

# SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sunday of Orthodoxy – The Feast of the Restoration of the Holy Icons  
Pre-feast of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

MARCH 24, 2013

- TROPARION OF THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, TONE TWO:

We venerate Thy most pure icon, O Loving Lord, asking Thee, O Christ our God, to pardon our transgressions. For of Thine own will wast Thou well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver from the bondage of the enemy those whom Thou hast fashioned. Therefore, in thanksgiving, we cry aloud to Thee: Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, when Thou camest to save the world.

- KONTAKION OF THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, TONE EIGHT:

The uncircumscribed Word of the Father became circumscribed, taking flesh from thee, O Theotokos, and He has restored the sullied image to its ancient glory, filling it with divine beauty. This our salvation we confess in deed and word, and we depict it in the holy icons.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat., March 23: 3:30 PM, Catechism  
5 PM, Vigil / Confessions
- Sunday, March 24: 10 AM, Liturgy, followed by **Procession with icons** (*No Church School*)  
Agape meal in Hall  
**4 PM, Vigil for Annunciation**
- Mon., March 25: Strict fast from 11 AM  
**5 PM, Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Annunciation\***  
6:45 PM, Festal Meal
- Wed., March 27: 8 AM, Lenten Matins  
5 PM, Confessions  
6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy, dinner and a reading
- Thurs., March 28: 8 AM, Matins  
6 PM, Vespers  
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Fri., March 29: 8 AM, Matins  
6 PM, Akathist to the Theotokos, Part 2

*\* The five o'clock beginning of the Vespers Liturgy on Monday will be inconvenient for many, but please try to leave work a little early, and then come to Church, and receive Communion—even if you arrive a bit late.*

• SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY:

**Please bring your Holy Icon to Church this Sunday to carry during the Procession after the Divine Liturgy.** At the end of the Liturgy we will have a procession around the Church. Here is how that procession works:

1. Lantern, followed by the Holy Cross
2. Banners of Christ, the Theotokos, St. Seraphim and Archangel Michael
3. Icons of Christ, the Theotokos, Protection of the Virgin and St. Seraphim
4. Icons of St. Herman, St. Peter the Aleut and the Holy Trinity, etc.
5. CHOIR
6. Clergy
7. Parishioners holding Icons

What are we celebrating? On the first Sunday of Lent we celebrate the “restoration of the Holy Icons” in the Church, which occurred in the year 843. For about 100 years, the Holy Church was violently persecuted by false bishops, false leaders, all backed by the imperial forces, which destroyed icons in churches and homes. The Iconoclasts—“icon smashers”—claimed that icons only represented the humanity of Jesus Christ, and so should not be used. Iconoclasts also quoted the Old Testament commandment forbidding the use of images. The Orthodox defended the icons by pointing out that Jesus—God incarnate—is the “exact expression and image” and the Radiance of God the Father (to paraphrase Hebrews 1), and in His very human nature, the glory of divinity is revealed to us. The Savior Jesus said, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.” The Gospel of John states that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” So, the icon depicts the Savior, as He was seen on earth, as the God-man, the Son of the Father, not a vision, not a ghost, but God incarnate, Son of the Holy Virgin Mary. The icon is the safeguard we need to avoid idolatry. Secondly, Iconoclasm destroys more than just paintings, it denies the image of God in man, as Fr. Stephen Freeman explains: “The plain truth of the matter is that God is an icon-maker. He first made man ‘in His own image.’ And in becoming man, the man he became is described as the ‘image of the invisible God’ (Col. 1:15). The same God who gave the commandment to make no graven images, also commanded the making of the Cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant, as well as the images of angels woven in the curtain of the Tabernacle. He commanded the making of the image of the serpent, lifted on a staff, that brought healing to all who looked on it (an Old Testament prefigurement of the crucified Christ). In the better than 14 years I have known Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas, I have heard him warn incessantly that the greatest danger in the modern world is the attack on man as the image of God. That God became man in order to unite man to God is the only sure Divine underwriting of human worth. We have value because of the image we bear.”

• ANNUNCIATION:

**Vigil for the Feast will be celebrated on Sunday, March 24 at 4 PM. The Vespereal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday, March 25, at 5 PM** (in order to keep Monday as a lenten fast day, the Liturgy is “pushed” to a later position).

“In the midst of our Lenten journey, in this time of contrition and repentance, a proclamation of great hope and expectation is heard throughout the Church. Even as our struggles in Lent confront our sin and our powerlessness to overcome it, God sends a messenger to assure us that because of His love and mercy, salvation has been bestowed upon us if only in faith we will receive it. And so, on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, the Church celebrates this message of salvation delivered to the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel. What is this message of salvation? The angel Gabriel tells her: ‘And behold you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of His Kingdom there will be no end’ (Luke 1:31-33). Gabriel explains to Mary the amazing plan of salvation, that the child within her will be born of her and the Holy Spirit and this child Himself will be God. In the Feast of the Annunciation, the Church celebrates the initiation of God’s salvation for man, the Incarnation of the

Second Person of the Trinity. But even as the Church celebrates the divine initiative of God, it also celebrates the response and acceptance of that initiative by Mary.” —*Fr. Steven Rogers*

- TROPARION OF ANNUNCIATION, TONE FOUR:

Today is the fountainhead of our salvation and the manifestation of the mystery which was from eternity. The Son of God becometh the Virgin’s Son, and Gabriel announceth the good tidings of grace; for this cause, let us cry to the Mother of God with him: Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

- WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND HERE:

Volunteers are needed for gardening around the Protection Church and various other places. This is not “grounds keeping” it’s gardening help that is needed. Please call Matushka Ann at 585-8199 to get involved. Thanks to the generosity of a couple of our members, we will be receiving new wooden chairs (“schoolhouse” style) to replace the metal “office” chairs. Hopefully the chairs will arrive late next week or early the following week. We have arranged for “Crossing the Jordan” charities to come get the old chairs.

