

- UPDATE ON GEORGE KIELCZYNSKI:

George is now at Kaiser Vallejo doing rehab. We expect him to return home on October 3, at which point I am asking for volunteers from our Parish members to help out with meals and home visits. Info to come. —Fr. L

- SUNDAY MORNING MATINS:

The morning service of the Orthodox Church is called Matins. For the last few weeks we have had an 8:40 AM Matins service—which is the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ (sometimes we combine Vespers and Matins in the evening to comprise a Vigil service). Each Sunday at Matins we affirm that “God has revealed Himself to us...” (Ps. 117) in the coming of Jesus Christ; along with the Myrrh-bearers we learn the Good News that the “Lord is risen...” and in the Gospel reading we encounter for ourselves the Risen Lord. Again and again we acclaim “Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord” and rejoice that He has conquered sin and death and that we are members of His Risen Body. We sing in response that “through the Cross joy has come into all the world.” Fr. Alexander Schmemmann writes in the book *For the Life of the World* that this joy “does not depend on anything in his world, and is not the reward of anything in us. It is totally and absolutely a gift... And being pure gift [the resurrection and our union with the Glorified Lord], this joy has a transforming power, *the only really transforming power in this world.*” This joy was “given to the Church *for the world*—that the Church might be a witness to it and transform the world by joy.” Sunday Matins is our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus—making the day a *Little Pascha*. My hope is that we will be able to celebrate it each Sunday. —Fr. Lawrence

- REQUEST:

When we enter into the Church to attend the Divine Liturgy we obviously come *before it begins*. This is not only polite to the Host (God), but better for us as well. We enter mindful of the fact that we are coming to give thanks (eucharist) and to present ourselves and our lives to God the Father through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not coming to fulfill our Sunday “obligation” (however, those with inconsistent and infrequent attendance might do well to reconsider their commitment to the Liturgy *and* the community of the Church). Come BEFORE 10 AM, the beginning of the Liturgy or better yet, at 8:40 AM to benefit from the Matins; enter quietly and reverently, avoiding conversations (yes, avoid them), and be especially mindful in your soul of why we are in this holy place.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



September 23, 2018

Conception of St. John the Baptist



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, 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 RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

By raising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam; Eve exults in Thy resurrection; and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One.

Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa
707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Sept. 22: 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, Sept. 23: 8:40 AM, Matins / 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
12:45 PM, Sisterhood Meeting
- Wednesday, Sept. 26: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for Feast of St. John the Evangelist
6 PM, Vespers/Potluck and Session #2 on the book *For the Life of the World*
- Thursday, Sept. 27: 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting

• MANY THANKS:

A couple of times a year some of our parish members come together to make Piroshki. The labor involved is significant, but it produces a superior product. Many thanks to all who helped out last week to make this fundraiser a success.

• HYMN FOR THE FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN:

Today the fruit of prayer buds forth from a barren womb: John the Forerunner. O wilderness, give glory! Dance, all ye people! Behold, the herald of repentance begins to take flesh in his mother's womb! Come, O lovers of the feast, let us exult in his glorious conception, crying out: "Thou art the greatest among those born of women!" Do not cease to intercede for those who faithfully honor thy divine conception, that we may receive forgiveness of sins and great mercy!"

• PARISH FEAST:

On October 1 we celebrate our Parish Feast Day, *The Protection of the Holy Virgin*. Our Parish was named and dedicated for this Feast in 1936, and so we annually celebrate the day with great solemnity and joy. Unfortunately, this year neither of our bishops are able to be with us. Vigil will be served on Sunday afternoon, *September 30, at 5 PM* (Vespers, Matins), and the Divine Liturgy on Monday, *October 1, at 9:30 AM*. A festive meal will follow.

• BLESSEDNESS:

...many Christians...have the belief, "People should always respect others," a belief they see denied again and again. But above all, it is a belief that

they see denied not only in the life of the Savior, but also in the lives of the Apostles, the Martyrs, and so many of the Saints. And yet, being disrespected did not mean that God's beloved were alone or not blessed. God was always with them and they knew it. Through the remembrance of God, they were more accustomed to focus on themselves in their relationship to God rather than the behavior of others in their relationship with them. And through their mindfulness of Christ's holy teachings, they became more adept at looking for the beam in their own eye (even if it were but a speck), rather than the speck in their brothers (even if it were in fact a beam). The remembrance of God is a powerful interpretive tool through which we can choose to conduct our lives. Through it, we will tend to be less concerned with the actions of others and begin to perceive their actions, even their bad actions, as an opportunity to grow in grace and communion with God. The "should" and "must" statements are now seen as "Thou shalt not's" directed towards ourselves, rather than to others. In the Gospel, Christ didn't say that everyone else must be perfect. Rather, he said, "Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." And the remembrance of God, the source of all perfection, is the beginning of our perfection as well.

—*from the blog of Fr. Alexis Trader, Ancient Christian Wisdom*

• CHRISTMAS PLAY:

It is time to start planning already! We will be having our annual children's Christmas play on December 16th. Is your child interested in performing in the play? If so, please email Gloria Collins at gypsybootsie@sonic.net. We will need volunteers to help with stage, costumes, snacks and the meal on the night of the play. Our parents always do their best to help, but it would be wonderful to have some volunteers involved who are not parents. I hope to hear from you soon. —*Gloria Collins*

• MATUSHKA ELEANOR:

Many of you have been asking about Matushka Eleanor. She is still visiting her children, Mark and Gina, in Plymouth, MA. She will be returning home to Santa Rosa on October 22. Eleanor will be turning 90 years old on October 3rd. I am including her address so that we all can send her birthday greetings. We thought that individual cards would be better than a group card. **Eleanor Margitich, 82 Peter Rd. Plymouth, MA 02360.**

—*Matushka Ann Margitich*