

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 5, 2016 ~ Sunday of the Blind Man

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

Our annual “Vacation Bible School” will be held from June 13–17. Daily schedule here at the church will start with arrivals by 9 AM, a morning prayer at 9:15 AM sharp, followed by a brief spiritual lesson with one of the priests, then crafts, games, snacks, folk dancing, music, and a wrap-up prayer at noon. Registration and Volunteer forms are available at the candle desk after Liturgy. We hope to have our core teen volunteers with us, and any other volunteers, age eleven and older.

Parents, godparents and grandparents: it is very important that we have your involvement. Not only do our children need this, but we as a church community need to be involved with our children! Please contact Gloria Collins at (707) 849-6135.

- ¡ CRISTOS HA RESUCITADO !

Since my move to Santa Rosa and my new parish community last November, I've been so incredibly blessed by the warmth of your welcome! Now, I have exciting news to share with you. I have applied for a short term mission trip with Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) and have been accepted to join a medical team going to Guatemala. The medical clinic is located in the rural village, Aguacate (avocado in Spanish!). Father Andres, a Guatemalan Catholic priest who became Orthodox and influenced 150,000 Mayans to join the Orthodox church, initiated the effort to build this clinic. My role will be English/Spanish interpreter and I will often be sitting next to a volunteer doctor, midwife or dentist from the U.S. and an interpreter from the village who will then translate my Spanish into Chuj, the Mayan language of most of the villagers. Every conversation will be an adventure! Even more exciting is the latest development in my plans.... I have the opportunity to live in the Aguacate clinic the entire summer (July-Sept.) This new development has happened rather fast, and I will need to raise funds now before I leave. The cost of the 2 weeks w/ the OCMC mission team + flight + room/board for 3 months is about \$3,000. If you would like to help me fund this mission trip, or would like to hear about the remarkable things happening in Guatemala let me know! I will be sharing more about Guatemala with the parish on an upcoming Sunday. Gracias a Dios! —*Kendra (Sophia) Meshnik, 541-206-8974.*

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:

Let us the faithful praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

- KONTAKION OF THE BLIND MAN, Tone Four:

Being blinded in the eyes of my soul, O Savior, I come unto Thee, O Christ, as did the man who was born blind. And in repentance I cry to Thee: of those in darkness art Thou the most radiant Light.

- 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, June 4: 10 AM–Noon, Work-Party at Skete
4 PM, Children’s Choir in Protection Church
5 PM, Great Vespers
6 PM, Church School Teacher Meeting
6 PM, Young Adult Group
- Sunday, June 5: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School Classes
Noon, Agape at the Courtyard (coffee and donuts)
3 PM, Rodier Wedding
- Tues., June 7: 6 PM, Matins for Leave-taking of Pascha
- Wed., June 8: 9 AM, Liturgy for Leave-taking of Pascha

6:15 PM, Vigil for the Ascension of our Lord

- Thurs., June 9: 9 AM, Ascension Day Divine Liturgy
Senior/Retired Fellowship Brunch
- Saturday, June 11: 1 PM Workparty (clean storage building)
5 PM, Great Vespers
5:45 PM, BBQ for the Workparty families

- WELCOME:

We welcome all our visitors and guests, especially Archmandrite Gerasim, from the OCA Diocese of the South. Many of you know Fr. Gerasim from his time at the Monastery of St. Herman in Platina.

- YARDWORK AT KAZAN SKETE, SATURDAY JUNE 4:

The Parish Young Adult Group invites everyone (children included) to participate in a work party at Kazan Skete (2735 Victoria Dr.), starting at 10 AM. RSVP Kendra Meshnik at 541-206-8974, or by email at kendra.meshnik@gmail.com

- THE SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN:

The Gospel account (John 9) teaches us an important lesson about the relationship between faith and evidence. We often think that if God gives us enough of the right kind of evidence, our faith will follow naturally and inevitably. But this Gospel account clearly contradicts this theory. Evidence is important (we don't have a blind faith), but it is not the final and decisive issue. Both the Pharisees and the Blind Man had the same abundance of evidence—yet they responded in totally different ways. The main obstacle to faith in Jesus is not insufficient evidence, but rather—in the light of that evidence—unwillingness to humble oneself before God and set aside intellectual pride which cannot fathom the mysteries of the Kingdom. While the formerly blind man gradually moves into the bright vision and clarity of faith, those who question and resist the sign, plunge further and further into the shadows of unbelief. The distinction made in the Gospel is not between those who are blind and those who see, but rather, between those who know that they are blind and those who claim that they see. And the controversy surrounding this miracle indicates that then as today, “people loved darkness rather than light” (John 3:19). —*adapted*

- FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Orthodox Christians the world over will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Christ with **Vigil on Wednesday, June 8**, and the **Divine Liturgy on Thursday, June 9**. I encourage all of you to participate in this feast day by coming to at least one of the festal services. Consider these words of one venerable pastor:

Orthodox Christians wouldn't dream of missing Church on the feasts Christmas, Holy Saturday, Pascha, etc. The importance of these days is self-evident. However, even though it is mentioned in the Creed, the Feast of the Ascension of Christ does not seem to occupy a place of honor in the worship practices of most Orthodox Christians. The Feast is always on a Thursday—Forty Days after the Resurrection (see Acts 1)—and never on a Sunday, so, alas, most parishioners miss the great blessing of this Feast. What are we missing? Ascension is the vindication of the crucified, buried and risen Lord Jesus, the initiation of His reign over all creation, and His power made present in us. “It is the glorified flesh of the Incarnate Word of God which has entered into the very bosom of the Trinity in the Person of Christ. As St. Leo the Great, the Pope of Rome (+461) taught: ‘With all due solemnity we are commemorating that day on which our poor human nature was carried up, in Christ, above all the hosts of Heaven, above all the ranks of angels, beyond the highest Heavenly powers to the very throne of God the Father.’ This is simultaneously our ascension and our glorification, since we are united to Christ through holy Baptism as members of His Body. Therefore, St. Paul can further write: ‘For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.’ (Col. 3:3) Out of our physical sight, we now ‘see’ the glorified Christ through the eyes of faith. St. Leo further explains how important this spiritual insight is: ‘For such is the power of great minds, such the light of truly believing souls, that they put unhesitating faith in what is not seen with the bodily eyes; they fix their desires on what is beyond sight. Such fidelity could never be born in our hearts, nor could anyone be justified by faith, if our salvation lay only in what is visible.’ The Feast of the Ascension is not a decline from the glory of Pascha. It is, rather, the fulfillment of Pascha, and a movement upward toward the Kingdom of Heaven. It is the joyful revelation of our destiny in Christ. —*Fr. Stephen Kostoff*

THE PARISH MEN'S GROUP PRESENTS



the Saint Bartholemew Family

BAR-B-QUE

(after the work-party)



SATURDAY, JUNE 11

- 1 PM, STORAGE BUILDING CLEAN UP
- 5 PM, VESPERS
- 5:45 PM, BAR-B-QUE (food and beverages provided)