

pain, and abundant love to the fallen and the suffering. —*Monk Moses the Athonite*

• ON INTRUSIVE THOUGHTS (logismi):

Here is what the Holy Fathers say about thoughts: “If thoughts that take away our peace assail us, know that they are from hell.” Such thoughts must not be accepted. They must be banished immediately. We must struggle for our own good and strive for peace to take roots in our souls—peace, joy, and Divine love. Our Heavenly Father wants all of His children to have His Divine properties. He wants us to be full of love, peace, joy, truthfulness, and kindness. He wants us to be able to comfort others. We also want to become meek and humble, for only such a person radiates goodness and kindness.... Such a person is never insulted even when you shout and scold him; you can even hit him and all he does is pity you for tormenting yourself so. There are very few such people on this earth, but they are the reason why the sun still warms planet Earth and why God gives us His blessing to go on living and to have everything we need in order to live. You see now why our thoughts must change. —*Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica, “Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives”*

• CHALLENGE OF ALL-SAINTS OF AMERICA:

Many weeks ago, during the sermon on the Feast of All Saints of America, I commented that since we are not doing Glendi, we might dedicate some time to become familiar with the lives of those saints who labored in America. There are four weeks left until the *No-Glendi weekend*. Have we gotten to know our saints? Sts. Herman, Innocent, Peter the Aleut, Juvenaly, Jacob of Alaska, Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Sebastian of Jackson, Tikhon the Confessor, John of SF, Nikolia of South Canaan, Raphael of Brooklyn, John (Kuchurov), Alexander (Hotovitsky), Mardarije of Libertyville, Bazyl (Martysz), Righteous Olga of Alaska, and the rest...

SOME PARISH NEEDS

- Pilgrimage Ministry Leader, meaning, someone who will help (does not have to do it alone) organize trips to monasteries and other holy places.
- Chairman for the Parish Men’s Group. Such a person would organize (with others) activities of the Men’s Group. See Fr. Lawrence if you’re interested.
- Someone to set out yellow-jacket traps
- ~~Assistant Sacristan, who will monthly wash and clean all the oil lamps. See Fr. Lawrence~~

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



August 20, 2017

Post-feast of Dormition & Prophet Samuel



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life-Immortal, Thou didst slay hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead; and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

• TROPARION OF DORMITION, Tone One

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity, in thy dormition thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos; thou wast translated unto life, since thou art the Mother of Life; and by thine intercessions dost thou redeem our souls from death.

• KONTAKION OF DORMITION, Tone Two

The grave and death, could not hold the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her intercessions, and an unfading hope in her mediations. For as the Mother of Life, she was translated to Life by the One Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 19: 4 PM, Confessions
5 PM, Great Vespers (Confessions to follow)
- Sunday, August 20: 9–9:50 AM, Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tuesday, August 22: 6 PM, Teacher Training session, in Library
- Wednesday, August 23: 6 PM, Teacher Training session
- Thursday, August, 24: 6 PM, Teacher Training session
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Friday, August 25: 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy (one year anniversary of repose of Gabriel Griovski)
Brunch, then visit to cemetery

• TO OUR GUESTS:

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we welcome you and hope your experience at the Divine Liturgy will be edifying and spiritually nourishing. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join the parish, or would like to speak with Fr Lawrence, we invite you to fill out a *visitor information card* and leave it at the candle desk, and to join us for lunch following the Divine Liturgy.

• PRAYER TO THE THEOTOKOS The Softener of Evil Hearts:

O much-sorrowing Mother of God, more highly exalted than all other maidens, according to thy purity and the multitude of thy suffering endured by thee on earth: Harken to our sighs and soften the hearts of evil men, and protect us under the shelter of thy mercy. For we know no other refuge and ardent intercessor apart from thee, but as thou hast great boldness before the One who was born of thee, help and save us by thy prayers, that without offence we may attain the Heavenly Kingdom where, with all the saints, we will sing the thrice-holy hymn to One God Almighty in the Trinity, always now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

• WITHOUT GLENDI:

We will not be doing the Glendi this year on the third weekend—so, shall we

as a parish do something instead? One suggestion has been to invite Father Patrick to give a short talk on the latest frescoes on Sunday, Sept 17, followed by a potluck BBQ. That's one idea. If you have another, please give your suggestion to Fr. Lawrence or any of the Parish Council members. Just be sure that your recommended event does not require a great deal of labor!

• CONFESSIONS—scheduling:

Please be mindful that there is limited ***time for Confessions on Sunday mornings***. I encourage you to make your confession on any other day, and I am available as follows:

- Tuesday–Friday, from Noon until whenever by appointment
- Wednesday and Saturday, 4 PM until Vespers, and after Vespers
- Sunday, 9–9:50 AM

• AN APPEAL—AGAIN:

Frequently I see a visitor, someone I have not yet met, standing or eating alone in the Parish Hall. I'd like to encourage each and everyone of you to take responsibility to greet and welcome that person which the Lord has sent to you and me. Bring the guest to me, or come get me, and I will have lunch with the guest. Let me put this another way, in terms of an admonition: I hope to never see a visitor standing or eating alone in the Hall. None of us would ignore a guest who came to our home. Please, brothers and sisters, I beg each of you, show your love by welcoming our guests—extend yourself. To my way of thinking, once we get to the Hall on Sunday, those of us without small children should see to the comfort and the welcome of the guest ***before*** any other need we may have, ***before*** we sit in our usual spot, ***before*** we have our coffee or our lunch. Evangelism begins with hospitality. —Fr. Lawrence

• THE BODY OF CHRIST:

Prayer is not something you do individually or in private. No way. A person who prays is united with Christ and with all members of the Church. It helps to avoid the troublesome and tiresome loneliness. One can see its effect more clearly during the Divine Liturgy by conscious participation in the sacramental life of the Church. The Church teaching is not a presentation of ideas and good-sounding words. It is not verbalism. It does not consist of chasing demons or beating up the impious and infidels. The Church teaching stems from silence, prayer, preparation, labor, reading,