

or psychological, but one Christian, coming from Jesus Christ) is not an absurd or inaccessible goal. They are the ones whom God has touched and made whole. They shine with the uncreated light of the Godhead, irradiating their humanity with the new life of the Kingdom against which even death itself has no power. They are mirrors, as we behold them, of what we could be. They inspire us towards this goal, *theosis*, communion with our Savior and a share in His holiness. By this the saints transcend even the biological necessities towards something sublime and true: they reflect the love of God, and are signs of the new age in which God shall be all and in all when He comes to raise all from the dead. **(adapted)**

• WHY EXTEMPORANEOUS PRAYER IS INAPPROPRIATE IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP:

The advantage of a fixed form of service is that we know what is coming. *Ex tempore* public prayer has this difficulty: we don't know whether we can mentally join in it until we've heard it—it might be phony or heretical. We are therefore called upon to carry on a critical and a devotional activity at the same moment: two things hardly compatible. In a fixed form we ought to have “gone through the motions” before in our private prayers: the rigid form really sets our devotions free. I also find the more rigid it is, the easier it is to keep one's thoughts from straying. Also it prevents any service getting too completely eaten up by whatever happens to be the preoccupation of the moment (a war, an election, or what not). The permanent shape of Christianity shows through. I don't see how the *ex tempore* method can help becoming provincial and I think it has a great tendency to direct attention to the minister rather than to God.” —*C.S. Lewis to Mrs. Van Deusen, 1952*

• NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN:

The birthday of Saint John the Baptist will be celebrated on June 23, with a Vespers at 5 PM, and on June 24, with Liturgy at 9 AM. In the Church we remember that the Lord Jesus Christ praised St. John as the “greatest of those born of woman” and so we are eager to praise him too in the Divine Services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints Sunday ~ June 7, 2015

• TROPARION OF ALL SAINTS, Tone Four

Adorned in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church, through them, doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy church, and great mercy to our souls.

• KONTAKION OF ALL SAINTS, Tone Eight

To Thee, the Planter of creation, the world doth offer the God-bearing martyrs as the first-fruits of nature. By their supplication, preserve Thy Church in deep peace, through the Theotokos, O greatly merciful One.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 6: 9 AM, Men's Group Work Party at Skete and Calistoga Monastery
4:30 PM, Panikhida for Sakovich Family and newly-departed Dorothea Christon
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, June 7: 9 AM, Baptism
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal & Church School Party
- Monday, June 8: *Beginning of the Peter & Paul Fast. Abstinence from meat, meat products, dairy and eggs*
9 AM–Noon: St. Seraphim Week Activities
Noon: Funeral for Dorothea Christon
- Wed., June 10: 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
6 PM, Vespers
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting

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- Thurs., June 11: At Kazan Skete—9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS—JUNE 8–12:

If you have children, grandchildren or Godchildren aged ten and younger, you'll want to enroll them in our **St. Seraphim Week for Kids** program. Each day this week, Monday–Friday, we will begin at 9 AM with arrivals and signing in; Prayers at 9:15 with Fr. Lawrence in Protection Church; from 9:45 to noon there will be crafts, lessons, music, snack and play time. If you have questions, please speak with Gloria Collins (849-6135).

- THE APOSTLES FAST—JUNE 8–29:

The Apostles' Fast is the oldest fast and the first one kept by the Christian Church. During the Apostles' Fast, the Holy Spirit spoke to them, "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted the Holy Spirit said: separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away" (Acts 13:2-3). The Apostles Fast begins the Monday after *All Saints Sunday* (which is itself a week after Pentecost) and continues until the *Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul* on June 29. The rule for this variable-length fast is more lenient than for Great Lent. Monday, Wednesday, Friday: abstain from meat, fish, wine and oil. Tuesday, Thursday: Oil and wine permitted. Saturday, Sunday: Fish, oil and wine permitted.

- CONGRATULATIONS:

Many years to the newly-illuminated child Francesca Austin, daughter of Ashley Emmelia Pellizzer and Chris Austin (Ashley is Tom and Denise Pellizzer's daughter), to be baptized on Sunday, June 7 at 9 AM.

- MEMORY ETERNAL:

We offer our condolences to the Daphne and Charles Russell on the repose of Daphne's mother, Dorothea Christon, Friday, June 5. The Funeral will be served Monday, June 8 at Noon, in St. Seraphim Church, and the burial will take place Wednesday, June 10 at 11 AM at the Greek Orthodox Cemetery in Colma.

- VACATION:

Fr. Lawrence and Matushka Ann will be going on vacation from June 15–30.

- YOUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD:

Stewardship is not just about money, and certainly not about dues and fundraising (clubs and unions have dues. The Church does not). Stewardship is about making choices, as individuals and as a community. We strive to be faithful disciples who care for all that God has given us. This is a commitment of time, talent and treasure. God gives, and if we are to be like Him, we also give. Our financial resources are blessings from God, and we give back a portion in thanks to Him. How we manage our finances can help us escape the trap of anxiety (and often selfishness and idolatry of money). Failing to manage those resources finds us anxious and distracted when it comes to our faith and probably emptied-handed when it comes to returning a portion to the Lord in thanksgiving. We must also remember that giving to the Church is not a form of charity—by no means; for God does not need our money, nor our time nor our talents. He has all things, and providentially uses them for the good of His People. More rightly, the Church is God's charity toward us—therefore we joyfully, responsibly and honestly give out of gratitude to Him, understanding that He brings us into His Divine plans for our benefit and to serve others. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- COMMUNION OF SAINTS:

When Christians depart this life, they remain a vital part of the Church, the body of Christ. They are alive in the Lord and "registered in heaven" (Hebrews 12:23). They worship God (Revelation 4:10) and inhabit His heavenly dwelling places (John 14:2). In the Eucharist we come "to the city of the living God" and join in communion with the saints in our worship of God (Hebrews 12:22). They are that "great cloud of witnesses" which surrounds us, and we seek to imitate them in running "the race set before us" (Hebrews 12:1). Rejecting or ignoring the communion of saints is a denial of the fact that those who have died in Christ are still part of his holy Church. The True Church is composed of all who are in Christ—in heaven and on earth. It is not limited in membership to those presently alive. Those in heaven with Christ are alive, in communion with God, worshipping God, doing their part in the Body of Christ. They actively pray to God for all those in the Church—and indeed, for the whole world (Ephesians 6:8; Revelation 8:3). So we pray to the saints who have departed this life, seeking their intercessions just as we ask Christian friends on earth to pray for us. The saints provide us with living testimonies of a redeemed humanity. They show that Christian perfection (not a perfection moral, ethical, physical, emotional