

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zacchaeus Sunday, February 17, 2013

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of The Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF ST. THEODORE THE GENERAL, Tone Two:

Great are the achievements of faith. In the fountain of flames, as in refreshing water, the holy martyr Theodore rejoiced; For, wholly consumed by the fire, he offered himself as sweet bread unto the Trinity. By his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

- KONTAKION OF ST. THEODORE, Tone Eight:

Having received the faith of Christ within thy heart as a shield, thou didst trample down the hosts of the adversary, O long-suffering one; And with a heavenly crown hast thou been crowned everlastingly, O Theodore, in that thou art invincible.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, February 16: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, February 17: 9–10 AM, Confessions  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy (*Fr. Lawrence in SF at Retreat*)  
*Trisagion for the Departed for Loul Moges*  
11:45 AM, Church School; Noon, Agape Meal  
12:45 PM, SISTERHOOD MEETING  
3 PM, Baby Shower for Franchesca Duval
- Tues., Feb. 19: 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group (call Debi Shrimplin at 536-9112)
- Wed., Feb. 20: **8:30 AM, Matins & Divine Liturgy**  
6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., Feb. 21: 6 PM, Akathist  
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Sat., Feb. 23: **Retreat in Calistoga at Monastery (see flyer)**  
5 PM, VIGIL (here). Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

- BELL RINGERS:

Again, I apologize for having yet again postponed the Bell Ringer Meeting. Last Sunday we were missing a number of those who expressed interest, so, I felt it best to postpone. Our ringer meeting will be on Sunday, February 24, about 12:45, right after lunch. Plan on a short, informational, planning meeting only. All interested bell ringers, current and prospective, are invited. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- COUNTRY BARN DANCE:

Our parish will host a “Country Barn Dance” on Friday, March 1, starting at 7 PM; live music, refreshments. More info to follow after the Sisterhood meeting on Sunday.

- PASSING DAYS OF LIFE:

We see the water of a river flowing uninterruptedly and passing away, and all that floats on its surface, rubbish or beams of trees, all pass by. Christian! So does our life... I was an infant, and that time has gone. I was an adolescent, and that too has passed. I was a young man, and that too is far behind me. The strong and mature man that I was is no more. My hair turns white, I succumb to age, but that too passes; I approach the end and will go the way of all flesh. I was born in order to die. I die that I may live. Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom! —*St. Tikhon of Voronezh*

- READING FOR THE SEASON:

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, wrote in his book ***Great Lent*** that “long before the actual beginning of Lent, the Church announces its approach and invites us to enter into the period of pre-lenten preparation...the very first announcement of Lent is made the Sunday on which the Gospel lesson about Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) is read.” In this wonderful book, Fr. Alexander takes us week by week through the Gospel themes, he describes the Lenten services and their purpose, and challenges us to take Lent seriously in our lives. Today is a good day to start reading this book. Those of you that have read the book in the past, know that reading it again, even yearly, yields great spiritual treasure. You can purchase the ***Great Lent*** in the Parish Bookstore, or check it out of the Library (located in the Sunday School room).

- FORGIVENESS SUNDAY:

On Sunday, March 17, we will serve **Vespers of Forgiveness** right after the usual Sunday Agape Meal. This Vespers, one of the most important of the year, because it ushers in the Great Fast of Lent, begins at 1:15 PM. After “O Joyous Light” we sing the special *Great Prokimenon*: “Turn not Thy countenance from Thy servant, for I am afflicted, hearken to me speedily, attend to my soul, and deliver it.” During that slow and sad melody, the gold covers on all the icon stands will be changed to the Lenten purple—a royal and rich color, yet darker and more mournful too. From that point on we are in Great Lent. At the end of this unique Service we will ask forgiveness of each other, each person approaching the priests, then each other. Those who can, do a prostration before one another; those who cannot, simply ask forgiveness. We say: “forgive me;” and answer back, “forgive me. God forgives.” The longer one is in a Parish community the more things there are to forgive, many of which we don’t even see. We give and ask forgiveness because the Lord tells us to do so in no uncertain terms. There are no “private sins;” each time I sin I betray love, God, virtue, and the Church, I sin against everyone. I am urging you, in the strongest, most emphatic and pastoral way I can, to attend this Vespers and participate in it, since Lent cannot really begin, and Pascha cannot be reached, without it. —*Fr. Lawrence*