

• NATIVITY PLAY:

It's time to begin preparing for the children's annual Nativity play! The first rehearsal, led by Carmen Anderson and Gloria Collins, will be on October 21 at 2 PM.

• HONORING THE SAINTS:

The Saint Seraphim Church School warmly invites you to our 3rd Annual **Honoring the Saints** party in the Parish Hall on Sunday, October 29 at 5 PM. We will provide dinner and crafts, and children (of all ages!) are asked to come dressed as a saint. This event has been a wonderful opportunity to develop greater understanding and knowledge of the lives of the saints while, deepening our reverence for them. For those who wish to participate, we suggest the following:

- Select a saint (patron saint or another) soon! Read your saint's story over and over until you can talk easily about his or her life.
- Collect items for a costume that represent the time period and place where the saint lived. Find an icon to help with this.
- Consider props that might also suit, e.g., a cross for a martyr, a pen for a Gospel writer, an obedient animal friend, a staff for a bishop, or sword for a warrior saint.
- Prepare and practice a short (1-3 min) presentation to give during the Guessing Game. Remember to keep the identity of your saint a secret.

After each participant presents the story, the audience makes guesses as to the saint you have chosen. This year, we are asking that only children over age 5 present their saints to the group. Younger children are encouraged to dress up and know their saint's story, but they do not need to keep it a secret! If you would like to volunteer, please see Gloria Collins, Sarah Hamner, or Fr. Lawrence. We are looking for six soup-makers, four salad-makers, and six craft volunteers, plus set-up and clean-up crews. Thank you! —*Sarah Hamner*

• CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Saturdays, October 7, October 21, November 4, at 4 PM in the Protection Church. See Nicolas Custer for more information.

• CATECHISM CLASSES:

Sessions begin on Saturday, October 28 at 3:30 PM, in the Parish Library. Eight classes will be taught before Nativity, and another eight before Pascha. All—not just catechumens—are welcome to attend.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



October 8, 2017

St. Pelagia the Penitent



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

• TROPARION OF ST. PELAGIA, TONE EIGHT:

In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for taking up thy cross, thou didst follow Christ, and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, but to attend to the soul since it is immortal. Wherefore O righteous Pelagia, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Oct. 7: 4 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal
4 PM, Wedding Rehearsal
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confession
- Sunday, Oct. 8: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal (in the courtyard)
3 PM, Lewis/Anderson Wedding
- Wednesday, Oct. 11: 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
6 PM, Vespers

• HOLY MYSTERIES:

Marriage of Emilia Lewis and Joseph Anderson, Sunday, October 8 at 3 PM. Baptism of Moses Morgan, Sunday, October 29 at 9 AM. Many Years.

• DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY:

The annual gathering of parish clergy and delegates with our Vladyka Benjamin will take place at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Portland, OR, from October 10–12. Our parish delegates, approved by the Parish Council, are George Barsi and Preston Booker. Please keep us in your prayers as we do the work of the Church.

• PARISH RETREAT

We will welcome Fr. Timothy Pavlatos on Saturday, October 14, as he leads a retreat on marriage in the Parish Hall. If you have not yet registered, there is still room for you. Please see Fr Lawrence or Deanna.

• A MAGNIFICENT FEAST DAY:

Last weekend our parish celebrated its primary feast, The Protection of the Virgin, with Vigil on Saturday evening and Hierarchical Liturgy on Sunday morning. All will agree that there was a fulness to the festivities. At the Vigil, the choir sang the hymns in a way that was compunctionate yet joyful, bright yet sober, with conviction and with skill. I was filled with joy during the Vigil, yet slightly sad that only eighty of the two hundred parishioners we normally have were present to receive the abundant grace. Nevermind, by Sunday, there were three hundred faithful who came to pray, commune, glorify our Savior Jesus Christ, and praise His most pure Mother, the Theotokos. His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, along with Archpriest Kirill and Protodeacon Brendan came early to prepare. As the bells rang,

the clergy and faithful went outside to greet the Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Theotokos from Hawaii, called the "Iveron Icon" after the original on the Holy Mount. As the Icon was led into the Church, the path was bestrewn with rose petals by the young girls of the parish. The choir sang the *Troparion* as they entered, and the faces of the faithful radiated joy upon seeing the icon here, in our Parish, on our feast day. The young girls leading the way with flowers was perhaps the most beautiful sight I have ever witnessed in Church, and I was deeply moved. We gathered around our Bishop, the Protodeacon told us "It is time for the Lord to act" (Ps. 118), and we proceeded with the Divine Liturgy. We were nourished with the proclamation of the Gospel and the preaching of Vladyka Benjamin, and we communed in the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy the Cross, the banners and the icons (our Feast Day Icon and the Iveron, among the most grand) led the congregation over to the Protection Church (where someone had parked, blocking the entrance). We sang and prayed, were blessed with the Holy Water, and then the procession made its way to the Parish Hall. A prayer was read to dedicate our Hall to the Archangels Michael and Gabriel. The Children's Choir (which sang with the adults at the Liturgy) sang the *Troparion* to the Holy Archangels to a lovely piece newly-composed by Nicolas, our Choir Director (Choir logistics were complex, and we congratulate him and the choir on its feast of St. Romanos, also October 1). The procession returned to the Church, sang a litany, and prayed once again before the Hawaii Iveron Icon, which miraculously streams heavenly-scented myrrh. All that desired it came forward to be anointed with the holy myrrh. As always, all were invited to share the festal meal at the hall, which was so wonderfully prepared and served by Matushka Esther Carr and her devoted crew. May the Lord reward them for their labors. We are grateful to those who beautifully decorated the Parish Hall for the feast, and to Matushka Ann, who prepared a drawing for a future icon of the Archangels, which was mounted on the wall. We trust that the Lord will also remember and bless the Altar servers, our Subdeacon Marc and visiting Subdeacon Brett from Sacramento, the beloved Deacons in Christ, the Singers, the Children's Choir, the Floral decorators (the icon was truly *adorned*), the sacristans, the ushers and those who cleaned and polished. I am grateful also to all the parents who brought their children to the feast, and therefore, to the Theotokos. Many Years to us all.