

- 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, at 8:30 AM with Matins and then the Divine Liturgy. 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.

- MINISTRIES SUNDAY:

God grants gifts to each and every person, young and old. We know how much our parish is blessed with gifted members. Many are involved in various ministries, such as choir, altar serving, visiting shut-ins, care for the reposed, candle-desk, Church school, cleaning, cooking, charitable work, sacristy work, gardening, maintenance, book club, and so forth. However, just as many as are involved—perhaps more—are not aware of all the wonderfully diverse activities that occur each and every week. In an effort to promote interest in our parish ministries for the whole parish, I am proposing that we hold a “Ministries Sunday.” Think of it as a church “job fare” after Liturgy, in which each parish ministry will have a table at which representatives can explain the work they do, and help others to get involved. We are scheduling our “Ministries Sunday” for June 29. Look for more information to come. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- YOUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD:

Stewardship is not just about money, or dues, or fund-raising. Stewardship is about making choices, as individuals and in a community. It’s about being faithful disciples who care for all God has given us: the 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 in thanks to Him. How we manage those 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. 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*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints Sunday ~ June 15, 2014

- 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 14: 3:15 PM, Catechism: *On the True God*
4:30 PM, Panikhida for Sakovich Family
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, June 15: 9–10 AM, Confessions heard until Liturgy
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
12:45 PM, *Sisterhood Meeting*
- Monday, June 16 ***Beginning of the Peter & Paul Fast. Abstinence from meat, meat products, dairy and eggs***
- Wed., June 18: 6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., June 19: 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim

- HAPPY FATHERS DAY:

To our Fathers, Godfathers and spiritual Fathers: Many Years.

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- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS—JUNE 16–20:

If you have children, grandchildren or Godchildren aged two to ten, you'll want to enroll them in our **St. Seraphim Week for Kids** program. The teachers for this year's activities will focus on "Saints Around the World." Monday, Saints of America; Tuesday, Saints of Russia; Wednesday, Saints of Africa; Thursday, Saints of China and Japan; Friday, Saints of Italy and Greece. Our schedule each day is as follows:

9:00 AM:	Arrival and sign in
9:15 AM:	Prayers in The Protection Church with Fr. Lawrence
9:45 AM:	Crafts time, Gloria and Lara with six to ten year old Niki and Carmen with kids five and under
10:15 AM:	Lesson (stories)
10:30 AM:	Music with Carmen, all kids
10:45 AM:	Snack time
11:15 AM:	Play time
11:45 AM:	Closing prayer led by Fr. Lawrence
12 Noon	Parents pick up children

If you have questions, please speak with Gloria Collins (849-6135), Lara Anderson (291-6856) or Niki Myles (779-9049).

- SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP OFFERING:

The Diocesan Camp director, Fr. Michael Anderson, from St. Christina Orthodox Church in Fremont, has requested that the deanery area parishes take an offering for summer camp scholarships. There are a lot of folks who are struggling to pay the way for their kids to attend the Camp (June 29–July 5) and we can help with the burden. It costs \$385 to send a child to camp. Make your checks out to St. Seraphim Church, and include a memo line for Summer Camp.

- 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**)

- THE APOSTLES FAST—JUNE 16–29:

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.