

THE ORTHODOX MESSENGER

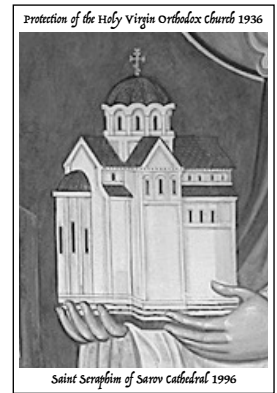
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THOUGHTS ON SANCTITY

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS follows the week after Pentecost, as a kind of confirmation and celebration that the power of the Holy Spirit, imparted in the Holy Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation, is effective, real and powerful. Pentecost bestows the gift of the Spirit, in fulfillment of the Lord's promise that He would send the Comforter, and He would *abide with us forever*. The Spirit of Truth unites us to the Risen and Ascended Lord, and so the Paschal victory over sin and death is made possible in us. Of course, we must respond, accept and live the Paschal mystery of the Cross and Resurrection in our daily lives. Those who do respond are the saints—and certainly there are far more saints known only to God, and perhaps to their families or monasteries, than whose names appear in our service books. When Christians depart this life, they remain a vital part of the Church, the body of Christ. They are alive in the Lord and “registered in heaven” (Hebrews 12:23). They worship God (Revelation 4:10) and inhabit His heavenly dwelling places (John 14:2). In the Eucharist we come “to the city of the living God” and join in communion with the saints in our worship of God (Hebrews 12:22). They are that “great cloud of witnesses” which surrounds us, and we seek to imitate them in running “the race set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). Rejecting or ignoring the communion of saints is a denial of the fact that those who have died in Christ are still part of his holy Church. The True Church is

composed of all who are in Christ—in heaven and on earth. It is not limited in membership to those presently alive. Those in heaven with Christ are alive, in communion with God, worshipping God, doing their part in the Body of Christ. They actively pray to God for all those in the Church—and indeed, for the whole world (Ephesians 6:8; Revelation 8:3). So we pray to the saints who have departed this life, seeking their prayers, even as we ask friends on earth to pray for us. The saints provide us with living testimonies of a redeemed humanity. They show that Christian perfection—not a perfection moral, ethical, physical, emotional or psychological, but one Christian, coming from Jesus Christ—is not an absurd or inaccessible goal. They are the ones whom God has touched and made whole. They shine with the uncreated light of the Godhead, irradiating their humanity with the new life of the Kingdom against which even death itself has no power. They are mirrors, as we behold them, of what we could be. They inspire us towards this goal, theosis, the promise of a new humanity, a New Creation, transcending even the biological necessities towards something sublime and true, the Love of God made visible, the birth pangs of a new age in which God shall be all and in all when He comes to raise all from the dead.

—*adapted*



ALL ORTHODOX parents want their children to grow up attending Sunday Liturgies and staying active in the life of the Church throughout their lives. Yet many parents don't demonstrate the importance of having a personal relationship with God in front of their children. If you do not make God important, neither will your child. Children observe their parents. They see hypocrisy and know when you are not following through with the teachings of the Church during the week. They hear when you take the Lord's name in vain. They notice when you reserve prayer to weekend service. They notice you only speaking of God on a Sunday morning. Making the sign of the cross, lighting candles and burning incense

only on Sundays teaches your children to compartmentalize their own faith, and leaves them defenseless in a world filled with temptations and distractions from things that are of a spiritual nature. If you do not demonstrate the importance of prayer before your children, you will leave them defenseless in a world that hates Christ. Your children need to pray with you, read the scriptures with you, be taught the faith by you. If you do not make your home a domestic church, your children will be lost to Christ, and Orthodoxy will not be lived out beyond your own grave. If they do not see you living a committed life in Christ, they will turn from the faith, and Orthodoxy will not survive into the next generation. —*Abbot Tryphon*

Parish of the Protection of the Holy Virgin

St. Seraphim of Sarov Cathedral

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JULY ORDINATION

THE SUMMER FEAST of St. Seraphim of Sarov is July 19. We begin the festivities with Vigil on Wednesday, July 18 at 6:15 PM. The following morning at 9:30 AM we will greet our Diocesan Hierarchy, Archbishop Benjamin, and begin the Divine Liturgy.

Thanks be to God, during the Liturgy, immediately following the *Cherubic Hymn* and the *Great Entrance*, Deacon Nicholas will be escorted from the Nave into the Altar to the Bishop—as one of the offerings that day—and the ceremony of the ordination to the Holy Priesthood will begin. More details to come.

