

We have within us deeply rooted weaknesses, passions, and defects. This can not all be cut out with one sharp motion, but patience, persistence, care and attention. The path leading to perfection is long. Pray to God so that he will strengthen you. Patiently accept your falls and, having stood up, immediately run to God, not remaining in that place where you have fallen. Do not despair if you keep falling into your old sins. Many of them are strong because they have received the force of habit. Only with the passage of time and with fervor will they be conquered. Don't let anything deprive you of hope. —*St. Nectarios of Aegina*

• ASSISTED SUICIDE:

In past ages, everyone accepted that God was the sole Lord of life and death. It was by His will and permission that people lived or died. In the poetic words of the Orthodox prayer uttered at Pentecost Vespers, almighty God was the “Maker of every nature of man, of that which is brought together and again put asunder, of life and of the end of life, of sojourning here and of translation there, the One who measures the years of life and sets the times of death.” In our culture, we now arrogate such lordship to ourselves. By our own will and by our own untrammelled choice, we decide whether a baby in the womb will be born and live or be aborted and die. We decide whether the terminally-ill should be cared for until death overtakes them or be killed with medical assistance. We decide whether someone should be kept on life-support indefinitely or unplugged and left to die. Some choices of course are easier to make than others...the cultural fact remains that we now consider that these choices are solely ours to make. As a social-medical expert wrote in the Washington Post, “We are beginning to focus on what patients want, on their right to self-determination. And people are increasingly asking why anyone—the state, the medical profession, religious leaders—would presume to tell someone else that they must continue to die by inches, against their will.” Note: none can interfere with “what patients want” (now labelled “their right to self-determination”). For anyone to tell a patient that they must continue to “die by inches” is denounced as “presumption.” Does this “anyone” include God? The very concept of submission to God’s will has been removed; everything now depends upon the will of the patient, the decision in the moment of the sovereign individual. —*excerpt, Fr. L. Farley*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tone Five / St. Nectarios ~ Nov. 9, 2014

• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:

Let us the faithful praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

TROPARION OF ST. NECTARIOS,, Tone One:

The offspring of Selyvria and the guardian of Aegina, the true friend of virtue who didst appear in the last years, O Nectarios, we faithful honour thee as a godly servant of Christ, for thou pourest forth healings of every kind for those who piously cry out: Glory to Christ Who hath glorified thee. Glory to Him Who hath made thee wondrous. Glory to Him Who worketh healings for all through thee.

• KONTAKION OF ST. NECTARIOS, Tone Two:

Come, let us all laud Orthodoxy’s newly shining star and the divine and newly builded bulwark of the Church; and in joyfulness of heart, let us sing his praises. By the working of the Spirit was he glorified, and doth pour forth the abundant grace of wondrous cures upon them that cry: rejoice, O Father Nectarios.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 8: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy/Feast of St. Michael
3:30 PM, Catechism, *On the Holy Priesthood*
4:45 PM, Panikhida for Sarah Rohrmann
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, Nov. 9: 9:30 AM, Akathist *Nurturer of Children*
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School; **Noon**, Agape Meal

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4 PM, Pot-luck BBQ (*kids and parents from St. Nicholas in San Anselmo will join us*)*

- Tuesday, Nov. 11: At Kazan Skete, 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, Nov. 12: 4:45 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Nov. 13: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. John Chrysostom
Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship
5 PM, Sisterhood Retreat-Planning Meeting

• BBQ TODAY AT 4 PM:

Parents and children from St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in San Anselmo will join us this afternoon (Sunday) at 4 PM for a BBQ and mini-bonfire (we expect about 15 adults/children from St. Nicholas). They have asked for a “fresco tour” at 4 PM, followed by an early dinner and fire. It is hoped that our own church school kids and parents will participate. The BBQ is potluck (bring some meat or something to grill, some drinks and a salad to share).

• FOOD BANK:

Volunteers for the food bank this Wednesday: please arrive by 4:45 PM.

• RETREAT:

Fr. Lawrence will be at a pan-Orthodox clergy retreat in Dunlap, CA (near Fresno) at the St. Nicholas Ranch, Monday–Wednesday evening. If there is a pastoral emergency while he is gone, please call Fr John Schettig at 318-1559. There is no cell phone service at the retreat center. Call the retreat center office at (559) 338-2103 to contact Fr Lawrence.

• SISTERHOOD PLANNING MEETING:

All parish women are invited to participate at meeting to plan a women’s retreat. Join us in the Hall on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 5 PM.

• THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD:

One cannot forever fit the Gospel to the so-called modern man....It is simply impossible...One isn’t dealing with a linear development of thought. It goes in zigzags... Modern man changes so quickly that it is impossible to keep up with the ins and outs.... As soon as one from the church thinks he has adjusted himself to modern man, the so-called modern man is another...Of course we must speak so that it is understandable...But the old

message will always remain the same. It is not the message which should adjust to man but man which should adjust to the message....The modern world has arisen from Christianity and will turn back to it. The modern frame is open for criticism and for reforms. Certain conditions complicate the message for modern man. Why can we not criticize the modern mentality? Human thought has always found it easier to acquire general ideas before the unique: God in history. The Jews waited for a sign. The sign was the cross and they considered it to be an insult. The Greeks laughed at Paul’s speech about the resurrection. The Gnostics tried to soften the shock by spiritualizing the message. Thus man has always wanted to represent the church in a universal way, as a universal truth. Universal truth does exist, but it is also dressed in history. ...There will always be a certain tension between word and content in the message of the Gospel, but one doesn’t solve the problem by shoving the Gospel out of history and into another sphere. In each endeavor after having used a language which communicates with modern man one must never forget the identity of the message.

—Father Georges Florovsky, *From an interview in 1967*

• WOMEN’S RETREAT:

Mother Melania from Calistoga will lead a women’s retreat at the Monastery of St John in Manton, December 12–14, on the virtues, the passions and the healing of the soul. Call the Monastery of St John at 530-474-5964 to reserve a place at the retreat and a room at the Monastery.

• CATECHISM REVISITED HAS FOUND A DAY:

A “catechism for veterans” class, “Catechism Revisited,” will be offered on Wednesdays from 11 AM to Noon. The first sessions will be held as follows: Nov. 19 (Prayer), 26 (The True God), December 3 (The Human Being) and 10 (Sin). The next sessions will take place after Christmas. It is hoped that our retired, seniors and stay-at-home moms might like to attend. I invite you to come with many questions. —Fr. Lawrence

• TALKS ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Father Deacon James Hughes, former headmaster of St. Michael’s Orthodox School in Santa Rosa, will be giving two presentations here. November 19 and 26 following the 6 PM Vespers and the lenten food potluck. This lecture, followed by a brief question and answer period, will address aspects of education of children in the Orthodox Church.

• OVERCOMING OUR PASSIONS: