

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THE FOURTH Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Project "Families to Families"** was a great success thanks to the donors who gave funds to purchase and assemble 100 Thanksgiving Dinners (turkey, stuffing, potatoes, dessert, coffee, etc), those who put the dinners together, and of course thanks to Serge and Amy for organizing the project. The 100 dinner boxes were delivered to Catholic Charities on Tuesday, November 22.
- **ROHNERT PARK STUDY GROUP:** Deacons Jeremiah and Nicholas are planning to do talks on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM on the topic of the so-called "Great Schism" (separation of the Eastern and Western Christians) and also plan to discuss the ecumenical movement, its origins, goals and problems. The Study Group meets at Gretchen McPherson's home, 6063 Elsa Ave., Rohnert Park, (707) 584-4205.
- **MASTER PLAN MEETING:** Please plan to participate in the Master Plan Meeting Wednesday, November 30 at 7 PM. We will be finalizing the new set of priorities (for 1, 3, 5 and 10 year projections), so it will be crucial to have as many people attending as possible. This meeting will set the stage for the coming year.
- **CONCERT HERE DECEMBER 1 and 2:** Cantiamo Sonoma, one of the area's most renowned choral ensembles, directed by Carol Menke, will sing a Christmas concert on December 1 and 2, from 8–10 PM, here in St. Seraphim Church. The Cantiamo Christmas features a wonderful variety of seasonal pieces—both familiar and rarely heard. An evening of candlelight and music sure to delight and inspire. Tickets available from Cantiamo Sonoma members (see Nicolas Custer). Limited seating for both Thursday and Friday night, so please get your tickets soon.
- **BAPTISMS:** On Saturday, December 3 at 10 AM, Irini and Brendan's baby Romanos will be baptized. Following that, Ioana and Kevin Flores' baby Alden will be baptized. We congratulate both families.
- **PROJECT MEXICO:** The spiritual director of Project Mexico will be visiting our parish on Saturday, Dec. 3 at Vespers. After Vespers there will be a dinner and a presentation on the work of Project Mexico. All are welcome, but please contact Bonnie Alexander, Serge Anderson or Fr. Lawrence if you would like to attend this dinner event, Saturday, December 3, at 6 PM. The presentation and dinner will take place at the Anderson home, or if the response is very good, here in the Parish Hall. Please let us know if you plan to attend.
- **THE CATECHUMENS and INQUIRER LECTURES** (in the Library) continue on Saturday afternoons at 3:30 PM. Topics: December 3—on Repentance and Faith; December 10—on the Holy Spirit; December 17—on the Church and the Theotokos. The second semester of eight classes will begin at the end of January.
- **CALISTOGA MONASTERY WORK PARTY:** The Men's Group is invited to participate in a work party at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, on Saturday, December 10, starting at 10 AM. We apologize for the cancellation of the original work-party date and the mis-scheduling of the make-up date. Call/email Father Lawrence or Fr. Theodor if you will participate.
- **SENIOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP:** Thursday, December 15, at Noon.
- **CHRISTMAS EVENTS:** Carmen Anderson and Gloria Collins are preparing a Christmas play, featuring many of our parish children, to be performed on Sunday, December 18. Prior to the play, there will be a Vespers at 4 PM in the Protection Church followed by a potluck dinner. During the week leading up to Nativity there are special Services of the "Prefeast." Tuesday–Thursday we will serve Matins at 8 AM and Vespers at 6 PM. On Friday, December 23, the Royal Hours of Nativity will be sung, then Vespers at 6 PM. On Saturday, Christmas Eve, our Children's Choir will sing the Divine Liturgy, which will begin at 9:30 AM. The children have been rehearsing since October for this important church service. The wonderful and festive Matins of Christmas will begin at 5 PM on Saturday, Christmas Eve. Carols will be sung at the conclusion of the Matins. The Divine Liturgy for Nativity will begin at 9:30 AM, rather than at 10 AM.
- **TATIANA'S Mini Christmas Bazaar:** December 11, immediately after the Divine Liturgy, I will offer some interesting items for your Christmas shopping pleasure. Half of the proceeds will go directly back to our parish as a gift from all of us, the other half to cover materials. Glory to God for all things! Any questions, please call Tatiana Castillo (707) 235-8911.
- **MANY THANKS TO THOSE** who made the guests with Nomadic Shelter feel welcomed and loved. Dinner was served, music was played, prayers were said, a church tour was given, and the guests bedded down for the night in the Hall. The next Nomadic Shelter will be on Thursday, December 22. Any questions about volunteering should be directed to the parish coordinator of the program, Ambrose Ryan Inlow, at (707) 490-4700.

