

All Saints Day, asks us to consider the holy men, women and children of the Church that have gone before us, to consider their courageous and joyful martyrdoms, their struggles for holiness and attaining it by communion with God, and their great love for Him. Humans can become like God—this is theosis, the goal of the Christian, which can also be described as the sharing in the divine life of Him Who is God and Man, Jesus Christ. All of this is fine and noble, yet there is no theosis in our own lives without some effort, to acquire more faith and grace, towards the acceptance of God’s providence in our lives, and the bringing under control our fallen nature—through fasting and prayer (moderation in all things). Fasting from meat, dairy, and eggs need not be an exercise in melancholy, not when we keep the goal of communion with God, self-control and freedom, firmly in mind. Let us give thanks to God for the simple foods, so abundant and delicious at this time of the year. And we also remember those words of the Savior about fasting: “... when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret” (Matt. 6:17). Yes, we might have to eat sparingly at a few summer BBQs. It will do us some good. May God grant to each the joy of the Apostles’ Fast and the fulfillment of it on the Feast Day Liturgy June 29.

- NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN:

The birthday of Saint John the Baptist will be celebrated on June 23, with a Vespers at 5 PM, and on June 24, at 9 AM with the Sunday Divine Liturgy. In the Church we remember that the Lord praised St. John as the “greatest of those born of woman” and so we are eager to praise him too. We do not have a venerating icon of St. John. Perhaps there is a family or families that would like to sponsor this icon. The cost would be about \$750.

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

This event is a four day, summer program—July 16–19—for kids (ages 5–10) being organized by Gloria Collins. Daily schedule here at the church will consist of a morning prayer at 9 AM sharp, followed by a brief spiritual lesson with one of the priests, then crafts, games, snacks, folk dancing, music, and a wrap-up prayer at Noon. Registration forms will be available at the Candle-desk in the next few weeks.

- GLENDI FLYERS:

Available for distribution next week. Our thanks to O’Dell Printing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints Sunday ~ June 10, 2012

- 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 ALL SAINTS, Tone Four

Adorned in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church, through them, doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy church, and great mercy to our souls.

- KONTAKION OF ALL SAINTS, Tone Eight

To Thee, the Planter of creation, the world doth offer the God-bearing martyrs as the first-fruits of nature. By their supplication, preserve Thy Church in deep peace, through the Theotokos, O greatly merciful One.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 9: 10 AM, Baptism of Bnyen Fitwe
4:30 PM, Panikhida for Sakovich Family
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, June 10: 9–10 AM, Confessions heard until Liturgy
10 AM, Divine Liturgy, *Feast of All Saints*
- Monday, June 11 Beginning of the *Peter & Paul Fast*. Abstinence from meat, meat products, dairy and eggs
- Tues., June 12: Rohnert Park Study Group: on *the Second Coming*
- Wed., June 13: 6 PM, Vespers

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- Thurs., June 14: Noon, Senior/Retired Luncheon
6 PM, Akathist to St. John of SF
- Sat., June 25: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions

- VACATION:

Father Lawrence and family are away on vacation from June 14–30. Please contact either Father Michael or Father John Schettig for pastoral needs.

- TUESDAY EVENING ROHNERT PARK STUDY GROUP:

You are cordially invited to theological and spiritual discussions on Tuesday evenings, 7 PM, at 1352 Oak View Circle, Rohnert Park, 3rd floor. Call Debi Shrimplin at (707) 536-9112 for more info. The topic for this week will be on *The Second Coming of Christ*. Deacons Jeremiah and Nicholas will lead the discussion.

- SENIOR / RETIRED LUNCHEON:

The luncheon for seniors and retired parishioners will be held on Thursday, June 14, at Noon. We look forward to the fellowship. Please speak with Debi Shrimplin or call the Parish Office to confirm your attendance.

- SUMMER CAMP OUT—MT. SHASTA

The youth group from St Andrew's Orthodox Church in Riverside, some 50 kids strong, will be going to a KOA in Mt Shasta from July 8-12. Our youth have been invited to participate with them in this camp out. Will those of you that indicated interest in working with the youth please get back to me to let me know if you will be able to assist in this effort? About half of the Riverside kids (about 25 or so) will be here on July 7 in the evening, stopping on their way up to Shasta, to spend the night here camping out. We will need a host to help them. They come prepared to cook, set up tents, clean up, etc. They have a great support team and we can learn a lot from being with them. The kids will spend the night here and attend Liturgy with us. Looking forward to working with some of you on this. — *Fr. Lawrence*

- MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

On the evening of Sunday, November 4th, our parish will be hosting a benefit dinner for the Monastery of Saint John (located in Manton, CA.) The evening will begin with Vespers at 5 PM sung by the Monastery choir,

followed by a talk by Fr. Meletios and dinner in the Parish Hall. More detailed information to follow.

- COMMUNION OF SAINTS:

When Christians depart this life, they remain a vital part of the Church, the body of Christ. They are alive in the Lord and “registered in heaven” (Hebrews 12:23). They worship God (Revelation 4:10) and inhabit His heavenly dwelling places (John 14:2). In the Eucharist we come “to the city of the living God” and join in communion with the saints in our worship of God (Hebrews 12:22). They are that “great cloud of witnesses” which surrounds us, and we seek to imitate them in running “the race set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). Rejecting or ignoring the communion of saints is a denial of the fact that those who have died in Christ are still part of his holy Church. The True Church is composed of all who are in Christ—in heaven and on earth. It is not limited in membership to those presently alive. Those in heaven with Christ are alive, in communion with God, worshipping God, doing their part in the Body of Christ. They actively pray to God for all those in the Church—and indeed, for the whole world (Ephesians 6:8; Revelation 8:3). So we pray to the saints who have departed this life, seeking their prayers, even as we ask Christian friends on earth to pray for us. The saints provide us with living testimonies of a redeemed humanity. They show that Christian perfection (not a perfection moral, ethical, physical, emotional or psychological, but one Christian, coming from Jesus Christ) is not an absurd or inaccessible goal. They are the ones whom God has touched and made whole. They shine with the uncreated light of the Godhead, irradiating their humanity with the new life of the Kingdom against which even death itself has no power. They are mirrors, as we behold them, of what we could be. They inspire us towards this goal, *theosis*, the promise of a new humanity, a New Creation, transcending even the biological necessities towards something sublime and true, the Love of God made visible, the birth pangs of a new age in which God shall be all and in all when He comes to raise all from the dead. (**adapted**)

- HOW TO KEEP THE APOSTLES' FAST:

The first fast of summer, the Apostles' Fast, begins each year on the day after All Saints (this year, Monday, June 11) and continues until the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29. This fasting season is of crucial importance, and has to do with putting the theology of “all saints” into action. This Sunday,