

pastor of St. Paul Orthodox Church, in Las Vegas, the largest parish in the Diocese of the West. Our own 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.

• IMPORTANT UPCOMING WORK PARTY HERE:

Saturday, November 19, from 9 AM until about 2 PM. Projects: put picnic tables by new shed and cover, move items from old red shed to new shed, prepare for Glendi storage and start moving items, repair miscellaneous items, etc. For more information, please see Father Lawrence or Serge Anderson.



**ORTHODOX  
NOR-CAL YOUTH**  
**FALL LOCK-IN**  
FREMONT, CA + NOV 18 + 19, 2011  
SPONSORED BY ST. CHRISTINA OF TYRE MISSION

**“An Ancient Faith in a Modern World”**

**Who:** Orthodox Teens & Youth ages 11 & up

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

**Where:** St. Christina Orthodox Church 3721 Parish Ave Fremont CA

**What:** 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).

**Cost:** **Registration:** \$15 or \$10 with sibling  
*(with completed registration form)*

**RSVP:** Please RSVP Fr. Michael Anderson by Monday, Nov 15  
*email: FrMichael@stchristinaorthodox.org;*  
*cell #: 510-333-8814*

*Don't forget to bring your sleeping bag and pillow!*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday ~ November 6, 2011  
Sunday of the Holy Unmercenary Healers

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## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat., Nov. 5: 3:30 PM, Catechism: *The Spiritual Hospital*  
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sun., Nov. 6: 9 AM, Confessions  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:30 AM, Church School  
**12:45 PM, Choir Rehearsal**  
4 PM, Vincent Rossi's 4<sup>th</sup> Talk on *Prayer of the Heart*, at the Monastery in Calistoga, followed by Vespers and a potluck meal
- Tuesday, Nov. 8: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Holy Angels
- Wed., Nov. 9: 9:30 AM, at KAZAN SKETE: Divine Liturgy and memorial for Sarah Rohrmann  
6 PM, Vespers
- Sat., Nov. 12: 2:30 PM, Father John Dresko will lead a discussion/retreat on stewardship, entitled "Caring for God's Gifts"
- UPCOMING LITURGY AT THE SKETE:  
Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 9:30 AM. Abbess Susanna invites our faithful to attend. Memorial prayers will also be offered for the repose of Sarah Rohrmann, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 9, 2008. We are especially grateful to Sarah, who bequeathed \$420,000 to our Parish, which has been used for the hall extension project. May her memory be eternal.

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• ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL—A short reflection:

Last week, Monday, October 31—Friday, November 4, Petar and Eugenia Griovski, Deacon Jeremiah, Matushka Ann and I were in Bellevue, WA attending the All-American Council (AAC) of the Orthodox Church in America. The Council is comprised of our Metropolitan Jonah, all the Bishops of the Holy Synod, all the priests and deacons of the OCA (at least those that can attend) and lay delegates, and is convened every three years. Everyday we prayed together, served the Divine Liturgy, renewed old friendships, and conducted church business. About 650 people attended this year's Council, and it was brilliantly organized by members of our Diocese of the West, under Bishop Benjamin.

On Monday evening the Metropolitan gave the initial address (available on [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)), and spoke of his many missteps and organizational errors during the past three years of being Metropolitan (i.e., the first-among-equals of the other bishops). He was elected as the Metropolitan of the OCA in November 2008, after only eleven days of being a bishop, and so, had a rather steep and difficult learning curve. He sincerely asked forgiveness of his brother Bishops, and the entire Council, and pledged that he would take the next month to have a professional evaluation and discernment of his weaknesses. In his very humble and self-effacing address, the Metropolitan quickly won the hearts of those present, and we were able to entirely dispense with discussions about the pre-AAC internet speculations and gossip. Four or five of the other Bishops of the Synod then rose to thank His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah. They all agreed that there had been serious organizational chaos and confusion caused by the Metropolitan's words and actions over the last three years, yet they also unanimously expressed their love for him, and desire to work through problems. As we would learn during the course of the AAC, other areas of church administration—the offices of the chancellor, treasurer, secretary and external affairs, and the work of the Metropolitan Council (lay and clergy professionals who advise and help in legal, financial and personnel matters)—are operating efficiently. The report of the financial auditors gave the OCA central administration an unqualified excellent report. From Tuesday until Thursday we heard reports on the Strategic Plan of the OCA (you can read it on [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)) and on resolutions about stewardship and proportional giving, in other words, tithing: tithing, as the norm for parish members giving 10% to the church; as parishes giving 10%

to the Diocese; and as the Dioceses giving to the Central Administration, which provides the OCA with funds to support the Metropolitan, the Chancery, its officers (treasurer, chancellor, secretary) and buildings. An extremely important resolution was passed by the Council membership in order to encourage and further ministry to the African American community of the USA and Canada. The resolution was offered by Archpriest Moses Berry, one of only two African American priests in the entire history of the OCA! Fr. Moses, who is a dynamic and engaging speaker, pointed out that the African Americans of this country, as well as other minorities, have suffered a great deal, and therefore deeply understand both repentance and the ancient spiritual reality of “joyful sorrow.” Reports were given on the Pension Retirement Program fund of the OCA (doing very well, even in this poor economic climate), prison ministries, the office of External Affairs and our relationship to the Orthodox Churches abroad, and so forth. On Thursday evening, the grand banquet was held. Attending were Archbishop Kiril of the Russian Church Outside of Russia, His Eminence, Archbishop Justinian, representative of the Moscow Patriarchate, and clergy from other jurisdictions. A extremely moving photo retrospective on the ministry and episcopate of the late and great Archbishop Dmitri of Dallas was shown as well. All in all, a wonderful AAC. More info to come in a formal report. —*Fr. Lawrence Margitich*

• NATIVITY FAST / ADVENT:

Each year on November 15, the faithful of the Orthodox Church begin the forty day period of abstinence in preparation for the great day of Christmas, our Lord's birth, on December 25. During this fasting time we abstain from meat, dairy and eggs on all days, and occasionally have wine, oil and fish on feast days or weekends as the published calendar indicates (red for fasting days). Preparing ourselves for Christmas in a spiritual way—in addition to what we do for our family and friends—takes prayer, reflection, gratitude, time for confession and spiritual reading. Our church fasting seasons are times when we use the ascetical tools of the church, particularly fasting, alms and increased prayer to the Lord, to help us remember that which is truly essential and authentic in our lives.

• PARISH RETREAT ON STEWARDSHIP

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, from 2–4:30 PM. Father John is