

the same “rose” by any other name—humanity is destined to failure. It is only when we start seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness that all other things will take their rightful places in our lives. For Orthodox people in America or Europe, or in any place outside of Russia, the subject of the New Martyrs is of primary importance. ...Russia’s many martyrs are also an admonition to us that the seemingly friendly world around us of today can change into a ferocious and murderous abattoir [slaughterhouse] tomorrow. Will we respond as they did? If we were thrown down a well, as were Grand Duchess St. Elizabeth and Nun Barbara, would we sing our hymns in the deep dark before grenades followed to silence us? No need to recall macabre deaths in the coliseums of the ancient world, we have had and have them still here in our century. The non-Christian world is silent about their lives, no movies, no documentaries, no journalistic investigations. But they live! And we witness...before an idolatrous world that Christ lives.—*Father Andrew Philips*, an excerpt from an interview on www.pravmir.com/the-new-martyrs-and-confessors-of-russia-their-significance-for-people-in-the-west/

• THE DEVIL AND HIS DEFEAT:

A Brother asked Abba Sisoës, “Did Satan persecute the ancients like this?” He replied: “He does more now, because his time is drawing near and he is agitated.” The nearer we come to the Second Coming, the more agitated he becomes. The power of Christ is stronger than the power of the devil. A Christian who is empowered by the grace of God has absolutely nothing to fear. He is strong in Christ. As the Apostle Paul declares: “I can do all things through Christ Who strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13). The devil’s power should not frighten us; instead, the love of God, which defeats every hostile force, should empower us. The task of the Clergy is not to spread panic about the wiles of the devil, but to prepare the faithful to put on the whole armor of God, so that they will overcome and annihilate the power and stratagems of the devil...(*The Science of Spiritual Medicine*, pg 245, Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos). “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength and the Kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ...” (*Rev. 12:9–11*).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday ~ February 10, 2013

• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath shown strength with His arm; He hath trampled down death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, and hath granted the world great mercy.

• KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Feb. 9: 8 AM, Divine Liturgy
Liturgical Singing Seminar continues all day
5 PM, Great Vespers with two choirs,
Confessions during and after the Service
- Sunday, Feb. 10: 9–10 AM, Confessions, 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, *Agape Lunch*
12:45-ish, Bell Ringer Meeting in Hall
- Tuesday, Feb. 12: 7 PM, Study Group in Rohnert Park
- Wed., Feb. 13: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy
6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., Feb. 14: Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship
6 PM, Akathist
- Fri., Feb. 15: 9:30 AM at KAZAN SKETE, Liturgy for the Meeting in the Temple

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•WELCOME LSS PARTICIPANTS:

We were honored to welcome esteemed Professor Mark Bailey from Yale who was both speaker and conductor for the Singing Seminar. It was also a great pleasure to welcome the organizers Alice Hughes and Anne Schoepp from St. Lawrence Orthodox Church in Felton. Our gratitude to Bobbi Griovski and the many volunteers who hosted our guests.

• SENIOR LUNCHEON, Thursday Feb. 14th Noon:

Come join us for a heartwarming Valentine's Day celebration. Father Lawrence will make a special toast in honor of the occasion! We hope to see everyone over 60 there!

• ROHNERT PARK STUDY GROUP

The Rohnert Park Study Group provides a special time for enquiry, questions and fellowship. Next get together is Tuesday Feb. 12th 7 PM at 1354 Oak View Circle #327 Rohnert Park. Call Debi Shrimplin, 536-9112, for directions.

• METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS RETREAT:

Please be aware that next week I will be attending the talks by Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware) in SF on Saturday and Sunday, so will not be here in Santa Rosa for either Vespers or Liturgy on Feb. 16 and 17.

• RETREAT IN CALISTOGA:

Mother Melania invites our parishioners to attend the retreat at the Monastery on February 23: Orthodox Life in the Internet World, with talks by Dr. John Klentos from Berkeley. Flyers available at the candle desk.

• CONGRATULATIONS:

We congratulate our newly elected Parish Council Members: David Winterton, Vipassana Esbjorn-Hargens, Kristine Tellefson, Debbie Buse, Tom Pellizzer, George Barsi, Sergei Moroz. His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin has blessed you to serve.

• PARISH DIRECTORY TO BE PRINTED

Those of us online have received PDF versions of the Parish Directory. Hard copies will be printed soon for those who request them. The cost will be \$5. The directory would be far more useful if each and every one of us has our photo included. If yours is not already in the Directory, please give or email a suitable photo to Vladimir at ursusmjr@sonic.net. Aaron Brodeur will be available after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 10 to

make photos on the walkway of the storage building.

To those not online: The Parish directory with photos, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses has been emailed to those who are on the Parish SSPF ring. If you would like a printed copy of the 30-page directory, please see Vladimir. The cost is \$5.

• THE NEW MARTYRS OF RUSSIA—Witness to Christ:

...the only alternative to the spiritual deprivation and poverty of Western materialism is the love of Orthodoxy of the Martyrs and Confessors, the New Saints. This is not of the political left or right, which simply argues about the details of distribution of material benefits. The Church offers another system, which says that justice and just societies are good, but that the salvation of our souls is more important. In fact, there will only be just societies when the human souls which make them up are convinced that Christ and His Church, against which the gates of hell will not prevail, is at [the heart of our lives]. Where is the proof of all this? It is in the New Martyrs and Confessors...

Doesn't Christ want all to be happy? Didn't He come to free us? Aren't we brothers and sisters? And weren't all men created equal? All this is true, but not quite. To give people freedom, equality, and brotherhood in the kingdom of God, Christ sacrificed Himself. To give people the same in the kingdom of communism, communists sacrificed the people. According to Feodor Dostoevsky's horrifyingly accurate analysis, one hundred million people would die for the success of the revolution in Russia [Solzhenitsyn would note the exact correspondence in his book *Gulag Archipelago*]. Not all of them were Christians, not all of them died for Christ, but Christ died for each and every one. For three decades the Russian Orthodox Church has been lifting up the holy lives and deaths of the New Martyrs as an example for the faithful and a reminder to the whole world. And as a reminder, that when people reject the "one thing needful," when they reject Christ, they follow a path of destruction—millions of human lives ground up to feed the communist beast, and no "bright future." "By their fruits you will know them," and the fruits of godlessness are blood, death, devastation, and collapse. There is only one ending to the story of the Tower of Babel. And it would be a horrible mistake to think that communist ideals can be substituted with those of capitalism—the result will inevitably be the same. The only path which leads to the true bright future for mankind is Christ. For as long as we chase after "the bright future," the "American Dream," or