Please keep Deacon Nicholas and Matushka Esther, James and Connor, in your prayers as this important day in life of the Deacon, his family and our parish approaches.

Father Nicholas will officially begin assisting me in pastoral work mid-June, and after his ordination, will be appointed second priest of the parish, splitting his work hours between his teaching position and the parish. —Fr. Lawrence

How Should We Live?

First, live as though in the coming of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God has been inaugurated into the world and the outcome of history has already been determined (Quit worrying).

Second, love people as the very image of God and resist the temptation to improve them.

Third, refuse to make economics the basis of your life. Your job is not even of secondary importance.

Fourth, quit arguing about politics as though the political realm were the answer to the world's problems. It gives it power that is not legitimate and enables a project that is anti-God.

Fifth, learn to love your enemies. God did not place them in the world for us to fix or eliminate. If possible, refrain from violence.

Sixth, raise the taking of human life to a matter of prime importance and refuse to accept violence as a means to peace. Every single life is a vast and irreplaceable treasure.

Seventh, cultivate contentment rather than pleasure. It will help you consume less and free you from slavery to your economic masters.

Eighth, as much as possible, think small. You are not in charge of the world. Love what is local, at hand, personal, intimate, unique, and natural. It's a preference that matters.

Ninth, learn another language. Very few things are better at teaching you about who you are not.

Tenth, be thankful for everything, remembering that the world we live in and everything in it belongs to God.

—from an article by Father Stephen Freeman

CALLING ALL YOUTH (AGES 11 AND UP)

Please join St. Seraphim Youth on a trip to San Francisco to the office and relics of Saint John Maximovich on Tuesday, June 26th.

Father James Corazzo will meet us at the church of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk at 11 AM. Afterwards, we will have lunch in the city.

We have invited other Orthodox churches from our area as well. We are hoping this will give our youth in the North Bay area the opportunity to get to know each other. We hope you can join us.

Please keep in mind we are trying to keep this a "youth" activity. This means we are organizing this trip for kids who are 11-18 years of age. More details to follow. Let us know if you can come!! Speak with or email Vicky Basch: vbasch@sonic.net or (707) 291-2369.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK distribution will take place on Wednesday, June 13. Volunteers are asked to arrive no later than 5 PM.
- THE SENIOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP will be held on Thursday, June 14, at Noon, as part of the St. Seraphim Week activities. All retired and senior parishioners are welcome.
- BAPTISM: Please keep Jeanie Carl in your prayers as she prepares for Holy Baptism on Pentecost, May 27, 9 AM. Nicolas Custer and Bonnie Alexander will stand as her sponsors. The following Sunday, at 9 AM, we will baptize Luke Rademacher, son of Brian and Ania. Shannon Winterton and Garret Paul Hamner will serve as sponsors.
- PENTECOST POTLUCK: Bring a dish to share.
- SISTERHOOD WORK PARTY: June 9, reorganizing storage bay #1. Time: 1 PM. Help needed.
- ANOTHER FAREWELL: Lisa Wespiser will be moving to Idaho in June and so we will gather together to wish her well, on June 1, at the Owens home. Next in line to move, alas, are Sean, Vipassana, Tatiana and Athena Esbjorn-Hargens, who are moving to France for a year or so. Their last Sunday will be June 10. May God bless their journey, and return them to us.
- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK: Our annual "Vacation Bible School" will be held from June 11-15. Daily schedule here at the church will start with arrivals by 10 AM, a morning prayer at 10:15 AM sharp, followed by a brief spiritual lesson with Fr. Lawrence, then crafts, games, snacks, folk dancing, music, and a wrap-up prayer at 1 PM. This year our spiritual focus will be on the miracles of Jesus Christ. Registration and Volunteer forms are available at the candle desk after Liturgy. We are looking for volunteers, age 17 and older. Please contact Gloria Collins at (707) 849-6135.
- WEDNESDAY EVENING TALKS: Andrew Vernon, a theology student and a parish member of St. Nicholas in Anselmo, will give two talks on the Orthodox doctrine of the Holy Trinity, Wednesdays, June 6 and 13. The talks are preceded by the 6 PM Vespers and a Potluck.
- VACATION TIME: Fr. Lawrence and Matushka Ann will be away on vacation from June 18-July 2. While away, Father John will be assisted by Fr. Theodor Svane (he and his family are visiting and will stay at the Rectory) and Deacon Nicholas.
- WE WELCOME Alexander Norton, from St. Tikhon's Seminary, who will be with us as a summer intern from June 21-August 8. Sometime near the end of September we hope to receive another intern and his wife to be with us for a year. The newly married J.J. (John) and Janine Kotalik currently live and work in Seattle, where he (a grad from St. Tikhon's Seminary) directs the choir at St. Spyridon Orthodox Cathedral (OCA). Planning for the long-term, we are now converting the Sunday school rooms to an apartment for the intern (subsequently we will convert one of the storage building bays to two classrooms). Our intern will be shared with Holy Trinity Cathedral in SF, where he could assist Fr. Kirill a couple days a week, and work here the rest of the time. We hope for an ordination to the Holy Diaconate either before or during his internship. Let us all pray for God's blessing upon the internship program. —Fr. Lawrence
- THE DEANERY SUMMER CAMP will be held from July 8-14. See the flyer posted in the Narthex, or click on dowoca.org/steugenescamp.html for more information for campers and counselors.