There is a small box for *Tithes and Offerings* in the Narthex, to be replaced soon with a larger and more attractive and prominent box. Of course, we will still have the youngsters make the rounds of the Church to take an offering during the Divine Liturgy. The box simply allows one to place one’s offering ahead of time, and to do so privately.

The magnificent icon of the Protection of the Virgin Mary blessed by Archbishop Benjamin on January 2 will very soon be mounted over the door going into the Parish Hall.

Archbishop Benjamin will come to us to serve the Presanctified on Wednesday, April 10. The Service starts at 6:15. We will ALL want to be present to greet him, and show him how dedicated we all are to the Wednesday evening reception of receiving Holy Communion at the Presanctified.

We want to be a parish that is welcoming to visitors. Besides our greeters, we will also have a team of ushers each Sunday (they will alternate duties during the month) that will help our congregation, particularly the guests. In addition, Fr. Lawrence has asked the Parish Council to install three guest parking slots. Those of us that come early can park anywhere. Guests need all the encouragement they can get.

Gloria Collins has been in charge of organizing the Mercy Meals for a number of years, and we thank her for such dedicated and loving service in our parish. She is now handing over the ministry to Shannon Agni Winterton.

- PROJECT MEXICO PRESENTATION:

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, has designated the charitable home building/orphanage organization **Project Mexico** as our Diocesan Lenten Charity. In order to become familiar with the mission of Project Mexico, the parish has invited a representative to speak with us on **Sunday, March 31, at the Agape Meal**. Please make plans to come and hear about why so many parishes in the Orthodox Church in America—of whatever jurisdiction—have gotten involved with the charitable work of Project Mexico.

- PARISH CHOIR SINGERS:

A required CHOIR REHEARSAL is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, starting at 10:30 AM. If you wish to sing in the choir during Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha, you must attend this rehearsal. Rehearsal will end before 3 PM.

- FROM THE BOOKSTORE

The calm and peacefulness we are striving for during Lent can be found in a comfortable chair and between the covers of a book. The Saint Seraphim Bookstore stocks many volumes that will inspire readers and serve as guidebooks for the Lenten journey. A list of suggested titles is posted at the Bookstore. Please consult the list or a member of our knowledgeable staff.

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## APRIL 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 31</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Confessions</li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:30 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> <li>• <i>Presentation on Project Mexico</i></li> </ul>	1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 6:15 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified, Meal to follow</li> </ul>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> </ul>	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Liturgy of the Presanctified</li> <li>• 6 PM, Akathist</li> </ul>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3:30, Catechism, on Baptism, part 1</li> <li>• 5 PM, CROSS VIGIL</li> </ul>
<b>7 - Veneration of the Cross</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Baptism, Duval Baby</li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:30 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	8	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> </ul>	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 6:15 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified, Archbishop Benjamin to preside</li> </ul>	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• Noon, Senior Lunch</li> </ul>	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 6 PM, Akathist</li> </ul>	<b>13 - Memorial Saturday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Liturgy</li> <li>• 3:30, Catechism, on Baptism, part 2</li> <li>• 5 PM, VIGIL</li> </ul>
<b>14 - St. John Climacus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:30 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> <li>• 4 PM, Friends Meeting at Monastery in Calistoga</li> </ul>	15	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> </ul>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 6:15 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified, Meal to follow</li> </ul>	<b>18 - PARISH RETREAT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Matins with Canon of St Andrew and Life of St Mary</li> <li>• Noon, Presanctified</li> </ul>	19 <p>No AM Matins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6 PM, Matins with the Akathist</b></li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>10:30 AM, Choir Rehearsal</b></li> <li>• 3:30, Catechism, on Holy Week</li> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers</li> </ul>
<b>21 - St. Mary of Egypt</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Confessions</li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:30 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> </ul>	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 6:15 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified, Meal to follow</li> </ul>	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> <li>• 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting</li> </ul>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 7 PM, Matins for Lazarus Saturday, Catechism to follow</li> </ul>	<b>27 - Lazarus Saturday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9 AM, Baptisms</b></li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy &amp; reception</li> <li>• 1 PM, Clean &amp; decorate Church</li> <li>• 5 PM VIGIL</li> </ul>
<b>28 - Entrance into Jerusalem</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Confessions</li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	<b>29 - Holy Monday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins</li> <li>• 6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy</li> </ul>	<b>30 - Holy Tuesday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins</li> <li>• 6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy</li> </ul>	<b>May 1 - Holy Wednesday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins</li> <li>• 6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy</li> </ul>	<b>2 - Holy Thursday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM, Vesperal Liturgy (Mystical Supper)</li> <li>• 7 PM, Matins for Holy Friday</li> </ul>	<b>3 - Holy Friday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Royal Hours</li> <li>• 3 PM, Burial Vespers</li> <li>• 7 PM, Matins with the Lamentations</li> </ul>	<b>4 - Holy Saturday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 PM, Vesperal Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:30 PM, Nocturn, Matins and Liturgy</li> </ul>

• **Of special interest:** *Sunday, April 7*—Baptism of Duval baby; *Sat., April 7*—bringing out of the Precious Cross at Vigil; *Thurs., April 18*—Parish Retreat, Great Canon of St. Andrew (see note in bulletin); *Friday, April 19*—Magnificent Akathist and Canon for the Fifth Friday, in honor of the Theotokos at 6 PM; *Sat., April 20*—Extended Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week and Pascha; *Sat., April 27*—Baptism of Catechumens; Vigil at 5 PM with blessing of Palms