

- BEHOLD, THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IS WITH PEOPLE:

Sinai as Past and Future Hope, a talk by Hieromonk Justin Sinaites. On Tuesday evening, November 15th, 7 PM, at the Chapel of the Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. (\$10 suggested donation). Father Justin will address the theme of the tabernacle as a “type” in Christian spirituality—the tabernacle in the wilderness, in the later prophets, and in the New Testament writings, with insights drawn from Orthodox theology. He will explore the tension between tabernacle as dwelling place of God, and God who dwells not in temples made with hands. Father Justin Sinaites is a monk at St. Catherine’s Monastery in the Sinai, where he serves as the librarian. For additional information please visit our website at www.newcollegeberkeley.org or email us at newcollege@aol.com.

- 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.

- 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.

- NATIVITY SERVICES:

So that the spiritual celebration does not get lost in the activity of Christmas day, make your plans now to come to services and make a confession: Dec. 20–22, Vespers at 6 PM. Dec. 23, 9 AM, Royal Hours. Sat., Dec. 24, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, and at 5 PM, Matins. Sunday, Dec. 25, 10 AM, Divine Liturgy; Monday, Dec. 26, 9 AM, Liturgy for the Theotokos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tone Five ~ November 13, 2011
Feast of St. John Chrysostom

- 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. JOHN, Tone Eight:

Grace shining forth from thy mouth like a beacon hath illumined the universe, and disclosed to the world treasures of uncovetousness, and shown us the heights of humility; but whilst instructing us by thy words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede with the Word, Christ our God to save our souls.

- KONTAKION OF ST. JOHN, Tone Two:

From the Heavens hast thou received divine grace, and by thy lips thou dost teach all to worship the One God in Trinity, O John Chrysostom, all-blessed righteous one. Rightly do we acclaim thee, for thou art a teacher revealing things divine.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 12: 2 PM, Parish Retreat on Stewardship: *Caring for God’s Gifts, a Talk and Discussion with Father John Dresko*
5 PM, Great Vespers, Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 13: 9:30 AM, Chrismation of Carl Jacob Basch
10 AM, Divine Liturgy

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11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Discussion time with Father John

- Tues., Nov. 15: **Beginning of the Christmas Fast (Advent)**
- Wed., Nov. 16: 6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., Nov. 17: 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Sat., Nov. 19: 9 AM, Work Party—all hands needed

• WELCOME:

We are honored to welcome Archpriest John and Matushka Elizabeth Dresko from Las Vegas. Father John is a greatly respected priest, teacher and administrator of the Orthodox Church in America, and the rector of St. Paul Orthodox Church in Las Vegas. We thank him for visiting us and leading us in a discussion on God's gifts and our response to Him as members of the Church.

• UPCOMING FEAST:

The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple will be celebrated with Vespers, at 1 PM, on Sunday, November 20; on Monday, November 21, we will serve Matins at 8:30 AM, followed by the Divine Liturgy. What is this Feast day? If you recall, Tradition tells us that the parents of the Virgin Mary—Sts. Joachim and Anna—were old and childless, when the Lord God answered their prayer and blessed them with a child, Mary. When she was quite young, Sts. Joachim and Anna took Mary to the Temple of Jerusalem, to give thanks for the birth. As it turned out, the young Virgin Mary offered herself to the Lord, and stayed at the Temple, living there until she was about thirteen. The implications of the account are very great: by virtue of carrying Christ God in her womb, the Virgin entered the Temple of Jerusalem to prepare herself be the Temple. The place of the Temple is the place where God and man meet. All of us are anointed to be Temples of the Holy Spirit, and thus share in the joy of the Feast. What follows is an excerpt of a short meditation on the Feast:

Today the young maidens come forth joyfully, carrying their lamps before the super-sensuous torch, and in a noble manner take her into the Holy of Holies, going before and foretelling the ineffable Ray which shall shine forth from her, lighting in the spirit those who sit in the

darkness of folly. —Vespers of the Feast. As we celebrate the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, we offer a hymn of praise to her who became a living temple of God. But this feast is also a prelude to the Feast of the Nativity. It is here that we are ushered fully into the Nativity season. As the Troparion of the Feast proclaims, “Today is the prelude of God’s goodwill.” It is now, during Matins for the Feast of the Entrance, that we first hear the joyous words of the Nativity Canon: “Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ is come from heaven, receive ye him. Christ is on earth, be exalted...” In the words of Fr. Alexander Schmemmann: “With these words something changes in our life, in the very air we breathe, in the entire mood of the Church’s life. It is as if we perceive far, far away, the first light of the greatest possible joy — the coming of God into His world! Thus the Church announces the coming of Christ, the Incarnation of God, His entrance into the world for its salvation.” Thus we continue our time of fasting and preparation in joyous knowledge of what awaits: the uncontainable God, born in the cave of the Virgin for the salvation of mankind.

A strange and wonderful mystery do I see: the cave is heaven, the Virgin the throne of the cherubim, and the manger, place in which Christ the uncontainable God is laid. Him do we praise and magnify. —Nativity Canon, Ode 9

• MANY YEARS AND CONGRATULATIONS:

We all give thanks to God for the joy of participating in the Chrismation of Carl Jacob Basch, prior to the Divine Liturgy. We welcome Carl Jacob (his saint is St. James, Brother of the Lord) to the saving embrace of the One, Holy, Catholic (meaning *whole, not lacking anything*) and Apostolic Church of the Orthodox Faith. May the Lord send him many blessings.

• WELCOMING NEW CATECHUMENS:

As most of you have noticed, there have been a number of new faces at the Liturgy for the past several months. It is time to rejoice and make them catechumens. On Saturday, November 12, just before Vespers, we welcome Joselyn Andronico, wife of John Andronico. John was a member of Nativity Church in Novato, but is now living just up the street so is coming here. Next week, November 20, at 9:30 AM, we will welcome into the ranks of the Catechumens (learners, hearers, those training to become Orthodox) Sean and Vipassana Esbjorn-Hargens and their children Athena and Tatiana; we will welcome Karen Hubbard, fiancée of Paul Byron Burch; Karen Roselle, and Beth Kelly. Please keep all of these fine people in your prayers.