

entertainment, and a warm and safe place to sleep (the RGM brings clean and bed-bug free matts). The Nomadic Shelter is a program in which the *Redwood Gospel Mission* of Santa Rosa has partnered with thirty local church communities—each taking one night a month for the next four months—to provide a safe place for prescreened homeless folks (many of them women and children) to be brought by the Mission for the night. Arrival is expected about 6 PM, departure about 6:30 AM. Mission staff and parish volunteers will stay the night to care for the guests. The Parish Council unanimously approved our participation in the Nomadic Shelter program, and this will be our second time participating in it. This year we will host the guests on the evenings of October 22, then again on Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving Day evening) and December 24 (just to put us out of our comfort zone a little, in honor of the “inn where there was no room for the Savior to be born,” January 28, February 25 and March 24, the eve of Annunciation. Any questions about volunteering should be directed to Ambrose Ryan Inlow, the parish coordinator of the program at (707) 490-4700.

• 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 the Epistle to the Hebrews. So start reading now.

• SATURDAY CATECHISM:

A series of eight-part talks on Orthodox teaching and practice will begin on Saturday, October 31 at 3:30 PM, in the Protection Church.

• GRATITUDE TO GOD:

When you sit down to eat, pray. When you eat bread, do so thanking Him for being so generous to you. If you drink wine, be mindful of Him who has given it to you for your pleasure and as a relief in sickness. When you dress, thank Him for His kindness in providing you with clothes. When you look at the sky and the beauty of the stars, throw yourself at God’s feet and adore Him who in His wisdom has arranged things in this way. Similarly, when the sun goes down and when it rises, when you are asleep or awake, give thanks to God, who created and arranged all things for your benefit, to have you know, love and praise their Creator.” — *St. Basil the Great*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday ~ October 18, 2015

• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath shown strength with His arm; He hath trampled down death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, and hath granted the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF SAINT LUKE, Tone Three:

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.

• KONTAKION OF SAINT LUKE, Tone Four:

Thou with Paul didst shine thy light upon the whole world, since thou wast a genuine disciple of the Word of God. And thou didst drive out the gloom far hence when thou didst write the divine Gospel of Christ God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, October 17: 11 AM, Baptism of Katia Ramirez
4 PM, Reader Course
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, October 18: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy (No Matins today)
11:45 AM, Church School
Potluck Agape Meal
1 PM, Sacristan Training in St Seraphim
- Wednesday, October 21: 7 AM, Divine Liturgy for St Hilarion the Great
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, October 22: 6 PM, Nomadic Shelter

• THIS WEEK AND NEXT:

This Sunday Fr. John will be serving Divine Liturgy at Kazan Skete, so

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Matins will not be celebrated on Sunday morning. Also please be aware that since there will only be one priest, time is limited for hearing confessions prior to the Divine Liturgy. Next week I will be away on a short visit and pilgrimage to the Monastery of St. Tikhon in Penn (Thursday, Oct. 22 – Monday, Oct. 26). On Sunday, Oct. 25, once again Matins will not be served, and time for confession prior to the Divine Liturgy will be limited.

- HONORING THE SAINTS:

Dear St. Seraphim Family: On Sunday, November 1, the Church School of St. Seraphim's will host an evening of *Honoring the Saints* for our church community in the Parish Hall. Please come! The youth (of all ages!) are encouraged to read about the life of a saint of their choice—could be their patron saint, could be another—and come dressed as that saint (common sense, piety and good taste are assumed). We will gather at 5 PM for some crafts and games, eat pizza, then play a guessing game by listening to clues prepared by the children about which saint they are—a wonderful way for each of us to connect more deeply with the lives of the saints. We will finish the evening with dessert. Please come and honor the saints with us! If you would like more information, have a question, or hope to volunteer, please contact me or Fr. Lawrence. —*With love in Christ, Sarah Hamner*

- CONGRATULATIONS:

We offer our warmest congratulations to Meghan Juliana and Ambrose Ryan Inlow on the birth of a baby boy, Blaise, Thursday, October 16. Many Years. We also congratulate Mica Anastasia and Tito Vincente on the occasion of the baptism of their daughter Katia Lucia, on Saturday, October 17.

- CONDOLENCES:

Deacon Nicholas' father Robert reposed last week, very peacefully and with faith in God. We ask God to make his memory eternal, and offer our condolences to the Carr family.

- LEAVE YOUR CELL PHONE IN THE CAR:

Research abounds regarding the use of cell phones, and some of that research reveals that cell phone users frequently look at text messages or take calls that interrupt conversations. A Pew Research poll tells us that 67% of cell owners find themselves checking their phone for messages, alerts, or calls—even when they don't notice their phone ringing or vibrating. As a cell phone user and electronic gadget aficionado, I see that undue attention to my iPhone leads to spiritual and mental fragmentation. Focus becomes severely compromised, and the research bears this out. So much for multi-tasking! If

you're looking at your phone during Church, or feeling the vibration of a text message or call (of course, on silent!) while it's in your purse or pocket, or if your phone actually rings during the Divine Service—may it not be—then you have departed from the worship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and disturbed others as well. In that case you may find yourself, perhaps not intentionally, but certainly practically, MORE interested in the phone than in God. This leads one into a sinful situation that you don't want. The psalm at the first antiphon of the Divine Liturgy exhorts us: “bless the Lord, O my soul, and ALL that is within me bless His holy Name.” We can't give the Lord our “all” when we've partitioned our attention to our cell phones. I very strongly request that phones not be brought in to the Holy Place of the Church. It won't help you enter into communion with the Living God, and if you dive into the digital world of the phone to see a text message during Liturgy you compromise your worship with the Lord. Don't give in to this temptation. —*Fr Lawrence*

- SACRISTAN TRAINING TODAY, 1 PM:

Our vigil lamp-tenders and those interested are invited to come to a half hour session on how we prepare the oil lamps—and we have so many—for a Church Service. If you're interested in helping out and being on the rotation, please join us at 1 PM in St. Seraphim.

- WEDNESDAY EARLY MORNING DIVINE LITURGY:

Divine Liturgy will be served at 7 AM on Wednesday. The service is about one hour in length, and perfect for those who have to be at work by 8:30 AM.

- POTLUCK AGAPE MEAL:

This Sunday, October 18th, is our last Potluck Agape meal before the Nativity fast, so plan accordingly! Please supervise your children so they don't take food that will be wasted or leave dishes, silverware, cups and food outside. Also in regard to upcoming Agape meals, I am in need of someone to help set up the Agape on November 1st. —*Eleni Rose*

- NOMADIC SHELTER:

On Wednesday, October 22, about 6 PM, the Parish will welcome guests coming with the *Redwood Gospel Mission* NOMADIC SHELTER project. We expect maybe twenty homeless folks to be brought to the Parish Hall (please note: the homeless brothers and sisters coming to us will have been screened and must be clean from drugs and alcohol, are not predators or dangerous). *Redwood Gospel Mission* staff on hand at all times. Our parish will provide dinner, a meditation on the Gospel for the day, some light music