

heart” (Luke 8:15). Christianity is not a faith for the elite, but for all who listen, look, and are transformed. Our icons are on the walls for the illiterate to contemplate; our Scriptures are read aloud in the vernacular language for all to understand; from the earliest days the sermon was given even to those who were not baptized, that they might eventually come to illumination. Christ’s gift is gloriously for the free, not those who are enslaved, for everyone, regardless of age, ability, race, or education. Though there are mysteries, these are hedged only for our protection, and we are meant to grow into them, all of us! Holy Things are for the Holy! We have a sure foundation, Jesus Christ himself, and will not be left in shallowness, so long as we apply ourselves to what we have been given. *Edith M. Humphrey, from her blog: A Lamp for Today*

• TEMPTATION

According to Saint John Cassian “‘Lead us not into temptation’ does not mean ‘do not permit us ever to be tempted,’ but rather ‘when we are tempted, do not permit us to be overcome.’ After all, Job was tempted, but not led into temptation, since he did not yield to the enticing wish of the tempter by impiously ascribing folly to God or uttering blasphemy” (Conference 9:23). Being led into temptation, thus, has the sense of being led into the aims of the tempter, the very mind of Satan, in which it is impossible to “understand the things that be of God” as Christ remarked when He rebuked Peter saying, ‘Get thee behind me, Satan, thou art an offense unto me: for thou understandest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men’ (Matthew 6:23). In praying, ‘Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one,’ we are not ‘being taught to be timid and cowardly, for everyone praises vigor and boldness. Rather it aims at teaching us to be modest and poor in spirit...realizing that our mind is weak...and we need God’s assistance’ (Saint Cyril of Alexandria). As Saint Cyprian of Carthage put it, ‘we are reminded of our infirmity and weakness.’ In referring to us not being led into temptation, we also recall, according to Saint John Chrysostom, that not only can I be led into temptation, but my neighbor can as well, a realization that should remove even ‘the smallest vestige of anger against our neighbor’ (*Homily on Matthew 19*).” —Fr. Alexis, from *Ancient Christian Wisdom*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tone Two / Fathers of the 7th Council Sunday ~ October 11, 2015

• 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 THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

• KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

Hades became afraid, O Almighty Saviour, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb. The dead arose, creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced with Thee; and the world, O my Saviour, praises Thee forever.

• KONTAKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed the one Faith in the Church. And wearing the garment of truth woven from theology on high, she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Oct. 10: 4:30 PM, Panikhida
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, Oct. 11: 9 AM, Resurrectional Matins / Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School

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- Noon, *Agape Octoberfest Meal*
 - 12:45 PM, Sisterhood Meeting
- Wed., Oct. 14:
 - 7 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. Paraskeva
 - 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank distribution
 - 6 PM, Daily Vespers
- Thurs., Oct. 15:
 - Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship**
 - 7 PM, Master Planning Meeting
- Saturday, Oct. 17:
 - 11 AM, Baptism of Katia Lucia Ramirez
 - 4 PM, Readers' Class
 - 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, Oct. 18:
 - 9 AM, Resurrectional Matins
 - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
 - 11:45, Church School
 - Noon, Agape Meal

- SISTERHOOD MEETING:

The Parish women are invited to a Sisterhood Meeting in the Parish Hall, Sunday at 12:45 PM. FYI: there is no formal membership in the Sisterhood—it's open to all. It's an organization comprised of women, and some men, who practice diverse ministries (nurturing the community life of the parish, care of the temple and of vestments, organizing meals, retreats, fundraisers, etc.).

- MASTER PLANNING:

The next meeting for the Master Planning Group (all are invited to participate) will be on Thursday, October 15, at 7 PM. Our meetings run only an hour or so. At the moment we are mostly discussing maintenance issues; however, we are always trying to think clearly about the proper, most sensible and aesthetically pleasing way to care for and develop our property.

- HONORING THE SAINTS:

The Church School will sponsor an evening for the children and their families on **Sunday, November 1**, in the Parish Hall beginning at 5 PM. Planned for the evening will be games, pizza, stories, costumes and a guessing game about particular saints, as well as ice cream for dessert. More info to follow next week.

- FR. THEODOR AWAY:

Father Theodor and Matushka Hanne will be traveling to the Seattle area from Oct. 11–23.

- BAPTISM NEXT SATURDAY:

Katia Lucia Ramirez, new born daughter of Mica and Tito, will be baptized on Saturday, October 17, at 11 AM. All are welcome.

- TUESDAY NIGHT SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP:

You are invited to attend a scripture study group, which will meet at Gretchen McPherson's home, 6063 Elsa Ave, Rohnert Park CA 94928, on Tuesday evenings, 7 PM, starting Nov. 3. Deacon Nicholas Carr will guide us through one of the Epistles of St. Paul (TBD).

- SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 7TH COUNCIL:

The Seventh Ecumenical Council was convoked by the Empress Irene and met at Nicaea from September 24 to October 13, 787. Patriarch St. Tarasios (commemorated February 25) presided. The council ended almost fifty years of iconoclast persecution and established the veneration of the holy icons as basic to the belief and spirituality of Christ's Church. As the *Synaxarion* says, "It was not simply the veneration of the holy images that the Fathers defended in these terms but, in fact, the very reality of the Incarnation of the Son of God." It goes on to say: "The second Council of Nicaea is the seventh and last Ecumenical Council recognized by the Orthodox Church. This does not mean that there may not be ecumenical Councils in the future although, in holding the seventh place, the Council of Nicaea has taken to itself the symbol of perfection and completion represented by this number in Holy Scripture (e.g. Gen. 2:1-3). It closes the era of the great dogmatic disputes which enabled the Church to describe, in definitions excluding all ambiguity, the bounds of the holy Orthodox Faith. From that time, every heresy that appears can be related to one or other of the errors that the Church, assembled in universal Councils, has anathematized from the first until the seventh Council of Nicaea." —*Synaxarion*

- THE FAITH OF NICAEA:

The faith is not something imparted only to the wise and those in authority, but to all of us, who are called to search out the truth, to drink deeply of the waters of the Scriptures and the fathers, to be transformed in our minds, hearts, and lives. To each of us is given the promise that we will "yield a hundredfold of fruit...hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good