

• SOFTBALL GAME:

Join us for a rousing summer game of softball, Sunday afternoon, August 7th at 2:30 PM, (location will most likely either be at G-park or S-park in Rohnert Park). Afterwards, we'll come back to the church for a non-meat or dairy style potluck. If you are saying to yourself, "I don't have softball skills, how could I possibly play? I would make a fool of myself," a response would be: "you won't be alone, I will probably do the same." If you are saying, "I am a fine softball player, but I'm too old," a response would be, "you're never too old, and we could use some teachers to help set us straight. Come one, come all! —*Ambrose Inlow*

• DID GOD CREATE EVIL?

"...evil is not a living and animated substance, but a condition of the soul which is opposed to virtue and which springs up in the slothful because of their falling away from good. Do not, therefore, contemplate evil from without; and do not imagine some original nature of wickedness, but let each one recognize himself as the first author of the vice that is in him." —*St. Basil the Great, Hexameron, Homily 2:4-5*. But someone might object, doesn't Scripture tell us that God creates evil? For example, Isaiah 45:7, says in the King James Version: "I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and create evil; I the Lord, do all these things." The word "evil" in the Hebrew (*rah*) may mean bad, disagreeable, malignant, calamity, misery, distress, adversity, etc. So how does one know what the phrase from Isaiah 45:7 means? The Holy Prophet Isaiah is using parallels: light, darkness, peace, evil. There's a translation problem in the King James with the word "evil" which is not an *opposite* of peace. A more proper translation, say scholars, is the word "calamity" as it relates to the word "peace." So what is Isaiah saying? St. John of Damascus writes: "It is customary for sacred Scripture to speak of God's permission as an action and deed, but even when it goes so far as to say that God "creates evil" it still does not show God to be the author of evil. On the contrary, since the word "evil" is ambiguous...it means what is evil and painful in relation to our sensibility, which is to say, tribulation [calamity] and distress. Now, while these last seem to be evil, because they cause pain, actually they are good, because for those who understand them, they are a source of conversion and salvation." In other words, to correct us, the Lord does sometimes allow calamities to bring us to repentance, spiritual attention, understanding, and to rely on Him alone.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 24, 2016

Holy Passion-Bearers Boris and Gleb  
Holy Great Martyr Christina of Tyre

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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 TO STS. BORIS AND GLEB, Tone Two:

O Righteous Passion-bearers and true fulfillers of the Gospel of Christ, chaste Boris and guileless Gleb, ye did not oppose the onslaughts of your enemy, your brother, who though killing your bodies was unable to touch your souls. Let the evil lover of power mourn therefore, while ye rejoice with the angelic choirs; and as ye stand before the Holy Trinity, pray for the souls of them that honor your memory, that they may be pleasing to God; and by your intercessions, pray that all Orthodox people may be saved.

• 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.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, July 23: 4 PM, Children's Choir Rehearsal  
5 PM, Great Vespers, Confessions
- Sunday, July 24: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
Noon, Agape Meal

1 PM, Molieben of Thanksgiving for Rachel Dovey

1:30 PM Vespers for St. Anna

2 PM, Church School Teacher Meeting

- Monday, July 25: 3–7 PM, Glendi Baking (see below)
- Tuesday, July 26: 3–7 PM, Glendi Baking
- Wednesday, July 27: 6 PM, Akathist to St. Panteleimon
- Thursday, July 28: 9 AM, Liturgy to mark the Consecration of St. Seraphim Church in 2001

• SERVING TODAY:

Our ushers today are Tito Vincente Ramirez and Ted Dechant.

• GLENDI PIROSHKI PREP:

Vicky Basch is looking for help with piroshki prep Wednesday–Saturday, various times. Her goal is to make 800 piroshki for Glendi, and for that to happen, she hopes to have a large crew of volunteers. No experience is necessary. Vicky can be reached at vbasch@sonic.net, or call/text her at 707-291-2369 (text is good)

• GLENDI BAKING:

Our annual Glendi summer baking project kicks off on Monday and Tuesday, July 25 and 26. Many hands make light work, and we need your help! On July 25 we'll be baking Greek twists (koulourakia). Come and help make these yummy treats—the “twist” is easier than you may think. On Tuesday, July 26 we'll bake one of our best selling favorites, Soft Ginger Cookies, very easy to make, and so tasty. We start at 3 PM and continue until we're done—probably around 7 or 8 PM. You could stop by for an hour in the afternoon, and be home in plenty of time for dinner. Or come by after work to put in an hour of bagging and boxing the cookies for freezing. Please remember—the Glendi bakery is the top money-maker of all booths at Glendi. I hope to see you in the Church hall on our baking dates—thanks in advance for your help. Invite your friends!

— *Catherine Ostling, Glendi Baking Chairman*

• GLENDI ~ CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES:

This year at Glendi we hope to have a team organize and run the very popular (and essential) Children's Activities. Having a team, rather than one person in charge, might be the most convenient approach, according the

Gloria Collins, who organized this area for a number of years. Gloria is willing to advise the new team. See Alex Stameroff if you'd like to help. By the way, Glendi Sign Up Sheets will be posted in the Hall at the beginning of August.

• PARISH MEN'S GROUP TRIP:

The men of the parish are invited to join a “pilgrimage,” Sunday, July 31 to attend Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral, followed by an SF Giants baseball game. The Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity begins at 10 AM. Following the Liturgy and lunch, there will be a short tour of the Cathedral, time permitting. Speak with either George Barsi or Tom Pellizzer to reserve your baseball tickets and a ride to SF.

• PARISH NEEDS:

Yellow Jacket traps: collect traps, bait and distribute

~~Sweep walkway around St. Seraphim (ask kids to stop throwing pebbles)~~

Clean covers of Outside Baptismal Font

Scrap wax off church floor

Clean and polish brass candle stands in St. Seraphim

Clean up “irrigation box” in parking lot

• CLASSES ON THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:

See the poster in the Narthex regarding classes on August 1 and 2.

• MANY THANKS:

I am grateful for the many people who made the celebration of St. Seraphim Day last Monday and Tuesday so joyful and festive. Such festivities happen through the good work of many talented, dedicated, hardworking, pious and God-loving people. I am grateful for the choir, for those who decorated the church and the hall, the deacons, subdeacons, servers, the parish council members, and certainly we are all very grateful to those who prepared and served the festive meal after the Divine Liturgy, and for those who cleaned. About 180 faithful gathered on Tuesday morning before the Liturgy to greet Vladyka Daniel, Bishop of Santa Rosa. Welcoming him and serving together were visiting subdeacons, four deacons, including Archdeacon Kirill Sokolov, a dozen priests. Also joining us was Archimandrite Irenei (Steenberg), Bishop-elect of Sacramento for ROCOR, who gave a wonderful toast in honor of the feast. Thanks to one and all for a memorable and very full day.

—*Fr. Lawrence*