthony and Theodosius</b><br>• 9-10 AM, Confessions<br>• 10 AM Liturgy<br>• Noon, Agape Meal  | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>• 5 PM, Catechism<br>• 6 PM, Vespers   | <b>6</b><br>• 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim  | <b>7</b><br>• 6:15 PM, Great Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos            | <b>8</b><br>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos<br>• 9:30 AM Glendi Work Party<br>• 5 PM Great Vespers, Confessions |
| <b>9 - Sts. Joachim and Anna</b><br>• 9-10 AM, Confessions<br>• 10 AM Liturgy<br>• Noon, Agape Meal  | <b>10</b><br>• Glendi work each day, times vary, see Kitchen schedule and Outdoor Schedule                        | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br>• 5 PM, Catechism<br>• 6 PM, Vespers  | <b>13</b><br>• 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy (Sakovich family)<br>• 6:15 PM, Great Vespers for Exaltation of the Holy Cross | <b>14 - Cross Feast</b><br>• 8 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross | <b>15 - GLENDI DAY 1</b><br>• <i>Opens at 11 AM</i><br>• 4 PM Great Vespers<br>• 8 PM, Concert   |
| <b>16 - GLENDI DAY 2</b><br>• 9 AM Liturgy<br>• 10:30 AM, Baptism of Baby Damian John Schettig<br>• <i>Noon: Glendi Opens</i>                                  | <b>17</b><br>• <b>10 AM, GLENDI CLEAN-UP</b>  | <b>18</b><br>• <b>10 AM, GLENDI CLEAN-UP</b>  | <b>19</b><br>• 5 PM, Catechism<br>• 6 PM, Vespers  | <b>20</b><br>• 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim   | <b>21</b><br>• 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy (Sakovich family)                    | <b>22</b><br>• 5 PM Resurrectional Vigil, Confessions  |
| <b>23 - Conception of St. John</b><br>• 9-10 AM, Confessions<br>• 10 AM Liturgy<br>• 11:45 AM, Church School<br>• Noon, Agape Meal<br>• 12:45, Choir Rehearsal | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b><br>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, St. John the Theologian<br>• 5 PM, Catechism<br>• 6 PM, Vespers | <b>27</b><br>• Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship<br>• 6 PM, Akathist to the Protection of the Virgin<br>• 7 PM, Parish Council  | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b><br>( <i>Hall being rented today</i> )<br>• 5 PM Great Vespers, Confessions   |
| <b>30 - St. Gregory of Armenia</b><br>• 9-10 AM, Confessions<br>• 10 AM Liturgy<br>• 11:45 AM, Church School<br>• Noon, Agape Meal<br>• <b>5 PM, VIGIL</b>     | <b>OCTOBER 1</b><br>• <b>Feast of the Protection of the Virgin, 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy &amp; Festal Luncheon</b> | <b>2</b><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">                         Father Lawrence in Denver for Diocesan Assembly                     </div> | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br>• 5 PM, Great Vespers  |