

Midwest, Budget Director for the same diocese, Editor of *Orthodox New England*, Director of Communications for the Diocese of New England, Director of Stewardship for the OCA, and Metropolitan Council member. In addition, Fr. John served as a chaplain in the US Air Force. He is now pastor of St. Paul Orthodox Church, in Las Vegas, the largest parish in the Diocese of the West. At a Sisterhood meeting recently, the topic of how to be a good steward came up, and it was decided to ask Fr. John to come and speak. Our parish is growing and as such, is facing new challenges. Fr. John will help us explore those challenges (growth of membership, financial issues, fund raisers and tithing, charitable works, etc.). There is no cost to attend the retreat. Fr. John will also give the homily on Sunday, Nov. 13, and speak after the Liturgy.

• INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES:

The 19th Annual IOCC dinner “Remembering Home” will take place on Sunday, November 6, 2011, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension in Oakland. The guest speaker will be Mr. Daniel Christopoulos, the representative to the IOCC from the US. A liturgical service of Pan-Orthodox Vespers will take place at 5 PM in the Cathedral, followed by the dinner and entertainment at 7 PM in the hall. Cost is \$60 per adult, and \$25 for children 12 and under. Call 510-531-3400 (see www.iocc.org) for more information.

• ORTHODOX NOR-CAL YOUTH FALL LOCK-IN:

“An Ancient Faith in a Modern World.”

Who: Orthodox Teens & Youth ages 11 & up.

When: November 18 & 19 (begins 8pm on Friday, ends 4 PM Saturday. Participants will be staying overnight at the church.)

Where: St. Christina Orthodox Church, 3721 Parish Ave., Fremont, CA. Sponsored by St. Christina of Tyre Mission.

Cost: Registration: \$15 or \$10 with sibling (with completed registration form). In addition to the discussions and usual midnight capture-the-flag game, we will also be participating in a service project at a local park (Fremont Central Park off of Paseo Padre Blvd).

Please RSVP Fr. Michael Anderson by Monday, Nov 15. Email:

FrMichael@stchristinaorthodox.org; cell #: 510-333-8814.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tone Two, Sunday ~ October 23, 2011

• 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 ST. JAMES, TONE FOUR:

As a disciple of the Lord, O righteous one, thou hast received the Gospel. As a Martyr thou art never turned away. As the Brother of God thou hast boldness. As a hierarch thou canst intercede. Do thou intercede with Christ God that He save our souls.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Oct. 22: 9 AM, Memorial Liturgy for Orthodox soldiers
3:30 PM, Catechism #2, on the *Creation and Fall of Man in the Garden of Paradise*
5 PM, VIGIL for the Resurrection
- Sunday, Oct. 23: 9–10 AM, Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
(Fr. Lawrence in SF all day at Mission Board Mtg.)
- Tues., Oct. 25: 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group
- Wed., Oct. 26: **9 AM: No Liturgy, Matins only for Great Martyr Demetrios**
6 PM, Vespers & Talk #3 on Prayer
- Thurs., Oct. 27: 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting

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- ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL IN SEATTLE:

Next week, Fr. Lawrence and our parish delegates—Bobbi Griovski, Matushka Ann and Deacon Jeremiah, observer—will be attending the “All American Council” in Seattle. The Council is comprised of delegates, priests and bishops of all the parishes and Church organizations (seminaries, monasteries, etc.) of the Orthodox Church in America. The Council meets every three years to pray, serve the Divine Liturgy each day, discuss church business, problems, and issues of common concern. Please pray for our representatives, as they travel to Seattle for the week long conference: “...we pray that the Lord our God, the Giver of every good gift, will look with favor upon His Church and bless and guide the minds and hearts of His people being gathered by the grace of the Holy Spirit; and that He will increase in us holy conversation, vigilance, fervent prayer, and trust in Him, guiding our plans and deliberations with faith and knowledge of His will for us. Lord, have mercy.”

- SPECIAL DAYS:

This last week we celebrated two Liturgies, in addition to the normal Sunday celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection. Of course, each and every Divine Liturgy is a unique event, with a unique focus and meaning. The Liturgy on Tuesday, October 18, was for the feast of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke. According to Tradition, in addition to being the writer of the Holy Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke was also an artist, having painted the first icon of the Theotokos and the Lord, and a physician. Because of this connection with medicine, it’s interesting to learn that some of the larger urban parishes in Russia celebrate St. Luke’s day with a special prayers and blessings for doctors, nurses and medical personnel. This is a beautiful tradition, and one that we will strive to implement next year. On Saturday we celebrated 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. Next year, as we prepare for this Memorial Liturgy to be celebrated again, I will ask all the parishioners to submit names of Orthodox soldiers (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) who died in war, or served in the armed forces, and have reposed in the Lord. We will not only offer memorial prayers for the peace, forgiveness and eternal memory of those who sacrificed their lives for their land, but we will place a particle of the *Prosphora* (the holy offering bread. If you’re not sure what this is, please ask me about it) next to the Eucharistic Bread, and gather them with all the faithful around the Lord. This is both our duty, and our great privilege. —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.

- ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION:

It’s true “that we still do die as before. But we do not remain in death; and this is not to die...the power and reality of death is just this: that a dead man has no possibility of returning to life. But if after death he is to be raised and to be given a better life, then his death is no longer death, but as it were, his body falls asleep.”

- UPCOMING RETREAT:

Archpriest John Dresko, rector of St. Paul Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, NV, will be giving a talk on Orthodoxy and stewardship entitled “Caring for God’s Gifts” on **Saturday, November 12, 2011, 2–4:30 PM**. Father John is a uniquely gifted man and a wonderful speaker and teacher, who has labored in many areas of Church life: Youth Director for the Diocese of the