

more information, please call Paul Andrews at 510-798-7966, or visit the website www.slavyanka.org.

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

This event is a four day, summer program, July 15–19, for kids (ages 5–10) being organized by Gloria Collins and the Church School Teachers. Daily schedule here at the church will consist of a morning prayer at 9 AM sharp, followed by a brief spiritual lesson with one of the priests, then crafts, games, snacks, folk dancing, music, and a wrap-up prayer at Noon. Registration forms are available at the Candle-desk.

- PARISH FEAST—JULY 18/19:

The annual commemoration of Saint Seraphim is right around the corner. This is the day of our patron Saint, a day of great Paschal joy. Orthodox Christians do indeed ask for the prayers of the righteous ones of God in daily prayer. But on July 18/19 we will gather, not as individuals, but as the ***Eucharistic Parish Community*** which has been mystically identified with St. Seraphim—through Christ—to specifically ask for St. Seraphim to intercede for us, and to glorify God “who is wonderful in His saints.” His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin will be with us for the Feast, and so it is only right that our entire Parish community join in this festal celebration with our beloved Archbishop. **Vigil**, Thursday, July 18, 6:30 PM; **Liturgy**, Friday, July 19, 9:30 AM.

- FROM THE BOOKSTORE

Our shelves have been restocked with *A Little Philokalia of St. Seraphim* edited by Fr. Seraphim Rose. This book from the St. Herman of Alaska Monastery in Platina, California has been chosen by our Sisterhood book club. It should appeal to all members of the Parish as well. A new title from St. Herman soon to be on our shelves is *Marriage and Virginity, according to St. John Chrysostom* by Archpriest Josiah Trenham. Fr. Josiah is pastor of St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Riverside and writes from experience as he and his wife, Catherine, have been married for a quarter-century and are parents of nine children. Again in stock is a selection of prayer ropes, lovingly made for us by the sisters of the Skete.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints of Russia & America, July 7, 2013

- TROPARION OF ALL SAINTS OF RUSSIA & AMERICA, Tone Eight:
As a beautiful fruit of the sowing of Thy salvation, the land of Russia and America offers Thee, O Lord, all the saints that have shone in them. By their prayers keep the Church and our lands in peace, through the Theotokos, O Most Merciful One.
- KONTAKION OF ALL SAINTS, Tone Three:
Today the choir of saints who pleased God in the lands of Russia and America stands forth in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. With them the angels glorify Him, and all the saints of the Church of Christ keep festival, and together they pray to the Eternal God for us.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, July 6: 3:30 PM, Catechism
5 PM, Vigil, Confessions
- Sunday, July 7: 9 AM, Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Agape Meal
- Wednesday, July 10: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy at Kazan Skete
6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., July 11: 12 Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship
- Friday, July 12: 9:30 AM, Parish Feast Day of Sts. Peter and Paul on *Stony Point Road*
- Sat., July 13: 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy
3:30 PM, Catechism
5 PM, Vigil, Confessions

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• ALL SAINTS OF RUSSIA AND AMERICA:

Our parish and our diocese are children of the Russian Orthodox Church, so we celebrate both the saints of Russia and those that shone forth in America. Excepting the native Alaskan saints, all of the saints that shone forth in America were of Russian, Greek, Serbian or Arabic, etc. descent. We must realize that we are still infants in the realm of sainthood, here in America. So, for the present, let us recognize that either the OCA—as a jurisdiction—has not produced any *known* saints (no martyrs at least), or else God has not yet revealed those men, women or children to us. We can reflect on the fact that all Orthodox Christians are called to live saintly lives, to cultivate—with God’s Grace—the holy virtues of faith, love, meekness, humility, and the rest. All of us in the Church are *called out*, and the word for Church in Greek, *ecclesia*, refers to those of the world who have *been called*: called to glorify God in their lives, to radiate His love and forgiveness to everyone, to set worship of the Holy Trinity as the first and essential task, to follow the commandments, to become holy. Although we may lack resolve and vision, we in the Orthodox Church do not lack examples of holy men, women and children, not only throughout the world, but here in our parish. Most of the known and revealed saints we remember today, are as follows:

- St. Herman of Alaska (Born: 1758, Russia, Died: 1837, Alaska)
- St. Innocent of Alaska and Metropolitan of Moscow (Born: Aug. 26, 1797, Irkutsk, Died: March 31, 1879, Moscow)
- St. Peter the Aleut (Born: about 1800, Alaska, Martyred in SF: 1815)
- St. Jacob Netsvetov (Born: 1802, Atka Island, Alaska, Died: July 26, 1864, Sitka, Alaska)
- St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco (Born: June 4, 1896, Karkov, Russia, Died: July 2, 1966, Seattle, WA. His holy relics lie in the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in San Francisco, on Geary Street.)
- St. Nikolai of Zhicha (Serbia) and South Canaan, PA. (Born, Dec. 23, 1880, Serbia, Died: March 18, 1956, St. Tikhon’s Seminary, PA.)
- St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Born: 1860, Syria, Died: Feb. 14, 1915, Brooklyn)
- St. John Kuchurov (Born: July 13, 1871, Russia, Martyred: Oct. 31, 1917, Tsarskoye Selo, Russia)
- St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Born: Feb. 11, 1872, Russia, Martyred: 1937, Russia)
- St. Alexis Toth (Born: March 18, 1854, Austro-Hungary, Died: May 7,

1909, Wilkes-Barre, PA)

- St. Tikhon of Moscow, Enlightener of America (Born: January 19, 1865, Russia, Martyred: April 7, 1925 Moscow)
- St. Juvenal of Illiamna (Born: 1761, Russia, Martyred: 1796, Alaska)

• BABY SHOWER:

Please join the parish women next Sunday, July 15, in the Parish Hall at 3 PM, for a Baby Shower in honor of Meghan Juliana Inlow.

• FAITHFULNESS IN TIMES OF EVIL:

All of our striving is concerned with acquiring the love commanded of us by Christ. When this spirit of Christ-like love enters within us our souls thirst for the salvation of all people. We are appalled that by no means everyone wishes for himself what we ask for all in our prayers. Worse, we often meet with refusal, even hostility. How can people be saved when there is such perversion? We live in an age, the events of which make the tragedy of our fall more and more evident. To take my own life: for over half a century I have prayed, sometimes weeping bitter tears, sometimes in wild despair, for the peace of the whole world and the salvation, if it be possible, of all. And what do you suppose? To this hour, in my old age, I see every evil increasing in its dynamics. The close of mankind’s earthly history is scientifically thinkable and may become technically realizable tomorrow. We are nonplussed by the utterly irrational character of the happenings of our time. So what are we to do? Despair and reject the everlasting Gospel? And if we decide on rejection what else in the whole world is there to satisfy us? Positively nothing could separate us from Him, however bitter the trials that we must suffer. He has opened our eyes to infinity, and now we cannot close them and prefer the blindness of new-born puppies. “Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world,” said the Lord. And now we stand before the Living Absolute- which is exactly what, and only what, we are seeking. —*Elder Sophrony of Essex from the book **We Shall See Him as He Is***

• RUSSIAN CHOIR CONCERT:

On July 27th, 7:30 PM, Slavyanka Men’s Russian Choir will give a performance of Russian sacred and folk music at First Congregational Church, 252 West Spain Street, Sonoma. The concert will include older liturgical music, more recent sacred compositions by Rachmaninoff, Tchaikovsky and others, as well as a selection of lively Russian folk songs. For