

- NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN:

The birthday of Saint John the Baptist will be celebrated with Vespers at 1:15 PM, **Sunday, June 23 and Liturgy at 9 AM, on June 24.** 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 in the Divine Services.

- PILGRIMAGE TO FORT ROSS, JULY 4th

Each year Orthodox faithful gather on July 4th for the Divine Liturgy and picnic at Fort Ross (the Independence Day Pilgrimage has been going on since the 1920s). It takes some effort to plan and get out to the Fort, especially on a holiday. What great spiritual benefit there is to commune at the Liturgy, giving thanks to God in a place of sanctity and natural beauty, where St. Innocent prayed. Let Independence Day be a unique day of thanksgiving for our freedoms rather than just another day off.

- MERCY:

The Fifth Beatitude that was spoken in the Sermon on the Mount is, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Matt. 5:7). It is possible that no other commandment of Christ is needed more in our epoch than this commandment of mercy, of charity. We live in the era of ideologies which in their attempt to be all-encompassing exist in continuous strife, and this strife fills the world with fear and hatred. We live in a world where mercy and charity are exiled, and that is perhaps the most frightening thing about it—the sign of its dehumanization. How often it is told about Christ in the Gospels that He had compassion on them, that He was merciful to them!

—Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *reposed Dec. 13, 1983*

- PENTECOST VESPERS TO FOLLOW LITURGY:

Normally Vespers is served in the late afternoon. However, it's customary to serve the *Vespers of Pentecost Day* immediately after the Divine Liturgy, with no break in between. This particular Vespers is unique, having three prayers, called *Kneeling Prayers*, since this will be the first time since Holy Week that we kneel during prayer. These prayers are rich in meaning and inspiration, and are long. Ask the Lord to give us all strength, understanding and gratitude as we offer these three prayers.

- WELCOME BACK:

It's a joy to welcome back Fr Theodor, Matushka Hanne, Simon and Filip Svane who are on vacation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Pentecost - June 16, 2019

- TROPARION OF PENTECOST, Tone Eight:

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net; O Lover of man, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION, Tone Eight:

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity; therefore with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

Epistle: The Acts of the Apostles 2: 1–11

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 15: 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy
Afternoon: decoration of the Church
5 PM, VIGIL for the Feast
- Sunday, June 16: 9 AM, Reception of Catechumens (Anahi and Peter), Baptisms (Karla and Brian)
10 AM, Divine Liturgy and *Kneeling Vespers*
12:30 PM, *Potluck Agape Meal*
4 PM, BBQ in honor the Hamners (please bring a salad and beverage)
- Monday, June 17: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Day of the Holy Spirit
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Wednesday, June 19: 6 PM, Daily Vespers
- PENTECOSTAL GRACE—Abbot George of Mount Athos:
At every Divine Liturgy of our Church we have Pentecost. How does the

bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ? Don't they become through the descent of the Holy Spirit? There is Pentecost! Every Holy Altar of the Orthodox Church is the Upper Room of Pentecost. At every Baptism we have Pentecost. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, a person becomes a Christian and becomes one with the Body of Christ. Every ordination of a Deacon, Priest and, of course, a Bishop, is a new Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descends and makes a person a co-worker with God. Every Confession of a Christian is again Pentecost. The moment the Christian kneels to his Confessor and with humility tells him his sins with repentance and the Confessor reads him the blessing of forgiveness, he is forgiven by the grace of the Holy Spirit. At every gathering and at every Mystery of the Church it is a continuation of Pentecost, because they are performed in the presence of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, all activities, prayers and the Mysteries of the Church begin with a prayer: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth...come and abide in us..." We ask the Comforter to come, the Paraklete, the Holy Spirit. And He comes. Wherever the Orthodox Church—the true Church of Christ—meets, there also is the grace of the Holy Spirit. Every Saint of our Church is a Spirit-bearing man or woman, full of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, a person of Pentecost.

- NEW CATECHUMENS AND BAPTISMS:

Reception of Catechumens and Baptisms take place at 9 AM, Pentecost Day. We welcome as Catechumens: Peter Tennyson and Anahi Dominguez. We rejoice in the baptisms of Brian Rademacher, Karla van Meter and Savannah Clawson (James and Claire's daughter). Many Blessed Years!

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK:

Many thanks to the hardworking and very creative teachers at this year's St. Seraphim Week for kids. Let us all express our heartfelt thanks also for our teens who helped out. Well done! —*Fr. Lawrence*

- THE JOY OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY:

Father James and Matushka Patricia want to thank Father Lawrence and Matushka Ann, and everyone who came last Sunday and brought something for the BBQ for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. We enjoyed a

most memorable celebration with our family, Michael, Becky, Luke and Ella, and with you, our parish family. God has richly blessed us in our golden years. Thank you one and all, and God bless you!

- CALISTOGA RETREAT:

The Monastery of the Assumption in Calistoga will host a retreat entitled "In His Image and Likeness — Sanctity of Life Teachings of the Orthodox Church." June 22, 9 AM. Be informed!

- TO THE PARISH:

Dear Fr. Lawrence, I would like to let you know, and the congregation especially know, how deeply within my soul, how much I appreciate the prayerful support I received in my recent illness. I came very close to death, and while I realize it was God's will that brought me through this, I also know something else. The prayers of my beloved congregation were a powerful remedy to the sickness, not only in my lungs with pneumonia, but also in my blood and affecting my heart due to septicemia. These prayers were the foundation floor of God's altar where He performed the liturgy of unction that He poured out on me and gave me back the life that I now live. I want you all to know how much I want to get back to full participation in the life of the Church, to stand (well—sit) with my friends, truly my family. Wednesday's vespers was an astonishing moment, no matter how much I anticipated it, to also be back with all my old friends, that cloud of witnesses, to venerate their icons. To come to the icons of Christ and the Mother of God brought tears to my eyes. The night before, I dreamed all night of being at church. In my dreams I was part of the incredible joy of the hustle and bustle of a hierarchical liturgy with its delicious anticipation of the Bishop's arrival, of receiving his blessing, and hearing the wisdom of his words. And all this in vivid Technicolor—God is so kind to me, a sinner. So thank you Father, for helping me along to this moment; for teaching me the Orthodox path with such kindness. And to all of you in this parish whose prayers have given me a second chance, know that I feel a debt I can never repay. I can only try to live within Christ more fully and to have Him dwelling within me more deeply, despite the terrible place that is my soul. —*With love in Christ, Nilus*