

grieved by praises and other superfluous remarks. The degree of our humility is measured by slander. Don't think that you have humility when you cannot forbear even the slightest accusation." St. Theophan the Recluse wrote: "...even if a person's sin is not only obvious, but very grievous and comes from a hardened and unrepentant heart, do not condemn him, but raise your eyes to the wondrous and incomprehensible judgments of God; then you will see that many people, formerly full of iniquity, later repented and reached a high degree of sanctity, and that, on the other hand, others, who were on a high level of perfection, fell into a deep abyss. Take care, lest you also suffer this calamity through judging others." And finally, these words from St. Maximos the Confessor: "He who busies himself with the sins of others, or judges his brother on suspicion, has not yet even begun to repent or to examine himself so as to discover his own sins..."

- BLINI BRUNCH, FEBRUARY 23 AT NOON:

Please join us for our traditional Blini Brunch complete with sour cream, lox, herring, and caviar...and of course, butter, syrup and bacon! We will be honoring this tradition with our family and friends, so make sure to invite them! Please come enjoy Blini with us as we prepare to enter that wonderful time of Lent. Prices for the Blini Brunch will be a la carte. Wine, juice, coffee and tea will be available for a small additional charge. Children's plates are available.

- PAISH MINISTRIES TO FILL:

The Annual Meeting report listed the following areas of parish life and activities which need to be filled: Coordinators for youth work for elementary, middle school and high school students; coordinator for a Ride Ministry (getting those without transportation to Sunday Liturgy); drip line maintenance in the garden; meal set-up volunteer. We thank Alla Keyes for once again taking on the position of liaison with the hired groundskeeper. Please see Fr. Lawrence if you are interested in helping in any of these or other areas.

- FRESCOS:

The painting of the prophets is underway, starting with Moses, as one might assume. *Three Holy Prophets out of the twelve have not yet been commissioned: Habakkuk, Joel and Jonah.* Daniel and Jeremiah were spoken for in the last two weeks.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 9, 2014  
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

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- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:  
Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.
- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:  
By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam; Eve exults in Thy resurrection; and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One.
- KONTAKION OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE, Tone Four:  
Let us flee the Pharisee's conceited vaunting; let us learn the Publican's humility, and cry with groans unto the Savior: Thou Who alone art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Feb. 8: *Catechism has moved to Wednesdays at 3 PM*  
5 PM, VIGIL / Confessions
- Sunday, Feb. 9: 9 AM—Confessions; 10 AM—Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape Meal
- Wed., Feb. 12: 6 PM, Daily Vespers, Potluck dinner and  
Scripture Study in Hall (**Fast Free day**)
- Thursday, Feb. 13: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. Symeon the  
Myrrh-streaming
- Friday, Feb. 14: 6 PM, Poetry and Music Evening (**Fast Free day**)

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Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa  
707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

- CATECHISM CLASS:

Class time has changed from Saturday at 3:30 PM to Wednesday at 3 PM. Please consult calendar for topics. All are welcome.

- SCRIPTURE STUDY:

Please join us on Wednesday evening for Vespers at 6 PM, followed by a potluck (this week there is NO fasting), and a talk on the Holy Scriptures.

- PARISH COUNCIL:

We congratulate the newly elected Parish Council Members, starting a two year term: Serge Anderson, Bonnie Alexander, Amy Ramirez Margitich, Thom Stewart, Ole Kern and Ryan Panteleimon Duval. They join the standing members: Tom Pellizzer, Debbie Buse, Kristine Tellefsen and David Winterton. The Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, at 7 PM.

- POETY AND MUSIC EVENING, FEB. 14:

On that day of love dedicated to St. Valentine, we will hold our yearly **MUSIC AND POETRY EVENING**. From **six o'clock on**, Eros and Amor will guide our words and actions. Talented Parish members will entertain and enthrall us with their musical and poetic abilities. Spaghetti, salad and parish wine will be abundant, the rest of the evening meal on this Fast-Free Friday will be POT LUCK. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and those who have performing abilities are urged to sign up with Vladimir at [ursusmjr@sonic.net](mailto:ursusmjr@sonic.net) or 707 479-9437.

- GREAT LENT:

The spiritual springtime of repentance begins with the Vespers of Forgiveness, 1:15 PM, Sunday, March 2, following the Sunday Agape meal.

- BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN TRIODION:

The Orthodox Church uses many different books and collections of hymns in the Divine Services. On the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee we begin to use the Lenten hymn book, called the *Lenten Triodion* (referring to the many three-ode hymns found in it). This book contains the magnificent collection of hymns, composed by many saintly hymnographers from the 3rd–18th centuries, among those whom we can identify we count St. Romanos the Melodist (6th century), St. Kosmas the Melodist, Bishop of Maiouma, St. John of Damascus and St. Andrew of Crete (all three from the 8th century), and the 9th century Leo the Emperor and nun St.

Kassiani. The earliest hymn in the book, *Beneath thy compassion, we take refuge, O Theotokos...* can be traced to a Coptic manuscript dating about 250 AD. Much of the material contained in the *Triodion* was compiled and arranged by the monks of the Monastery of Studios in Constantinople during the course of the 8th–9th centuries. There is a wonderful tradition from the Greek island of Zakynthos regarding the “opening” of the *Triodion* at the Vespers of the Publican and Pharisee. The *Triodion* book is placed on a table under the icon of Christ, to the right of the Royal Gate on the iconostasis. Following the Resurrection hymns of *Lord, I Have Cried*, and before the hymns from the *Triodion* are to be chanted, a member of the clergy takes the *Triodion* from its place and gives it to the bishop, who is standing at his episcopal throne. From there it is handed over to the lead chanter, who after venerating the book opens it and begins chanting the appropriate hymns, thus inaugurating the season of repentance.

- SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE:

Four Sundays before Great Lent we hear in Church, each and every year, the parable of the Publican and Pharisee (Luke 18). The reading brings to our attention, among other things, our essential need for dependance on God, our need for humility, and the danger of judging others. What lessons from this famous parable are we going to put into practice in our lives? We are preparing ourselves now for Great Lent; we are already on a journey. St. Dorotheos of Gaza (6th century) wrote the following: “Listen to what the Lord Himself tells us: ‘Learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart and you shall find rest for your souls’ (Mt. 11:29). There you have it in a nutshell: He has taught us the root and cause of all evils and also the remedy, leading to all good. He shows us that pretensions to superiority cast us down and that it is impossible to obtain mercy except by the contrary, that is to say, by humility. Self-elevation begets contempt and disobedience begets perdition whereas humility begets obedience and the saving of souls. And I call that real humility which is not humble in word and outward appearance but is deeply planted in the heart; for this is what He meant when He said that ‘I am meek and humble of heart.’” A careful rereading of the Parable might be in order. Abba Mark of the Desert said that “when you see someone crying over the many insults he has received, you should know that, because he was overcome by vainglory [pride], he is now unknowingly reaping the crop of evils in his heart. He who loves pleasure is grieved by accusations and abuse. On the other hand, he who loves God is