

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 2, 2013 ~ Samaritan Woman

- MEDITATION ON THE SAMARITAN WOMAN:

One wise teacher wrote that “purification is the systematic pruning away of all sources of distraction.” Jesus helps the Woman at the Well prune away the things in her life that distract her from an intimate relationship with God based on “spirit and truth.” This is what the sacrament of Confession is all about; not just the listing of sins, but the uprooting of the causes of sin. As we progress in the spiritual life what we confess becomes more and more subtle, as we begin to work with the thoughts, emotions and conditioning that give rise to our sin. Denied the living water of God, we search for other sources of water we hope will quench our thirst, but they produce only more thirst. The soul’s search for alternative gods turns into craving and addiction to things that satisfy only for a moment and then the moment is gone and with it, happiness. We must wake and be honest with ourselves and start to whittle away these distractions, to leave behind all our earthly cares and the half-baked solutions we concoct that do not, and never will, work...If our spiritual lives are non-existent or barren, then be sure that at the root of the problem is that our hearts and minds are filled with distractions from the remembrance of God. It is a struggle. Have no doubt, but a struggle which produces fruit an hundred-fold. When there is nothing to hinder the cooperation between the Holy Spirit and the human spirit, the living water begins to flow...

—Fr. Anthony Hughes. *See more at: stmaryorthodoxchurch.org*

- ADVICE FROM THE BOOK OF TOBIT:

Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will not be turned away from you. If you have many possessions, make your gift from them in proportion; if few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have. So you will be laying up a good treasure for yourself against the day of necessity. For charity delivers from death and keeps you from entering the darkness; and for all who practice it charity is an excellent offering in the presence of the Most High. —*Tobit 4:7-11*

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is over-thrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF MID-FEAST, Tone Eight:

At Mid-feast give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety; for Thou, O Savior didst cry out to all: whosoever is thirsty let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Well-spring of Life, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN, Tone Eight:

The Samaritan woman came to the well in faith; she saw Thee, the Water of Wisdom and drank abundantly; she inherited the Kingdom on high and is ever glorified.

- KONTAKION OF MID-FEAST, Tone Four:

O Sovereign Master and Creator of all things, O Christ our God, Thou didst cry unto those present at the Judaic Mid-Feast: come and draw the water of immortality freely; wherefore, we fall down before Thee and faithfully cry aloud: grant Thy compassions unto us, O Lord, for Thou art truly the Well-spring of life for all.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 1: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, June 2: 9–10 AM, Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, *Agape outside due to wedding reception in afternoon*
- Wed., June 5: 6 PM, Vespers

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- Thurs., June 6: 1:45 PM, Study of the Epistle to the Hebrews, Parish Hall

- CHURCH SCHOOL PARTY:

The Church School Teachers invite all students and parents to join them in an end-of-the-school-year BBQ after Divine Liturgy, on Sunday, June 9th. Yes... there will be a bounce house!

- PASCHAL MATINS / LEAVE-TAKING & ASCENSION:

On June 11, at 7 PM, we will celebrate the last Paschal Matins Service of the year. For the last time this year we will sing “Christ is Risen” and all of the hymns of the glorious day of the Resurrection of the Savior. If you were unable to attend the Paschal Matins and Liturgy, or just want more, then plan to come to this and rejoice in this bright Service. The Vigil for Ascension Day will be served the following evening at 6:15 PM. Liturgy for Ascension, June 13, at 9 AM.

- SENIOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP—BRUNCH at 11 AM:

The next luncheon will be on Ascension day, June 13. The Calendar specifies that the lunch is at Noon. However, since most of the participants will already be at the Divine Liturgy for the Great Feast of the Ascension of Christ, rather than lunch at noon, there will be **brunch at 11 AM.**

- METROPOLITAN TIKHON to visit San Francisco:

The Metropolitan will be serving the Vigil and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Pentecost with Archbishop Benjamin at Holy Trinity Cathedral on June 22 at 6 PM and June 23 at 9:30 AM. Parishes in the area are encouraged to participate in this, the Cathedral’s Patronal Feast.

- METROPOLITAN TIKHON to visit Santa Rosa:

His Beatitude will attend the *Holy Spirit Day Liturgy* in San Anselmo at 9:30 AM on Monday, June 24, and has asked our Parish Members to participate with him there. Later in the day, after a visit to Fort Ross with Archbishop Benjamin, Metropolitan Tikhon will come to our parish to see the Church, say a few short prayers, greet members of our Parish, and have dinner with us. More info on time and menu to come.

- NICK NICHOLSON TO BEGIN REGULAR CLASSES IN SYSTEMA:

Most people have never heard of the Russian Martial Arts called *Systema*. You are invited to see www.russianmartialart.com to become more familiar with it. For those interested in *Systema*’s philosophy and relation to Orthodoxy, we recommend the website: www.russianmartialart.com/main.php?page=philosophy. This martial art is ideal for those interested in physical fitness, learning how to relax, how to breathe for health, and lastly, to develop martial arts skill. The class is primarily for adults, however, young people sixteen and older are invited and encouraged to participate with a signed parental consent. Classes will usually be held from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon, Saturdays at the Parish Hall. Additional classes will occasionally be held in Petaluma at Schallenberger Park in Petaluma from 4:30 to 6 PM on a Tuesday or Thursday. Class schedule time(s) will be subject to change if there are conflicting Church activities. The fee for the class will be a donation to the Church building fund. Those interested in learning the Russian Martial Arts *Systema* should contact Nick Nicholson at nickddg@comcast.net or 707 322-9736. New students should contact him for an introductory session prior to joining the regular class. Interested students will be added to an e-mail distribution list for class announcements.

- VACATION:

Summer is time for holidays and vacations. New sights and faces, activities and adventures. Visiting other Orthodox parishes during vacations can be interesting, inspiring and enlightening. Obviously, none of our Parish Members are going to take a vacation from the Divine Liturgy this summer. When you do visit another parish, either call or email the priest beforehand, to ask a blessing to receive Holy Communion at that parish. It is very awkward—at the Chalice during Communion—for a priest to ask if you belong to the Orthodox Church and the name of your parish. Be polite, call ahead, or at least, let the Candle Desk staff know you are visiting. **Father Lawrence will be away on vacation from June 10 until late Friday, June 21. While away he will attend St. Demetrios parish in Saco, ME.**