

- ANNUAL MEETING:

Next Sunday, February 3, we will hold our Annual Parish Membership Meeting. We begin at 12:30 PM. Bring a sack-lunch, since no meal will be prepared that day. Let ALL of our parish members attend the meeting.

- CONTINUING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

On Wednesdays at 6 PM we have the brief and lovely service of “Daily Vespers.” Following the service, those who are interested are invited to come to the Hall to share a potluck dinner—please remember that “potluck” means we all bring some food to share) and to have a spiritual talk and discussion. This coming Wednesday Father Nicholas will finish up his series on the Letters of St. John Chrysostom (whose feast we keep this Sunday) to his dear friend St. Olympias the Deaconess. Father John Schettig will begin a three-part series on Genesis, starting Wednesday, Feb. 6.

- WORDS OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM:

What funerals are for: The singing of psalms, the prayers, the assembling of the [spiritual] fathers and brethren—all this is not that you may weep and lament and afflict yourselves, but that you may render thanks to Him who has taken the departed. For as when men are called to some high office, multitudes with praises on their lips assemble to escort them at their departure to their stations, so do all with abundant praise join to send forward, as to greater honor, those of the pious who have departed.... Consider to whom the departed has gone and take comfort. He has gone where Paul is, and Peter; and the whole company of the saints. Consider how he shall arise, and with what glory and splendor.

There is nothing more worthwhile than to pray to God and to converse with him, for prayer unites us with God as his companions. As our bodily eyes are illuminated by seeing the light, so in contemplating God our soul is illuminated by him. Of course the prayer I have in mind is no matter of routine, it is deliberate and earnest. It is not tied down to a fixed timetable; rather it is a state which endures by night and day.

Our soul should be directed in God, not merely when we suddenly think of prayer, but even when we are concerned with something else. If we are looking after the poor, if we are busy in some other way, or if we are doing any type of good work, we should season our actions with the desire and the remembrance of God. Through this salt of the love of God we can all become a sweet dish for the Lord. If we are generous in giving time to prayer, we will experience its benefits throughout our life.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



January 27, 2019

St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life-Immortal, Thou didst slay Hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead; and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, Tone Eight:

Grace shining forth from thy mouth like a beacon hath illumined the universe, and disclosed to the world treasures of uncovetousness, and shown us the heights of humility; but whilst instructing us by thy words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede with the Word, Christ our God to save our souls.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

Hades became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb. The dead arose, creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced with Thee; and the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

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- KONTAKION OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, Tone Two:
From the Heavens hast thou received divine grace, and by thy lips thou dost teach all to worship the One God in Trinity, O John Chrysostom, all-blessed righteous one. Rightly do we acclaim thee, for thou art a teacher revealing things divine.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Jan. 26: 4 PM, Children's Choir Rehearsal
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, Jan. 27: 8:40 AM, Matins
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, Jan. 28: 6 PM, Panikhida for George Barsi
- Tuesday, Jan. 29: 10 AM, Funeral for George Barsi, Burial in
Healdsburg, Memorial Meal here
6 PM, Vespers for Three Holy Hierarchs
- Wednesday, Jan. 30: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of the Three Holy
Hierarchs (St. Seraphim Church)
6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and Talk on the Letters
of St. John Chrysostom to St. Olympias
- Friday, Feb. 1: 5 PM–6 PM, *Fr. Lawrence available for Confessions*
6:15 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the Meeting of
the Lord in the Temple
- Saturday, Feb. 2: 9:30 AM (**note time**), Divine Liturgy for the
Feast, sung by the Children's Choir
5 PM, Great Vespers

- FUNERAL FOR GEORGE BARSII:

It is with great sadness, yet with hope in the resurrection from the dead, that on Tuesday we learned of the sudden repose of our brother-in-Christ George Barsi. George was a dear friend to many of us, and a constant and reliable laborer for the glory of God in the Church. May the Lord grant him the Kingdom of Heaven. A Panikhida will be served on Monday, January 29 at 6 PM in the Cathedral. The Funeral Service will take place

the next morning, January 29, at 10 AM, followed by burial at Oakmound Cemetery in Healdsburg, and a Memorial Meal here at the Church. At 6 PM we will have Vespers for the *Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs, St. Gregory, St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil.*

- FEAST DAY CELEBRATION:

The Feast Days of the Lord are opportunities for us to spiritually understand (mind and heart) Christ's life and all He did for us. When we prepare for and receive the Holy Mysteries on a feast we are entering into the reality, the power, the meaning and the grace of that event recounted in Scripture or in Sacred Tradition. We become participants in that sacred event. The feasts lead us to a deeper and more gratitude-filled faith, and they offer us the opportunity to rejoice together. Our presence at the Feast Days, particularly those of Christ and the Theotokos, are also a sign of our *fidelity and faithfulness to the Church life*. In missing feast days we miss the time and place to "inch" a bit closer to Christ, to struggle against ourselves and to put first things first. Orthodoxy is not Sunday-only. Not all can attend a morning Liturgy on a feast day, because of jobs and school. But most can attend the Vigil or Vespers (or a portion of it) the evening before. Plan ahead, make the day special (even if you cannot come) with a meal and a prayer at home with the family, and recount together what the Lord has done for you.

On Friday, February 1, we will celebrate the Vigil for the *Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple* (see Luke 2:22–40 if you want to understand the meaning of the Feast). On Saturday, February 2, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy (it begins at **9:30 AM** not 9 AM) and bless candles at the end, as is traditional. Our Children's Choir will sing the Liturgy.

- CHURCH CLEANING SIGN-UP SHEET:

A new sign-up sheet has been posted on the Church bulletin board, next to the stairs. If every parish family will sign up to clean our Church, all will be able to participate in the grace of the prayer: "O Lord, bless those who love the beauty of Thy House."

- CONCERT BY THE KONEVETS QUARTET:

The famed *Konevets Quartet* will sing Vespers on Feb. 23, and a concert of liturgical and folk music at 7 PM. Refreshments included in the \$15 donation. See the flyer for more info. Please invite a friend.