

attendance. Of course, we know that there are NO private sacraments (even Confession is done in the Church for all to see). At a wedding, the parish members not only pray for the couple, but offer them to God, as He unites them in “one flesh.” In this Holy Mystery, many things are made powerfully manifest, yet will not be so clearly discerned when the majority of those in attendance are not Orthodox Christians. For example, when the Church is full of Orthodox Christians, there is a witness—by common prayer and hymns—to those non-Orthodox about God’s Kingdom and His love. The sense of unity in Christ is extremely powerful. Secondly, the true nature of Holy Matrimony—that two complementary beings, male and female, are joined by God into one flesh and constitute a “little Kingdom of God” in their home—is presented in a magnificent, solemn, joyful and theological way that also reveals something about how and why God created us in the beginning. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I appeal to you for your participation, and I trust that you will make the offering of your time and prayers. Let’s be good witnesses of the Kingdom for the sake of the Church. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• BAPTISM NEXT WEEK:

The newly adopted children of Gloria and Gary Collins will be baptized next Sunday, July 20, at 9:30 AM. The Collins family would be honored to share their joy with you.

• GOOD AND BAD ARE ONTOLOGICAL:

Good and bad are not categories that are external to us – but are very much a part of our being and existence. We are created for union with God, Who is the ultimate and true Good. Movement away from that union is the meaning of the word “bad.” This is sin and it is death. God is the ground of our being – to move away from God is to move towards non-existence. It is this movement that is described as bad. The actions in our lives that are the fruit of such a movement are the actions that are categorized as “sins.” But they are not sins because they are legal violations of an extrinsic norm. They are sins because they are manifestations of *sin itself*—the movement away from God. We are never able to make ourselves not exist. Existence is the gift of God and is not within our power to end. Our rejection of God and of our proper end is not an acceptance of non-existence. It is a movement away from the goodness of being, a distortion of its truth and the substitution for delusional forms of existence. —*Fr. Stephen Freeman*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Sunday of the Holy Fathers ~ July 13, 2014

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• RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

• RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION, Tone Four:

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb, and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hades, and as Master, He has risen on the third day.

• KONTAKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed the one Faith in the Church. And wearing the garment of truth woven from theology on high, she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

### ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, July 12: 3:30 PM, Catechesis: *Jesus, the Son of God*  
5 PM, Great Vespers, Confessions
- Sunday, July 13: 9:30 AM, Akathist *Nurturer of Children*  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy; Noon, Agape Meal  
3 PM, Wedding of Jonathan and Shiloh

- Monday, July 14: 5 PM, Glendi Baking
- Tuesday, July 15: **9 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. Vladimir**  
5 PM, Glendi Baking
- Wednesday, July 16: 6 PM, Vespers, Potluck dinner, Slide show & lecture on ancient Macedonian Churches
- Friday, July 18: 10 AM, Akathist to St. Seraphim  
6:15 PM, Vigil for St. Seraphim of Sarov
- Saturday, July 19: ***Feast of St. Seraphim of Sarov:*** 9:30 AM,  
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy  
Festal Luncheon  
5 PM, Great Vespers

- PARISH FEAST: Friday and Saturday!
- HOLY COMMUNION:

We welcome our visitors and our guests this morning, and would remind them, as well as all Parish and Church members, that the reception of Holy Communion is reserved for Baptized and Chrismated Orthodox Christians. No Orthodox Christian should approach the Chalice to receive Holy Communion with being prepared by fasting, prayer (especially the “Pre-Communion Prayers”) and a **recent participation in the Holy Sacrament of Confession**, made within the last month or so, according to the teaching of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA. Attendance at Vespers on Saturday evening is very strongly encouraged as well, as a means of preparing yourself to receive the Eucharist. If you are a visitor to the Church, we most cordially invite you to our Sunday meal which follows the Divine Liturgy.

- USHERS:  
Serving today are Vladimir Baer and Ryan Panteleimon Duval.
- SAINT SERAPHIM DAY UPCOMING:  
Akathist to St. Seraphim, Friday, July 18 at 10 AM. Vigil on Friday evening at 6:15 PM. We will greet Vladyka Benjamin at 9:30 AM on Saturday, and begin the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.
- MERCY MEALS:  
Shannon Agni Winterton, who manages the Mercy Meals ministry for the parish, reports that she has not received any requests lately. If you know of

any in the parish that are ill, or for any reason need prepared meals brought to them, please call Shannon Winterton at 707-331-3228 or email at: wintertonsh@yahoo.com.

- GLENDI SHIRTS:  
**Glendi 25** T-shirts in men and women sizes will be for sale soon (the “25” on the T-shirt celebrates this, our twenty-fifth Glendi. Shannon Winterton will have \$20 shirts available at the Agape meals.
- GLENDI COOKIES ARE UNDERWAY!  
We had two very productive sessions of Glendi cookie-making this week. On Monday, we baked over **six hundred** Greek Tea Cakes, plus rolling a whole lot of no-bake Bourbon Balls while the cookies were in the oven. On Tuesday, hundreds of tasty Greek Twists were baked. All cookies were packed away to be frozen for Glendi. Many thanks to all who came to help, and especially to Catherine Carpenter for her leadership of the Greek cookies, and Bobbi Griovski for guiding the prep of the bourbon balls. Next Monday we’ll be baking Ginger Cookies, really easy to make but requiring lots of helping hands. Can you participate? Even an hour would be helpful. On Tuesday evening, it’s everyone’s favorite: Chocolate Chip Cookies. Both evenings we will begin at 5 PM, and with plenty of help will be finished by 7:30 or 8 PM. Come and bring your friends! — *With love,* Catherine Ostling
- REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK:  
On Wednesday, July 9, about twelve parish volunteers, working with the Redwood Empire Food Bank, distributed food to some forty-five families. The Food Bank provided all of the food and organized our team of volunteers for the work. The volunteers came from all age groups: we had four children under the age of ten working with their parents, teens, college age, middle-aged and seniors all participating in this good work. The next food distribution will be on August 13, and thereafter, every second Wednesday of the month. Interested in helping? Help is still needed, since we expect the next distribution to be not for forty families, but perhaps for up to one hundred families. Speak to Fr. Lawrence or Denise Pellizzer to get started.
- WEDDING, SUNDAY, JULY 13:  
Shiloh and Jonathan extend an invitation to all the members of our parish to attend their wedding at 3 PM. As your rector, I also sincerely encourage your