

• COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL OF THE FOOLISH RICH MAN:

We have begun the Nativity Fast as of November 15—forty days before Christmas. All around us preparations are being made for Christmas. The stores are setting out—have set out—their “holiday” decorations, TV commercials abound with Christmasy themes, all very superficial and secular in nature, and the colorful Christmas lights will be going up in our neighborhoods. Let us who are Christians expend as much spiritual effort into preparing for Christmas as those worldly organizations do to gain profit! Let us try to please our Lord and Savior and attract His grace to the same degree that the retail stores strive to attract customers. Then, no doubt, our Christmas celebration will be as great as St. Gregory the Wonderworker of Neo-Caesaria described: “On this great day now celebrated, of shattered chains, of Satan shamed, of all demons to flight, the all-destroying death is replaced by life, paradise is opened to the thief, curses be transformed into blessings, all sins forgiven and evil banished, truth is come, and they have proclaimed tidings filled with reverence and love for God, traits pure and immaculate are implanted, virtue is exalted upon the earth, Angels are come together with people, and people make bold to converse with Angels.

Whence and why hath all this happened? From this, that God hath descended into the world and exalted mankind unto Heaven.” The Gospel today, from Luke 12, about the Foolish Rich Man, helps us to begin our Christmas preparations by teaching us to safeguard our desires and hopes, so that they remain focused on the goal of acquiring heavenly blessings and riches. Every worldly blessing and all riches come from God, and we must use them in the service of this goal, rather than for the foolish goals of the man in the Parable.

• Send your treasures to the heavenly storage room. Deposit your wealth in God’s Bank, distributing it to the poor, the orphans and the widows, so that you can receive a million times more in the Second Coming of Christ. *Elder Joseph the Hesychast*

• Almsgiving above all else requires money, but even this shines with a brighter luster when the alms are given from our poverty. The widow who paid in the two mites was poorer than any human, but she outdid them all. *St. John Chrysostom*

• No one can say, “I am poor and hence I have no means of giving alms.” For even if you cannot give as the rich gave their gifts into the temple treasury, give two farthings as the poor widow did, and from you God will consider it a greater gift than the gifts of the rich. *St. Dorotheos*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



November 18, 2018

Holy Martyrs Platon and Roman



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

• TROPARION OF STS. PLATON AND ROMAN, Tone Four:

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons’ strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

• KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

By raising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam; Eve exults in Thy resurrection; and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One.

Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa
707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 17: 2:30 PM, Play Practice in the Hall
3:30 PM, Catechism *On the nature of sin*
4 PM, Children's Choir Rehearsal
5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 18: 8:40 AM, Matins / 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
1 PM, Church School Teacher Meeting, in Church School room
- Tuesday, Nov. 20: 5 PM, Assembly of Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes, in Parish Hall
6:15 PM, Vigil for the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
- Wednesday, Nov. 21: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast
No Vespers
- Thursday, Nov. 22: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day

• A LETTER OF THANKS:

Words cannot express how much we thank the people at St. Seraphim's for the prayers and expressions of sympathy and all the help you provided us during our sorrow. We thank the Lord God for your friendship and support. We are so grateful to Father Lawrence, all the clergy, the altar servers, the singers, the ladies who prepared our daughter Daria's body for viewing and burial, the people who prepared a lovely luncheon after the funeral, for the koliva, for those that attended the services and for those that could not be with us but assured us of their prayers and all the beautiful sympathy cards. We thank you from the bottom of our heart; all of you will be in our thoughts and prayers. From the family of Daria, our departed daughter. Here so briefly, gone too soon, loved so very much. —*Father James, Matushka Patricia, Michael, Becky, Luke, Ella Jorgenson*

• FAMILIES TO FAMILIES DINNERS:

We are once again organizing Thanksgiving Dinners for those in need. We call it "Families to Families" which is now in our sixth year. Your offering of \$50.00 will cover the cost for a full Thanksgiving Dinner Food Box. We will prepare 100 dinner boxes again this year.

Assembly of the food boxes will take place on Tuesday, November 20, from 5–6:30 PM (we will finish in time to attend the Vigil). If you have any questions you can contact Amy Ramirez Margitich at fosasquatch@gmail.com, and at (707) 478-6767 or Serge Anderson at s.anderson4990@sbcglobal.net, and at (707) 291-7452.

Make your offering by check or by text. For "Text Giving" enter 707-701-5052 on your cell phone, indicate an amount you want to give (for example, \$50). A prompt will open your browser and you indicate the CHARITY category, enter your card info, and you're done.

• RELIEF FOR FIRE VICTIMS:

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, has directed that all parishes of the Diocese of the West take up an offering to assist the victims (parish members or otherwise) of the Camp fire to be distributed by Fr. Ian Shipley, rector of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Chico. In addition to the offering this Sunday, we will also send \$5,000 from our parish Fire Relief Fund, which is not yet depleted.

• LOST AND FOUND:

The *Lost and Found* box, which can be found on the Hall porch, is full. The items will be taken to Catholic Charities this week, so if you've lost a coat, a hat, a book, a scarf, children's shoes, a toy or two, please take a look before it is too late.

• CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER:

Speaking of lost, the Sign Up sheet for church cleaning was removed from the bulletin board in St. Seraphim. A new sheet has been posted; I hope to see all the empty slots filled by the conclusion of the Sunday Liturgy this week. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• FESTAL WEEK:

This coming week offers great spiritual riches. On Tuesday afternoon we will offer some of our labor to benefit those in need (assembly of Thanksgiving dinner boxes at 5 PM), after which we will celebrate the glorious vigil for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. St. Gregory Palamas says that in this feast we plunge into the ocean of her wonders; we stand in the Holy of Holies with her by our prayers and virtues. On Wednesday the Feast culminates with the Divine Liturgy at 9 AM. On Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, we again offer the Liturgy at 9 AM.