

missionaries degraded indigenous cultures; Christians burned down the Great Library at Alexandria; Christ couldn't have had any impact since things haven't gotten better since His time; the real founder of Christianity was Constantine the Great; Religion needs to be removed from the public square; reincarnation is compatible with Christianity, and so forth. The author is a Roman Catholic Christian (who happens to be extremely sensitive to Orthodoxy), who presents his material with great objectivity and scholarship. I very much recommend this book to college students, who may find it a refreshing antidote to the militant, multi-cultural inspired put-downs to which Christianity is subjected. The book is no doubt available online. Another book of this type, also a delight to read, shorter, but more dense (and which I whole-heartedly recommend), is that of *Atheist Delusion* by the Orthodox historian and philosopher David Bentley Hart.

• CEMETERY

Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Sebastopol recently approached me with a proposition: they would set aside a section of this cemetery for the Orthodox Church in the area to use as its own. I met with the staff at the cemetery, and saw a lovely rural spot near a vineyard, under apple trees, and very peaceful. So, what kind of deal are we talking about here? There's no cost involved for us. The cemetery staff understands that since everyone is going to die someday, including Orthodox people from our parish and others in town, why not offer one designated area to the Orthodox people? Just to be clear, we are not buying a section of the cemetery. I told the Pleasant Hill staff that I would be happy to recommend Pleasant Hill Cemetery to our congregation, provided that the cost of an individual plot was at or below the going rate. I have been assured, and the confirmation is forthcoming, that costs will be lower than other places. I will share that information as soon as I have it. In the meantime, the Santa Rosa Orthodox community has been invited to gather at the cemetery—probably on a Saturday afternoon, considering that Saturday is the Liturgical remembrance of the reposed—and bless/dedicate the section. So far, I like what I have heard, and the fact that we have no contractual costs is very attractive. I will conduct some research into the legal side of things, and propose a day for the blessing of the grounds. Its worth noting that we will be able to have grave crosses (not allowed at some of the other local cemeteries, for the most part) and to designate the entrance of the section with a decorative archway. More info to follow. —Fr. Lawrence

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tone Two, Sunday ~ October 14, 2012

• 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.

• KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

Hades became afraid, O Almighty Savior, 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 Savior, praises Thee forever.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Oct. 13: 5 PM, Great Vespers for the Resurrection
 - Sunday, Oct. 14: 9–10 AM, Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy, 11:45 AM, Church School, Noon, Agape Meal on the Porch
5 PM, Castillo/Ramirez wedding
 - Wed., Oct. 17: 5 PM, Catechism
6 PM, Vespers for St. Luke
 - Thurs., Oct. 18: Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship
6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim
 - Sat., Oct. 20: 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy
- CONGRATULATIONS:
This morning we are especially praying for Mica Castillo and Tito Vincente Ramirez (baptized last Sunday), preparing for Holy Matrimony.

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- SPECIAL DAYS:

Next Saturday we will serve a Memorial Divine Liturgy, asking the Lord to grant forgiveness, peace and rest to all Orthodox soldiers who laid down their lives for their lands. War is a terrifying, chaotic and brutal activity, as we can tell from TV news, and as our retired service men and women well know. Those who died in war, killing and being killed, in defense of their lands (meaning, all Orthodox soldiers from the beginning of the Church), very much need—even after death, perhaps especially after death—to be embraced and folded into the love of the Church in the incredible act of the Bloodless Mystery of the Divine Liturgy, in which we remember them to the Lord, Who is full of merciful loving kindness. Last year at this time, I proposed that as we prepare for the upcoming “Demetrios Saturday Memorial Liturgy” to be celebrated, each of us will submit for prayer in the Altar those names of Orthodox soldiers—as well as all of your Orthodox family members, friends, neighbors, parishioners who have reposed in the Lord. Please, bring those lists to me as soon as you can. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE REPOSED, St. John of SF:

O relatives and close ones of the dead! Do for them what is needful for them and within your power. Use your money not for outward adornment of the coffin and grave, but in order to help those in need, in memory of your close ones who have died, for churches, where prayers for them are offered. Show mercy to the dead, take care of their souls. Before us all stands the same path, and how we shall then wish that we would be remembered in prayer! Let us therefore be ourselves merciful to the dead. As soon as someone has reposed, immediately call or inform a priest, so he can read the Prayers appointed to be read over all Orthodox Christians after death. Try, if it be possible, to have the funeral in Church and to have the Psalter read over the deceased until the funeral. Most definitely arrange at once for the serving of the forty-day memorial, that is, daily commemoration at the Liturgy for the course of forty days.

- SENIOR LUNCHEON—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, NOON:

Our Senior Luncheons have been a wonderful success! For the last six months, we have met not only for a tasty meal, but for fellowship, laughter, and witty conversation. At our next luncheon, on Oct. 18th, we will discuss some future plans for the group. We hope to implement a Christmas “Giving Tree” program for needy children/families. Also, we would like to extend our time together to possibly include Sunday Theatre/Concerts/

movie outings. A list of those activities will be presented in the near future. At our Dec. 13th luncheon, the students at St. Michael’s Orthodox School will conduct a special presentation on St. Lucia. Thank you Lara Anderson for making the arrangements! All Seniors are welcome! Please join us and PLEASE let us know you will be coming: 707-584-9491.

- EVENING OF MUSIC AND POETRY:

Sunday, October 28, 5 PM we will have our first *Music and Poetry Evening* in our new Parish Hall. \$5 per person will get you an exciting evening of entertainment by highly talented fellow parishioners as well as a delicious dinner of pasta, salad, some of our own parish-vinted St. Seraphim Syrah wine. Side dishes, desserts, soft drinks and more wine will be pot luck. Vladimir Baer has more information and tickets. See him at Church or at ursusmjr@sonic.net or 707 479-9437.

- ROHNERT PARK STUDY GROUP:

You are invited to come to the Tuesday evening Rohnert Park Study Group, and participate in the spiritual reflections and discussions on the topic of Jesus Christ and the Old Testament. The Group meets at 1354 Oak View Circle, #327, Rohnert Park, CA. starting 7 PM, Tuesday, October 23. For more information call Debi Shrimplin at (707) 536-9112.

- UPCOMING FEAST DAY LITURGIES NEXT MONTH:

Feast of the Archangels, November 8; *Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*, Nov. 21; *Thanksgiving Day*, Nov. 22; *St. Andrew Day*, Nov. 30. All these Liturgies will be at 9 AM. The Nativity Fast begins on November 15.

- BOOK RECOMMENDATION:

Exposing Myths about Christianity: A Guide to Answering 145 Viral Lies and Legends, by Jeffrey Burton Russell. I have been both edified and delighted by this wonderful, easy to read, and timely book. In it, the eminent Professor Russell confronts the commonly held myths about the Christian faith that are taught as fact by professors, naively accepted as such by students and promoted in cynical tones by media pundits. For example: Christianity is a fairy tale; a myth; Hitler was a Christian; Christianity supported slavery; Christianity is sexist; Christianity is irrational and unreasonable; is incompatible with science; the Jesus of history is not the Jesus of faith; the Apostle Paul invented Christianity; the Gospels contradict each other; Christianity is a remodeled pagan mystery cult; the resurrection of Jesus has been disproved; Atheists oppose Christianity mainly on intellectual grounds; Christian