UNDERSTANDING EPHESIANS 5

WHEN WE SPEAK of the wife obeying the husband, we normally think of obedience in military or political terms: the husband giving orders, and the wife obeying them. But while this type of obedience may be appropriate in the army, it is ridiculous in the intimate relationship of marriage. The obedient wife does not wait for orders. Rather, she tries to discern her husband's needs and feelings, and responds in love. When she sees her husband is weary, she encourages him to rest; when she sees him agitated, she soothes him; when he is ill, she nurses and comforts him; when he is happy and elated, she shares his joy. Yet such obedience *should not be confined* to the wife; the husband should be obedient in the same way. When she is weary, he should relieve her of her work; when she is sad, he should cherish her, holding her gently in his arms; when she is filled with good cheer, he should also share her good cheer. Thus a good marriage is not a matter of one partner obeying the other, but of both partners obeying each other."

—St John Chrysostom

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 - HOLY PENTECOST • 9 AM, Baptism of J. Carl • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Kneeling Vespers • Noon, Potluck Agape	28 - Memorial Day • Noon, Memorial Prayers at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery	29	30 - NO FAST • 6 PM, Vespers	31	JUNE 1 • 6 PM, Farewell for Lisa Wespiser at Owen's home	2 • 4 PM, Children's Choir • 4:30 PM, Panikhida for Sakovich family • 5 PM, Great Vespers
3 - All Saints Sunday • 9 AM, Baptism of Luke Rademacher • 10 AM, Liturgy (Children's Choir) • Noon, Agape Meal	4 Beginning of the Apostles Fast, ends June 29	5	6 • 6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and Talk on the Holy Trinity, Pt 1	7	8	9 • 1 PM, Sisterhood Work Party • 5 PM, Great Vespers
10 - All Saints of Russia/Amer. • 10 AM, Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church Sch • Noon, Agape Meal	11 • 10 AM to 1 PM, St. Seraphim Week	12 • 10 AM to 1 PM, St. Seraphim Week	13 • 10 AM to 1 PM, St. Seraphim Week • 5 PM, Food Bank • 6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and Talk on the Holy Trinity, Pt 2	14 • 10 AM to 1 PM, St. Seraphim Week • Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship	15 • 10 AM to 1 PM, St. Seraphim Week	16 • 5 PM, Great Vespers
17 - St. Manuel of Persia • 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal	18 <i>[Fr. Lawrence on vacation, returns July 2]</i>	19	20 • 6 PM, Vespers	21 • 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting	22	23 • 5 PM, Great Vespers
24 - Nativity of St. John • 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal	25	26 • <i>Youth Trip to St. Tikhon's House in SF, depart at 10 AM</i>	27 • 6 PM, Vespers	28 • 6 PM, Great Vespers for the Apostles	29 - Sts. Peter and Paul • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (fish, wine and oil)	30 • 5 PM, Great Vespers
July 1 • 10 AM, Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 1:15 PM Akathist to St. John of San Francisco	2 - St. John of SF	3	4 • 10 AM, Fort Ross Divine Liturgy and picnic <i>No Vespers</i>	5	6	7 • 5 PM, Great Vespers

- *The two talks on the Holy Trinity will be given by Andrew Vernon, from St. Nicholas in San Anselmo, a student of the noted patristics scholar, Bishop Irenei (Steenburg) of Sacramento.*
- *Annual Pilgrimage to Fort Ross: 10 AM, July 4. Divine Liturgy and picnic*