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

DECEMBER 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| 27 – Martyr James the Persian • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal <i>(No Church school today)</i> | 28 | 29 • 6 PM, Vespers, Apostle Andrew • 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group | 30 - Apostle Andrew • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy <i>No Vespers</i> • 7 PM, Master Plan Meeting | 1 • 8 PM, <i>Cantiamo Christmas Concert</i> | 2 <i>(Fr Lawrence at Calistoga Monastery all day)</i> • 8 PM, <i>Cantiamo Christmas Concert</i> | 3 • 10 AM, Baptism* • 11 AM, Baptism * • 3:30 PM, Catechism, on <i>Repentance and Faith</i> • 4 PM, Children's Choir • 5 PM, Vespers** |
| 4 – Great Martyr Barbara • 10 AM, Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal | 5 <i>In San Anselmo: Vigil at 7 PM</i> | 6 – St. Nicholas Day <i>In San Anselmo: Liturgy at 9:30 AM</i> • 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group | 7 • 6 PM, Vespers | 8 <i>(Fr Lawrence in SF at meeting all day)</i> • 7 PM, Parish Council | 9 | 10 • 10 AM, <i>Calistoga Monastery Work Party</i> • 3:30 PM, Catechism, on <i>the Holy Spirit</i> • 5 PM, Vespers |
| 11 – Holy Ancestors of Christ • 10 AM, Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • <i>Tatiana's Mini-Christmas Bazaar</i> | 12 • 6 PM, Vespers, Feast of St. Herman of Alaska | 13 – St. Herman Day • 8:30 AM, Matins and Divine Liturgy • 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group | 14 • 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank • 6 PM, Vespers | 15 • Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship | 16 | 17 • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy (Norwegian) • 3:30 PM, Catechism, on <i>the Church and the Virgin Mary</i> • 4 PM, Children's Choir • 5 PM, Vespers |
| 18 – Sunday before Nativity • 10 AM, Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 4 PM, <i>Akathist, Children's Christmas Play and Dinner</i> | 19 | 20 • 8 AM, Pre-feast Matins, Confessions • 6 PM, Pre-feast Vespers | 21 • 8 AM, Pre-feast Matins, Confessions • 6 PM, Pre-feast Vespers | 22 • 8 AM, Pre-feast Matins, Confessions • 6 PM, Pre-feast Vespers • 6 PM, Nomadic Shelter | 23 • 9 AM, Royal Hours for Nativity • Noon–4 PM, Confession • 6 PM, Pre-feast Vespers | 24 – Christmas Eve • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy (Children's Choir) • 5 PM, Festal Matins for Nativity |
| 25 – Nativity of Christ • 9:30 AM, Festal Divine Liturgy <i>(please note time)</i> | 26 • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of the Theotokos | 27 | 28 • 6 PM, Vespers | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve • 5 PM, Great Vespers, Feast of St Basil |

* Saturday, December 3—Baptism of Romanos Schettig; 11 AM—Baptism of Baptism of Alden Flores

** Saturday, December 3—After Vespers there will be a presentation by Fr Nicholas Andruchow on the work of **Project Mexico**