

• SENIOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP:

The retired and senior parishioners met to have their monthly lunch gathering on Thursday, August 30. We thank Petar and Bobbi Griovski for a fine meal, and we thank those that stayed to clean. The number of attendees was a bit less than usual, so it was felt that perhaps not all the parishioners who might come were aware that the luncheon was taking place. This month we will meet on Thursday, September 27, at Noon.

• THE RESURRECTION—an excerpt from Alexander Schmemmann

The Resurrection is the recreation of the world in its original beauty and totality. It is the complete spiritualization of matter and the complete incarnation of the spirit in God's creation. The world has been given to man as his life, and for this reason, according to our Christian Orthodox teaching, God will not annihilate it but will transfigure it into "a new heaven and a new earth," into man's spiritual body, into the temple of God's presence and God's glory in creation. "The last enemy to be destroyed is death..." And that destruction, that extermination of death began when the Son of God Himself in His immortal love for us voluntarily descended into death and its darkness, filling the despair and horror of Hades with His light and love. And this is why we sing on Pascha not only "Christ is risen from the dead," but also "trampling down death by death..." He alone arose from the dead, but He has destroyed our death, destroying its dominion, its despair, its finality. Christ does not promise us Nirvana or some sort of misty life beyond the grave, but the resurrection of life, a new heaven and a new earth, the joy of the universal resurrection. "The dead shall arise, and those in the tombs will sing for joy..." Christ is risen, and life abides, life lives... That is the meaning; that is the unending joy of this truly central and fundamental confirmation of the Symbol of Faith: "And the third day, He rose again according to the Scriptures." According to the Scriptures, i.e. in accordance with that knowledge of life, with that design for the world and humanity, for the soul and body, for the spirit and matter, for life and death, which has been revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. This is the entire faith, the entire love, and the entire hope of Christianity. And this is why the Apostle Paul says, "If Christ is not risen, then your faith is in vain."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday ~ September 2, 2012
Holy Great Martyr Mamas

• 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.

• RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION, 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.

• TROPARION OF ST. MAMAS:

Thy martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat., Sept. 1: 9 AM, Glendi Work Party
5 PM, Great Vespers, Akathist *Glory to God* for beginning of Church New Year
- Sun., Sept. 2: 9 AM, Confessions, 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
- Wed., Sept. 5: 5 PM, Catechism
6 PM, Vespers

- Thurs., Sept. 6: 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim
- Friday, Sept. 7: 6:15 PM, Great Vespers for the *Nativity of the Theotokos*
- Sat., Sept. 8: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the *Nativity of the Theotokos*
11 AM, Glendi Work Party
5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions

- CONGRATULATIONS:

We rejoice with Nikki and Freddie Myles on the birth of their child Ann Marie, on Wednesday, August 29. May God grant them many years. We also congratulate Franchesca and Panteleimon Duval, who are expecting!

- ADVICE FROM ST. SERAPHIM:

You cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of him who gives and kindles joy in the heart of him who receives. All condemnation is from the devil. Never condemn each other...instead of condemning others, strive to reach inner peace. Keep silent, refrain from judgment. This will raise you above the deadly arrows of slander, insult, and outrage and will shield your glowing hearts against all evil.

- DAY OF THE PROTECTION OF CREATION:

For many years, His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has issued a statement on the protection of the environment in conjunction with his annual message marking the beginning of the ecclesiastical year on September 1. It can be read here: <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/ecumenical-patriarch-marks-the-ecclesiastical-new-year-with-a-statement-on>

- FOURTEEN DAYS TO GLENDI:

As of Sunday, September 2, we have fourteen days to prepare for Glendi: food for the booths, setting up the grounds (tents, electrical, tables, parking, signage, temp walls and fencing) cleaning and prepping equipment, sending out advertisements, delivering comp tickets and comp foods, picking up beer, wine, soda, water, food items, and serving ware, setting up the accounting, and a thousand other things. While doing all of this, each one of us will also continue to confess our sins, prepare ourselves for Communion, pray for others and ourselves each day, make our tithe to God and the

Church, read the Holy Scriptures, visit the sick and lonely, celebrate Services on Saturdays and Sundays and the Feasts of the Church (two feasts coming—Nativity of the Theotokos and the Exaltation of the Cross). While it's true that the Glendi provides money for our Building and Iconographic Funds (we do not use it for operating expenses), our focus during Glendi is not primarily on making money. It is on giving hospitality from the heart, a giving that consists of sharing our Orthodox life, faith, art, cultures, foods, music and dance. So, prepare well.

- YOU ARE INVITED TO A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:

Next Friday, September 7 at 6:15 PM, there will be a birthday celebration here at the Church. Your presence is requested for the gathering in honor of the birthday—the *Nativity*—of the Mother of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. Great Vespers will begin at 6:15 PM on Friday, September 7. The Divine Liturgy will be served on Saturday, September 8, at 9 AM. You've received an invitation to come to a gathering for someone you dearly love. As the Church we honor, extol, and sing to the Holy Mother of our Lord, the Ever-Virgin Mary and Theotokos. Consider your love for her, and her love for you. Within the Most Holy Virgin Christ abode in the flesh, and in her most immaculate hands God sat as though upon a throne. Therefore is she called a *Cherubic throne*. One writer says that “in her person the likeness of fertile trees is depicted, for spiritually she is like a fruitful olive tree or a blooming date-palm in the house of the Lord. Therefore, she is now called the life-giving garden, as the Church sings: ‘From a barren root the God of wonders has made a life-bearing garden to spring up for us: even His Mother.’” *Most Holy Theotokos, save us.*

- ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL:

An All American Council has been called by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America in order to nominate and elect a new Metropolitan (Metropolitan Jonah resigned some months back). A one-day, one-agenda-item Council will take place on November 13, 2012, in Parma, Ohio (suburb of Cleveland). Each parish is asked to send its clergy and a non-clergy delegate. Nominees will be named at an Extraordinary Parish Meeting—in the church—which will take place immediately after the Divine Liturgy, next Sunday, September 9. Nominees (if any) will then meet with Father Lawrence for two minutes, in order to review all the qualifications, and then the Parish will vote on the nominees.