

grant this gift from God. And then, when we are communing of the Lord's Body and Blood, we are in Jesus Christ, and we have both Him, His Holy Mother, and all the Kingdom of Saints, within us in our hearts. What a marvelous and tremendous gift. This union with God in the Liturgy makes us into a holy people (isn't this holiness and unity one of the reasons that the Parish exists?). **Confessions can be heard either before or after services, or by appointment. Please consider your holy obligation to one another in this matter as members of the Body of Christ.**

• THE CHURCH, STRUGGLE AND STABILITY:

*(The following is an excerpt of a letter written by Father John Dresko. It will be printed in its entirety in the October bulletin).* The Church is the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The very Bride of Christ. And our parish is the local expression of that reality. But God has placed that divine reality into the hands of sinful human beings. Weak human beings. Broken human beings. And we all bring those sins, that brokenness, to the life of the parish and the Church. But it doesn't matter where we go, because we would have to work our way through all of that flotsam and jetsam no matter where we went. We also forget the spiritual reality that very often God allows struggles and difficulties to be in our lives — individual, parish and Church — in order to strengthen us, allow us to be humble and love those whom we may find difficult to love, and teach us that He is God, not us. Fr. Thomas Hopko one time told me a great truth: "The hardest thing for man to do is grow where God plants him." Take your pick — St. Paul's, the OCA, the Orthodox Church — it doesn't matter. As long as we seek anything other than Jesus Christ and Him crucified, not anything else, not anything that will "help me," not anything that appeals to my "tastes," we are doomed to continually wander the earth looking for the perfect place. The perfect place does exist — it's where God planted me.

• AGITATION:

The demons tempt by thoughts...by arousing anxiety and worry and various fears and apprehensions...In all the varied conflicts of the demons, a sense of disturbance or agitation always serves as a true sign of the approach of fallen spirits, even though the action produced by them has an appearance of justice...One should not fear the threats of devils. —St. Ignatius

Brianchaninov, from *The Prayer of Jesus*, pg. 88

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 23, 2012  
Conception of St. John the Baptist

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- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:  
By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.
- TROPARION OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN, Tone Four:  
Rejoice, O thou barren one who hadst not borne until now; for lo, in all truth thou hast conceived the lamp of the Sun, and he shall send forth his light over all the earth, which is afflicted with blindness. Dance, O Zacharias, and cry out with great boldness: The one to be born is the blest Prophet of God Most High.
- KONTAKION OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN, Tone One:  
Rejoice with splendor, O great Zachariah and most glorious Elizabeth, his spouse, in conceiving John the Forerunner as is meet, whom the archangel announced, rejoicing. O ye people, let us right worthily honor him as the initiate of the mystery of grace.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Sept. 22: 9 AM, Glendi Clean up  
10 AM, Panikhida  
5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions
- Sunday, Sept. 23: 9 AM, Confessions / 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
Noon, **Potluck Agape Meal**  
12:45 PM, Choir Rehearsal  
12:45 PM, Teacher Mtg. / Church office

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707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

- Tuesday, Sept. 25: Scaffolding being set up for fresco on south wall
- Wednesday, Sept. 26: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, St. John the Theologian  
5 PM, Catechism  
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Sept. 27: Noon, Senior Fellowship Luncheon  
6 PM, Akathist of the Protection of the Theotokos  
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting

- GLENDI:

Congratulations to all for a magnificent effort. You are invited to read Father Lawrence's letter to the parish, available at the Candlestand.

- FRESCO TO START:

This week Fr. Patrick and Fr. Moses will begin to work on the fresco of the Transfiguration, which will be painted on the choir side, at the top of the building. This fresco was donated by numerous members of our Parish, who gave up to half the cost, and the Cuneo family, who supplied funds for the other half (\$12,000 in total). The scaffolding is expected to be delivered and erected on Tuesday.

- UPCOMING IN OCTOBER:

- Sept. 30, 5 PM, Vigil for our Parish Feast of the Protection of the Virgin, and on Monday, Oct. 1, 9:30 AM, the Divine Liturgy of the Feast
- October 6, following Vespers: Baptism of Ann Marie Myles
- October 7, Tito Vincent Ramirez will be baptized at 9 AM, prior to the Divine Liturgy
- October 14, Marriage of Mica Anastasia Castillo and Tito V. Ramirez
- October 28, our parish will host a Vespers and Benefit Dinner for the Monastery of St. John of San Francisco (Manton), starting at 4:30 PM. Father Meletios (Webber) will be the guest speaker.

- REPORTS FOR THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY:

Parish and Diocesan departmental reports have been posted at [www.dowoca.org](http://www.dowoca.org) in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly, Oct. 2–4, in Denver. They make for some interesting reading. You will find there that our

parish is one of the three largest in the diocese (Las Vegas reports less members, but has a greater attendance than we do, then Annunciation in Milwaukie, OR, and our parish). We've reported to the Diocese that we have 118 Parish Members (those who make regular financial contributions/tithe/practice proportional giving/envelope system, etc.— and who confess, commune, worship and are eighteen years of age or older). This 118 is a strange number, when we consider that our attendance two weeks ago was 240 (men, women and children). Related to this “membership/attendance gap” is the fact that the report indicates that **since 2007 we have had 0% membership growth in the Parish.** (for both 2007 and 2011 we reported 115 members—this year we report 118). Judging by the number of people in church, and of the many who help out at Glendi, these numbers are odd. One other statistic is troubling as well, and that has to do with the yearly per capita contributions of each parish. Out of 49 parishes listed in the report, we are 44<sup>th</sup> in the list of per capita yearly financial contributions. There are reasons for these discrepancies, and I hope to address them in next week's announcement sheet. —*Father Lawrence*

- THE PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN, OCTOBER 1:

Once again our Parish Feast Day is drawing near. Our Parish is named for the Feast of the Protection of the Holy Virgin and so we celebrate that feast each year on October 1 with great solemnity. I would ask each one of you to come to the feast—both the Vigil and the Liturgy—and participate to the utmost, to choose “the good part” as the Gospel says. To do that, I encourage every single one of you to prepare for the feast by making a confession, so that on the feast you will receive Holy Communion with a soul “white as snow.” I repeat what I wrote last year: since Holy Communion is a work of the Church, and not an individualistic and private spiritual matter at all—since we are members of one another in the Church—I ask of all of you: *Clergy and Servers*—make your confession so that when you serve in the Altar, you will do so with clean hands, “a pure heart, with a good conscience and with faith unfeigned” (1 Tim. 1:5). *Church Singers*—confess and prepare for Communion, so that the words you sing, the prayers you utter, will come from pure lips and pure hearts. *Holy People of God*—you and your children, make a confession and prepare for Communion for this feast, so that all of us, together, can say with confidence: “Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord, and who shall stand in His holy place? He that is innocent in his hands and pure in heart....” Only repentance through confession, not time, will