

organizing an evening of childcare to give the parents of young kids an opportunity to socialize together. **Plans are:** Parent's Night Out, Friday, June 30, 5–10:30 PM, at the home of Anastasia and Aaron Brodeur, 5401 Kevin Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. This is a potluck with appetizers and wine. **For the kids:** Drop kids off at the parish hall where childcare will be offered including dinner, games, crafts, maybe a movie. Space is limited. For RSVP or questions, contact Kira Staykow, kirastaykow@gmail.com, 415.279.0353 Daphne is looking for additional volunteers to help with childcare that night. If you are interested, please let us know ASAP. We are experimenting with this concept and hope to host future events like this. We hope it works out well and appreciate your prayers.

- TOMATO LOVERS:

In 90 days or less you can have a feast of heirloom tomatoes in your garden. Now is the time to plant them. Our own blessed Nilus V has tomato starters for you, your family and friends (and even some for a Sunday Agape). See Nilus for acquisition of these happy varieties—although he is too shy to ask, a small donation is appreciated.—*Leonard Carl*

- SUMMER CAMP:

The St. Eugene's Summer Camp has been cancelled. Long story...

- JULY 4TH PILGRIMAGE TO FORT ROSS:

As always, there will be a Divine Liturgy at the Fort Ross chapel on July 4, 10 AM. His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, will preside at the service. Pack a picnic to enjoy after the Divine Liturgy.

- SUNDAY AGAPE MEALS:

Have you ever thought about preparing one of our popular Agape lunches which are served in the Hall after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays? Perhaps you've considered it, but felt a bit daunted by the task. My husband Greg Sanford and I have been preparing Agape meals for over twenty years. In that time we have made some mistakes, and have learned a lot. We are seeking people like you who might like to work with us and become comfortable with making these lunches. It's easier than you think, and very enjoyable. Greg and I are scheduled to prepare lunches on the following dates: June 11, August 20, October 8, January 7 (2018), February 11 (2018). Please phone or email me if you are interested in helping out. Thanks in advance for your help. —*Catherine Ostling*, lostling@comcast.net, (707) 887-1277.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints Sunday ~ June 11, 2017

- 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 supplications and through the Theotokos, preserve Thy Church in profound peace, O Greatly Merciful One.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 10: 4 PM, Children's Choir Rehearsal
4:30 PM, Panikhida for Sakovich Family
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, June 11: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy (responses to be chanted by the Children's Choir)
Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, June 12: *Beginning of the Peter & Paul Fast. Abstinence from meat, meat products, dairy and eggs*
- Wed., June 14: 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
6 PM, Vespers

- FASTING IN JUNE:

The Apostles' Fast—which begins the day after All Saints—is the oldest fast and the first one kept by the Christian Church. The Book of Acts records that the Holy Spirit spoke to Apostles: "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted the Holy Spirit said: 'separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work

Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa
707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

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 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.

- 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 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*)

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

Monday–Friday, 9 AM–Noon, June 19–23. Prayer, singing, crafts, games, snacks. For more information, contact Gloria Collins at 849-6135 or gypsybootsie@sonic.net.

- EXTEMPORANEOUS PRAYER IN 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*

- PRESENCE OF HOLINESS:

The fragrance of a costly aromatic oil, even though kept in a vessel, pervades the atmosphere of the whole house, and gives pleasure not only to those near it but also to others in the vicinity; similarly the fragrance of a holy soul, beloved of God, when given out through all the senses of the body, conveys to those who perceive it the holiness that lies within. When in the presence of one whose tongue utters nothing harsh and discordant, but only what is a blessing and benefit for those who listen, whose eyes are humble, whose ears do not listen to improper songs or words, who moves discreetly and whose face is not dissolute with laughter but rather disposed to tears and mourning, which of us will not feel that such a soul is filled with the fragrance of holiness? Thus the Savior says: ‘Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven’ (Matthew 5:16). —*St Theodoros the Great Ascetic*

- PARENT’S GET TOGETHER:

Daphne Russell and Kira Staykow—amazed by the faithfulness of all the parents at our church who bring their little ones to so many services—are