

into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered... —*The Prophet Joel, chapter 2:28ff*

• TITHING:

There are...cases in which an individual truly has nothing left after necessities provided for himself and for those dependent upon him. He should then offer, like the trusting Widow of the gospel, his token “mite” and trust that by God's grace he will “reap abundantly.” Besides, it is for the sake of such as these that the rest of us are commanded to be diligent in our giving—that from the abundance given us, others may not do without. Indeed, even the rare person who can make only a “token” offering, if he has first given himself to the Lord, will find ways to contribute to the work of the Lord in ways which are sometimes far more constructive than money itself. He can labor in God's Temple, work for the relief and comfort of the sick and lonely, and finally, when there is nothing left to give, offer his own prayers and sufferings as prayers and petitions of incense before the face of God for the sins of all mankind. —*borrowed*

• UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Church School Youth of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in San Anselmo have suggested a joint St. Nicholas/St. Seraphim BBQ and bonfire. Dates have been discussed (Nov. 9 or 14), but nothing yet set. Stay tuned.

Father Lawrence hopes to arrange a weekend trip for male teens to the Monastery of St. John in Manton, sometime in December or January.

The Feast of St. Michael and the Archangels occurs each year on November 8. This is also the feastday of Fr Michael and a number of those named after one of the angels. Accordingly, Vespers for the feast will be served on Friday, November 7 at 6 PM, and the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, November 8 at 9 AM.

Father Stephan Meholick of St. Nicholas in San Anselmo, has been invited to give a retreat at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga on Saturday, November 15, entitled “The Divine Liturgy: Communing both vertically and horizontally. When we partake of the Holy Eucharist worthily and in faith, we are united to Christ and through Him to one another.”

Father John Behr, Chancellor of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary and professor of Patristics, will be giving a retreat at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco on Saturday, November 22. Call Holy Trinity for more info at 415-673-8565.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 19, 2014

• 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 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.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, October 18: 2–4:30, Christmas Shoebox project in Hall
3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Holy Chrismation*
5 PM, Great Vespers / Exorcisms of Catechumens
- Sunday, October 19: 9 AM, Baptism at the Font
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, POTLUCK Agape Meal
1 PM, Baptism of Schettig baby
- Monday, October 20: *Homeschoolers' Field Trip to Calistoga Monastery*
- Wednesday, October 22: 6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, October 23: 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting

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707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

- 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.

- PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

The October meeting will be held this Thursday, October 23. Council Members: please contact me ASAP if you have agenda items. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- 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, has organized 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), decorate the shoeboxes, and deliver them to the *Samaritan's Purse* organization for distribution to poor places, refugee camps and other distressed areas in the world. Please come to the Parish Hall on Saturday, October 18, anytime from 2–4:30 PM to prepare and decorate your shoebox. —*Kira Staykow*

- SISTERHOOD MEETINGS:

On Sunday, October 26, after the Agape Meal, there will be a brief Sisterhood Meeting. On Thursday, October 30, at 5 PM, there will be a Sisterhood get together at Barb Owens' home to discuss fundraising. All are welcome.

- CHRISMATION ACTIVATES GRACE GIVEN IN BAPTISM

...beware of supposing this to be plain ointment. For as the Bread of the Eucharist, after the invocation of the Holy Spirit, is mere bread no longer, but the Body of Christ, so also this holy ointment is no longer simple ointment, nor (so to say) common, after the invocation, but the gift of Christ; and by the presence of His Godhead, it causes in us the Holy Spirit.

It is symbolically applied to thy forehead and thy other senses; and while thy body is anointed with visible ointment, thy soul is sanctified by the Holy and life-giving Spirit.” —*St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Catechetical Lectures*

The Holy Spirit confirms the newly-baptized as a child of God (adoption) and begins to guide the newly-born into the communion of a son or daughter with the Father. The Holy Spirit is the beginning of authentic, organic and true union with God that will only deepen and come to radical fulfillment in the Kingdom of the Heavens. As the heavens opened for Christ at His baptism and the Holy Spirit descended and remained upon Him, so for those who are baptized into Christ the heavens are opened and the Holy Spirit descends, and the mysteries of a new and eternal life begin to be unfolded in the life of the believer. This is a life lived in freedom, since God will never force or coerce the believer. We must desire the new and eternal life, and struggle to live it. It is not magic. We know how Pentecost changed the Twelve Disciples from fearful fishermen into fearless evangelists. The personal Pentecost of each of the baptized is meant to effect a like change, and to establish a way of life that is empowered by God. —*borrowed*

Christians, have we understood the great responsibility that we have taken on before God through baptism? Have we come to know that we must conduct ourselves as children of God, that we must align our will with the will of God, that we must remain free from sin, that we must love God with all our hearts and always patiently await union with Him? Have we thought about the fact that our heart should be so filled with love that it should overflow to our neighbor? Do we have the feeling that we must become holy and perfect children of God and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven? We must struggle for this, so that we may not be shown unworthy and rejected. Let none of us lose our boldness, nor neglect our duties, nor be afraid of the difficulties of spiritual struggle. For we have God as a helper, who strengthens us in the difficult path of virtue. —*St. Nectarios of Aegina*

...it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth—blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon