

meet the Risen Lord, and prepare themselves, in a way that is concrete and therapeutic, for Holy Communion and of course, ultimately, the Second Coming. Vespers is also a great time, unlike prior to Liturgy, to make a confession. There's no clock to worry about, and you have the evening in which to prepare for Communion.

All this is well and good, but, somehow external for most of our congregation. We have a conflict in our current way of life, because for very many families, Saturday evening is "protected time" for various activities. After a long work week, a person genuinely has to recharge, and if not that, do housework, chores and errands during the time off from work. This is a fact of life, which results in only about one quarter of our parish membership ever experiencing Vespers, and thus never being properly ushered into the Lord's Day or truly catechized, I dare say. Usually and very unfortunately, this means that there are only two or three children, maximum, at the Service. Why do I mention children in this context? If our children do not know Vespers, *we are ensuring that the next generation of adults will not attend Vespers either*, and perhaps, having one less Orthodox "thing" to hang on to, eventually absent themselves from Liturgy as well. If Saturday evening is "protected time" for families, in the Church it is also "sacred protected time," and more so than a national park or monument. For those that are not used to coming to Services on Saturday evening, I encourage you to make a plan: start with attending once a month and increase that over the next few months. You will be glad you did. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• NEXT FRESCO PROJECT:

The next frescos to be painted will be on the wall behind the choir. They are St. Symeon the Stylite, St. Daniel the Stylite (disciple of St. Symeon), the decorations inside the windows, and at the floor level—going east to west—St. Raphael of Brooklyn, Hieromartyr Metropolitan Benjamin of St. Petersburg, the Nativity of the Theotokos, St. Demetrios of Thessalonika and St. George the Great Martyr. Along the way, a fresco of the "Virgin of the Sign" will also be painted in the narthex over the front door, and the Altar windows will finally be decorated. The scaffolding will be erected on Tuesday. We are looking for assistance with scaffold setup. Call Fr. Lawrence if you are able to help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tone One / Fathers of the 7th Council Sunday ~ October 12, 2014

• 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 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 One:

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master, Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ.

• 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. 11: NO CATECHISM OR VESPERS HERE
Vigil at Sts. Peter and Paul, 6 PM
- Sunday, Oct. 12: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Lunch

- Wed., Oct. 15: 6 PM, Daily Vespers
- Thurs., Oct. 16: **Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship**
- Saturday, Oct. 18: 3:30 PM, Catechism, *The Holy Mystery of Chrismation*
5 PM, Great Vespers (Exorcisms of Catechumens to follow Vespers)
- Sunday, Oct. 19: 9 AM, Baptisms of Martin and Scott
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal

- NO VESPERS HERE SATURDAY:

To reiterate the notice above, there will be no Vespers here on Saturday, October 11. Father Lawrence, Nicolas Custer, and a number of our parish choir members are participating in a choir workshop (that began on Wednesday). The choir workshop involves preparation for and singing at a very festive Vigil at our sister parish, Sts. Peter and Paul. The service begins at 6 PM. Even if you can only come to the Vespers portion of the Vigil, you will find it a wonderful experience.

- FATHER LAWRENCE AWAY:

The Choir workshop mentioned above also involves Liturgy on Sunday. Nicolas will be here to sing Divine Liturgy, however, some of our singers will be singing during the Liturgy at Sts. Peter and Paul on Sunday, and Father Lawrence will serve there with Bishop Theodosi of Seattle and Fr. Alexander. Father Lawrence and Matushka Ann will also be away on a short break from Monday–Thursday.

- BAPTISMS, OCTOBER 19:

Please keep Martin Thong and Scott Brown in your prayers as they prepare for Holy Baptism on Sunday, October 19, at 9 AM. Also, the child of Eireni and Brendan Schettig, Arsenes, will be baptized at 1 PM. All are welcome.

- LITURGY, OCTOBER 25:

A Memorial Liturgy will be served on Saturday, October 25, at 9 AM. Please give Father Lawrence your list of names of those who have departed this life in faith. The names will be read at the Liturgy.

- WEDDING, OCTOBER 26:

Suha Alfahel and Scott Brown will be united in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, October 26 at 3 PM. All are invited to the wedding, and to the Cake-and-Champagne Reception in the Parish Hall.

- CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX GIFT PROJECT:

The Sisterhood, with the help of one of our newer members, Dauphne Russell, will be organizing a *Christmas Shoebox Gift* project. How does it work? We fill shoeboxes with goodies, toiletries, small toys, t-shirts, socks, etc. (each box marked age appropriate) and they are delivered to poor places, refugee camps and other distressed areas via the *Samaritan's Purse* organization. Please get involved in this or in one of our other Parish charitable works.

- ONE ASPECT OF VESPERS:

We all know that Sunday is the Lord's Day, and that in the Divine Liturgy we participate, here and now, as we are spiritually able, in what the liturgical theologians call "the Eighth Day," meaning, that Blessed Day beyond the seventh day, the Sabbath, beyond the days of this world. It's the Day without evening, in which the Lord Himself is the sun and light and is "all in all." It's the "day of Resurrection" in which we gloriously reign with Him in His Kingdom. All that and more is given to us at the Liturgy.

How does one "jump" from the world of daily cares and responsibilities into such a magnificent reality? It's not possible, usually, to make such a jump, and furthermore, there's no need for it. Orthodoxy likes transition in these cases, and one can say that the Saturday evening Service transitions us into the celebration of the Lord's Day. Vespers, and of course Matins when it is joined to it (we call that "Vigil"), spiritually takes us through God's plan of salvation—by means of hymns, psalms, the Gospel, dark and light. We hear about the creation, the Fall from Paradise, the prophecies and the preparation for the coming of the Messiah, His Incarnation, signs, teachings, warnings, His Passion, death, resurrection and the glorious "robe of majesty," the Ascension, the gift of Pentecost, the gift of Holy Baptism, and even the Second Coming, which we await, yet even now taste beforehand in the Church. All this is part of Saturday evening Vespers, and even more so when Matins is joined to it.

Since the day that the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room, on the First Day of the week, Resurrection Day, the Church has joyfully and solemnly kept Vigil before the Divine Liturgy, and has *protected and guarded* this time, as it were outside of time, as one of the ways in which Her members