

- OUR LIFE:

Our way of life in this world resembles a document that is still in draft form: things can be added or taken out, and alterations can be made, whenever one wants. But life in the world to come resembles the case of completed documents that have the king's seal already upon them, and no addition or subtraction can be made. While we are still here, where changes can be made, let us take a look at ourselves, and while we still have control over the book of our life, and it is in our hands, let us be eager to add to it by means of a good lifestyle, and delete from it the defects of our former lifestyle. —*St Isaac the Syrian*

- ASCENSION DAY—THURSDAY, JUNE 5/6:

Forty Days after Pascha—always a Thursday (June 6 this year)—we celebrate the exaltation and the enthronement of the crucified and risen Jesus as the Lord. His Ascension is the *seal* of His Lordship and His exaltation at the Right Hand of the Father to reign with Him unto ages of ages. In Jesus, human nature itself is now deified and raised up to the Divine Throne, so that we also might be deified with Him, as members of His Body, the Church. We are united to Him and, so with Him, we enter into the Holy of Holies of Heaven to reign **with** Him. The Feast is always on a Thursday—and that means that many of those who come will have to make special arrangements to be at the Thursday morning Liturgy. Yet, no doubt, most of us can be present at the Wednesday evening Vigil (**June 5 at 6:15 PM**). Let us see this Feast in context: Lent leads to Pascha, Pascha leads to the Ascension, Ascension leads to Pentecost, and Pentecost to All Saints and our deification. We need the whole scope of the Gospel, and we celebrate all of our Lord's wonderful deeds accomplished for our salvation. With that in mind, let each of us participate in the Feast of Ascension, and receive Christ, Who sits at the right hand of the Father, at Holy Communion, and so also each one of us may become His deified throne. *Thou didst raise up human nature which was fallen into corruption, O Christ, and in Thine Ascension Thou didst exalt us and glorify us together with Thyself.* (Hymn of Vigil)

- DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMP:

Please see Fr. Lawrence for info on the Summer Camp, July 8–13. Scholarships are available.

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



## May 19, 2019 ~ Sunday of the Paralytic



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

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

- KONTAKION OF THE PARALYTIC, Melody *On This Day*:

As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, O Lord God, by Thy God-like care and might, raise up my soul which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions and by unseemly deeds and acts, that, being saved, I may also cry out: O Compassionate Redeemer, O Christ God, glory to Thy dominion and might.

- KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades. And didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the Myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice; and giving peace unto Thine apostles, O Thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 18: 11 AM, Baptism of Elizabeth Tennyson  
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, May 19: Catechumen ceremony for Brian R.  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
Procession and blessing of new Cross at font  
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tues., May 22: *Vespers for Mid-Feast—Cancelled*
- Wed., May 23 *Liturgy for Mid-Feast—Cancelled*  
*Vespers—Cancelled*

### • BAPTISM FONT CROSS:

On the day after the Lenten feast of the Veneration of the Precious Cross, one of our parish members, who will remain anonymous, commissioned the creation of a large cross to be placed at the Baptismal Font. Talented woodworker and parishioner Michael Dovey was chosen as the craftsman. Using old growth redwood from Fort Bragg supplied by Joseph Marino, Michael fashioned a beautiful cross based on an ancient Celtic design. The Cross was completed last week and is now mounted (there is some finish work at the base to be done), and awaits a blessing, which we will do on Sunday morning at the end of the Divine Liturgy. The Cross was commissioned in memory of all our parishioners departed this life, and in honor and glory of God, and for the salvation of all those baptized in the font. We are all very thankful to the benefactors and to Michael for his fine work. —*Fr. Lawrence*

### • CONGRATULATIONS:

We congratulate Landis Sims, received as a catechumen last Sunday, and Brian Rademacher, who will be made a catechumen on Sunday at 9:30 AM, before the Divine Liturgy. Both will be baptized, God willing, along with Karla Van Meter, on Pentecost. We also congratulate Natasha and Peter Tennyson, on the baptism of their daughter Elizabeth on Saturday morning. Many Years!

### • CLERGY RETREAT:

From Tuesday to Thursday this week the Diocese will host a clergy retreat in Alhambra, led by Archimandrite Maximos (Constas). The deacon and I will return on Thursday evening. —*Fr. Lawrence*

### • 50th ANNIVERSARY PARTY:

Michael Jorgenson and his family will host a 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration for Matushka Patricia and Father James on June 9. We will begin with a Thanksgiving Prayer at 5 PM, followed by a BBQ. In the meantime, please keep Fr. James in your prayers as he undergoes a procedure for his back. Any questions, call Matushka Patricia at (313) 903-5757.

### • MEMORIAL DAY AT THE CEMETERY:

A Panikhida will be served on Memorial Day, May 27 at 11:30 AM, at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery. I invite all of you to join me in praying for those who laid down their life for their country, and as a public witness of our Orthodox Faith in prayerful action. We will gather on the north side, mid-section. Afterwards, there will be a potluck BBQ at church.

### • ST SERAPHIM WEEK IS AROUND THE CORNER:

If you have children, grandchildren or godchildren ages ten and under, you'll want to enroll them in our *St. Seraphim Week for Kids* program. This annual "Church School" will take place June 10–14 from 10 AM to 1 PM. Volunteers will be needed to help out each morning for a couple of hours. We have opportunities to help with crafts, story telling, playing games, snack prep and, of course, clean up. Please contact Gloria Collins at (707) 849-6135.

### • BLESSED IS THE KINGDOM:

The Divine Liturgy begins with the words, "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages." This Kingdom is our true home, and our lives as Christians are centered around the great expectation of the coming of this Kingdom, which shall be eternal. This Kingdom is our true Fatherland, and this present life is meant as a time of preparation for this coming Kingdom. There is no promise of peace in this present life, but the Kingdom to come will be filled with an eternal peace, the peace that passes all understanding. In this Kingdom our entire being, our very souls, will be forever united with God and filled with a joy that is beyond our present comprehension. This present life passes quickly, but the life to come will be eternal.

—*Love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon*