

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday ~ July 6, 2014

---

Father's household. In the West, many speak about Lent as a period of struggle whose goal is for Christians to become better people. For the ancient fathers, however, it is not just about "the good being preserved in their goodness and the evil becoming good" (*anaphora of Saint Basil the Great*), although these are things to be prayed for. Rather, it is about discovering the heart, being honest about oneself, being humble before God, and in repentance beginning an incredible journey in which the soul seeks to be clothed in Christ, so that thoughts, desires, the will, all become holy, all become bent on salvation, all become an expression of His forgiveness and His love. No frail human morality can ever hope to contain the overflowing fullness of life with which Christ desires to rejuvenate the faithful. —

*Hieromonk Alexis, from his blog **Ancient Christian Wisdom***

## • THE PLACE OF LIVES OF SAINTS IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

As Christians, we want to grow in the likeness of Christ, to have that likeness shine in us. For this to occur, we need to look often to the Saints to see that shining likeness: we must look to them for real, practical examples of how to live. St. Basil the Great gives this analogy: 'Just as painters, in working from models, constantly gaze at their exemplar and thus strive to transfer the expression of the original to their own artistry, so too he who is eager to make himself perfect in all kinds of virtue must gaze upon the Lives of the Saints and make their excellence his own by imitation.' Secondly, we must look to the Saints as our heavenly friends, as our brothers and sisters in the Faith. As we read the Lives of the Saints each day, we will discover little by little those Saints whom our hearts go out to. They will become our close friends, those whom we pray to most of all, those in whom we confide our joys and sorrows. As Archimandrite Aimilianos, the former Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Simonos Petras on Mount Athos, writes: "These close friends will be the guides of our choice and a great comfort to us along the strait and narrow way that leads to Christ. We are not alone on the road or in the struggle. We have with us our Mother, the All-Holy Mother of God, our Guardian Angel, the Saint whose name we bear, and those close friends we have chosen out of the Great Multitude of Saints who stand before the Lamb (Rev. 7:9)." — *Fr. Damascene of Platina*

• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:  
Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath shown strength with His arm; He hath trampled down death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, and hath granted the world great mercy.

• KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, TONE THREE:  
On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, July 5: 3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Sin*  
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, July 6: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Agape Meal
- Monday, July 7: 3 PM, **Glendi Baking**
- Tuesday, July 8: 3 PM, **Glendi Baking**  
7 PM, Master Planning Meeting
- Wednesday, July 9: 4:30 PM, *Redwood Empire Food Bank*  
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, July 10: 6–8 PM, Reception on the Courtyard for Frs. Patrick and Moses, "Dome Tours"
- Friday, July 11: 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, July 12: 9:30 AM, *At Sts. Peter and Paul on Stony Point: Patronal Feast Day Divine Liturgy*  
10 AM, Cleaning Church  
3:30 PM, Catechism, on *Jesus the Son of God*  
5 PM, Great Vespers

---

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

- Sunday, July 13: 9:30 AM, Akathist *Nurturer of Children*  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy / Noon, Agape Meal  
3 PM, Wedding of Shiloh and Jonathan

- BAKING GOODIES FOR GLENDI:

On Monday, July 7, we kick off our Glendi Baking season with Greek tea cakes. Starting time: 3 PM—perfect for folks who don't like to be out late in the evening. EVERYONE is invited, all ages, all skill levels. Come for an hour if you can—we'll be working until 8 or 9 PM. On Tuesday July 8, we start again at 3 PM to make Greek twists, probably finishing about 7 PM. Your help is important! We hope to see many willing hands next Monday and Tuesday. —*With love, Catherine Ostling*

- REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK:

Our Parish will be partnering with the *Redwood Empire Food Bank* to distribute food to low income and needy families on the second Wednesday of each month, from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. We start THIS Wednesday, July 9, and our volunteers are asked to arrive at 4:30 PM for a brief orientation session; set up at 5 PM; food distribution from 5:30–6:30 PM; take down from 6:30–7 PM.

- RECEPTION FOR THE FRESCO PAINTERS:

You are invited to a reception in honor of our fresco painters, Monk Patrick and Hierodeacon Moses, on **Thursday, July 10 from 6–8 PM**, at the fountain courtyard (finger foods and wine will be served). The painting of the dome frescos is complete, and so it is only right that we celebrate this achievement and honor the painters. Since the scaffold will be clear of all equipment in preparation for dismantling on Friday, July 11, the monks have offered to take anyone interested—and able—up the scaffold to talk about the frescos. It will be the last chance ever to see the frescos up close. If you would like to ascend to the dome, please wear shoes suitable for climbing the stairway.

- CHURCH CLEANING:

Once the scaffold is dismantled and removed on Friday, July 11, extensive clean up of the church will take place: removal of the church furniture and cleaning/washing of the carpets and floors, dusting of ledges, polishing brass, cleaning counters and the iconostasis, etc. Cleaning is scheduled for **Saturday morning starting at 10 AM**. On Sunday after the Divine Liturgy you will have a chance to put your name on a sign up list. Thank

you. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- PARISH FEAST AT STS. PETER AND PAUL:

Our Sister Parish of Sts. Peter and Paul on Stony Point Rd. will be celebrating its patronal feast day with Vigil at 6 PM on Friday, July 11, and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Saturday, July 12, at 9:30 AM.

- MINISTRY SUNDAY:

Over thirty areas of Parish life and ministry were represented in the Hall during last week's *Ministry Sunday*, displaying both the talent and the time offered by so many dedicated parish members, for the glory of God and the upbuilding of the Church. It was inspiring to see how many opportunities there are in this parish for its members to serve the Church. I am thankful for the witness and the Godly work done here by our members, and for those who may have found ways to get involved in the day-to-day work of the parish. We all know that our *primary work* as Christians is to be faithful servants and stewards of Christ, to acquire from Him all that He has—all the virtues, obedience, holiness, etc. and to express them in our daily lives. Our work is nurtured and fueled by prayer, repentance, worship, fasting, spiritual reading, and gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ for all things. We are Orthodox Christians not just at prayer or in Church, but also at our jobs, daily interactions and relationships. By all this the Church is strengthened. However, at some point during an ordinary week, maybe multiple times, each one of us must offer our time, talent and treasure to the “household of the Church” in gratitude to God, and in order to help the Church function in this world. So, in terms of our *Ministry Sunday*, I have to add that I was a bit disappointed that at least half of those who attended the Divine Liturgy last week did not come to the Hall to see what *Ministry Sunday* was all about. Opportunities abound for participation, and I encourage those who are not currently offering of their time and talent to find a way to do so. May it be for your sanctification, and the sanctification of your God-given time and talent, and for the building up of the Church. —*Fr. Lawrence Margitich*

- IS BEING GOOD, GOOD ENOUGH?

There is certainly nothing wrong with people trying to do the right thing and to be moral and upstanding citizens. The problem is that salvation and transfiguration are not a matter of morality. The publican and the prodigal were not moral people. They did all the wrong things, but yet they came to themselves, they discovered their hearts, and in so doing found the way, not just to moral goodness, but to holiness, to righteousness, and to feasting in the