

moment to check out our latest titles for summertime reading. — *Vladimir*

• TAKING STOCK OF OUR STRUGGLE:

The Christian struggle is waged in the heart, for this is the focal point of creation itself. It is here that we see the fullness of the Creator's purpose, and here that the whole of creation finds its summation. It is the human person who is the capstone of God's creative work, which exists as a microcosm of all creation, and so any struggle which seeks to Christianize the cosmos, to evangelize and fulfill Christ's call to mission [or to try and correct the mistakes of others] yet which does not begin with the human heart, works with secondary things rather than primary. Such action is analogous to one who seeks to repair a crumbling house by working on its outer timbers, while its foundations remain in crumbling disintegration. The foundations must be repaired and strengthened first: only then can the remainder of the structure be repaired in a manner that will last, that will abide. So it is with the Christian life. *Ascesis* [spiritual struggle, fasting, prayer, works of mercy, etc.] begins in the heart: in obediently re-orientating the heart toward the Kingdom, in understanding its enemies and the *passions* [compulsions, thoughts, disordered desires, intrusive thoughts] that lay buried with it, and coming to combat and defeat them by Christ's power. — Fr. Irenei (Steenberg), from *The Orthodox Word, Vol. 44, No. 6*

• A JOYOUS FEAST:

The Parish celebrated the feast of the glorification of St. Seraphim of Sarov on Thursday, July 19. His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, came on Wednesday evening, leading about seventy-five of our parishioners in the Festal Vigil. Area clergy came the next morning, along with about 150 faithful, for a joyous and bright Divine Liturgy. We thank the choir and the choir master, Nicolas, the servers, those who decorated the festal icon, those who prepared a wonderful meal, cleaned up, and all those that helped make the feast such a special occasion. Vladika Benjamin gave a very edifying homily at the Liturgy, which you can hear on the parish website

<<[www.saintseraphim.com](http://www.saintseraphim.com)>>.

• VINEYARD MOUND:

A volunteer (or two?) is needed to mow the mound out in the middle of the vineyard. Please let Father Lawrence know if you are willing to help with this.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday ~ July 22, 2012

St. Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles

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• TROPARION OF ST. MARY, Tone One:

In keeping His commandments and laws, O holy Mary Magdalene, thou didst follow Christ, Who for our sake was born of a Virgin. And in celebrating thy most holy memory today, we receive forgiveness of sins by thy prayers.

• KONTAKION OF ST. MARY, Tone Four:

When God, the Mighty, the Transcendent in essence, came into the world, He received thee, O Mary, as His true disciple as was meet. For thou hadst thy whole desire and thy love set upon Him; wherefore, thou didst bring to pass many cures for the ailing; and now translated to the Heavens' heights, thou dost fervently pray for all the world.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, July 21: KAZAN SKETE, 9:30 AM, Greeting of Archbishop Benjamin, Divine Liturgy  
5 PM, Great Vespers, Confessions
- Sunday, July 22: 9 AM, Confessions  
10 AM, Liturgy
- Mon., July 23: *Office closed*
- Wed., July 25: 5 PM, Catechism  
6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., July 26: 12 Noon, Senior/Retired Lunch Fellowship  
6 PM, Akathist to St. Panteleimon  
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting

- PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

We welcome our visitors and our guests to the Divine Liturgy, 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 unless he or she has prepared by fasting, Prayers Before Holy Communion and a regular and recent participation in the Holy Sacrament of Confession. Recent means: within the last month. You are asked to remember that the Saturday evening Resurrectional Vespers, which is served at 5 PM each and every Saturday, is very much a part of a proper preparation for Holy Communion.

Why these instructions; isn't all this too much law and not enough grace? Orthodoxy is a way, not a philosophy or idea or set of rules. The tradition teaches us that prayer, fasting, evening Services, Confession and other forms of devotion are very much part of how we grow in faith and love for God and neighbor; these things help us focus our attention on the presence of God; we learn how to have a deeper sense of repentance and gratitude before Him.

If you are a visitor to the Church, and would like to speak to a priest about Orthodoxy, please call or see one of our clergy after the Divine Liturgy.

- AWAY UNTIL SUNDAY NIGHT:

Fr. Lawrence is away this weekend, participating in the wedding of Steve Trivunovic and Beth Kelley (she was baptized here on Holy Saturday) in Schererville, Indiana.

- ST. SERAPHIM WEEK:

Our thanks to Gloria Collins, Lara Anderson, all the moms, as well as Carmen, Joseph, and Moses Anderson and James Carr who made the St. Seraphim week activities for kids so wonderful. This year we had about 25 kids taking part. They came for prayer, a short spiritual talk by Fr. Lawrence, crafts, stories, songs and games. Each day the life of a child saint was presented (e.g. St. Peter the Aleut, St. Sophia and her children, etc.).

- REINFORCEMENTS NEEDED FOR THE RUSSIAN FRONT (Piroshki, etc.):

As you know, we are all busily getting ready for Glendi. And that means we need to get going on making piroshki. Assembly work will begin on Satur-

day, July 28<sup>th</sup>, and continue throughout the day. The week prior to that we will be making the fillings. Your help is needed on any (or all) of the following tasks and days:

- **Hard boiling eggs:** We need a couple of people to pick up eggs from the church on Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>; hard boil them; peel them and have them back to church by Tuesday (July 23<sup>rd</sup>).

- **Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>,** *time to be announced* once I find out who can help and what time works best for them: three people to shred cabbage, four people to chop dill/parsley and eggs.

- **Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>** *time to be announced* once I find out who can help and what time works best for them: four people to fry meat.

- **Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>** *time to be announced* once I find out who can help and what time works best for them: 4 people to fry cabbage.

- **Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>,** 8:30 AM–5 PM, come for as long as you can (one hour or more!): We need as many available people as possible to come assemble the piroshki. It's a lot of fun and, no experience is necessary. On the job training is available!! Most people come for 1–2 hour shifts. Every little bit helps!! Invite your family and friends, the more, the merrier (and this is really true—laughing and chatting around the kitchen island while making piroshki is a lot of fun).

Please call me (838-4109) or email me off list (vbasch@sbcglobal.net) to let me know if you can help. Thank you! —  
*Vicky Basch*

- OTHER GLENDI NEWS:

Are you wondering how the Glendi organization is going? Last Sunday a newsletter was printed up, and it is chock full of great information. There are lots of copies left on the table in the Narthex.

- RETIRED / SENIOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP:

Seniors and retired parishioners, you are invited to another of our Noon fellowship Lunches, Thursday, July 26. Please call the office at 707-584-9491 to confirm you are coming.

- FROM THE BOOKSTORE

It's time to clean up! And we have just what is needed: Delightfully scented soaps hand made by the monks of Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco Monastery. Five of their spice and herbal fragrances are currently in stock. Please stop by for a sniff, and while you are in the bookstore, take a