

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 13, 2019

- AN INVITATION (reprint from 2018):

When we enter the Church we stand, in a very vivid way, before the Presence of our God and Father, His Only-Begotten Son, and His Life-giving Spirit. We (potentially) commune with the whole “cloud of witnesses” and the angelic hosts who are always praising God with their hymns of glory. Having been enlightened by the Light of Christ at His Nativity, and refreshed with the Holy Water at Theophany, I would like to invite you—in this new year—to come to the Church during the week to pray. Come anytime during the day, and I will unlock the doors for you. When you are troubled by cares and worries, come to pray, sit quietly, light a candle and be strengthened. When you feel despondent, don’t fret about it: come to be in the presence of the Lord, His Most Pure Mother and the Saints, and tell them of your sorrows. When a loved one dies, come to light a candle before the icon of the Crucifixion, see the sorrow of the Holy Theotokos, and the victory over death of the Savior. When you are joyful, and your prayers have been answered, then without delay come to thank God Who loves us so much, and for a few minutes stand silently before Him with gratitude. When you have trouble praying, and are distracted, come to do some prostrations to warm up the soul and the body, and pray the Jesus Prayer, offering not just a few as an intercession for others. When you feel distant from God, come to the Church during the day or the evening, whenever you can, and turn your attention away from your thoughts, and perhaps the Lord Himself will send His uncreated Grace into your heart to renew the dialogue with Him. It’s my daily experience, which I invite you to share, that when I walk into the quiet and holy space of the Church during the week, in the morning or afternoon, I leave behind the noise of traffic, the noise of my own thoughts and am gently renewed. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- TO THE FRONT:

Community studies show that when a church service appears to be full, visitors tend not to return because “there is no room.” The simplest way our cathedral parish can avoid making this impression is for everyone to move forward when standing in the nave, so that the open space is in the *back* not the front. People often fear that being in the front means “everyone is looking at me” or “how am I going to make a speedy exit?” Closer to the Altar is the best place to be undistracted. —*borrowed*

- 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 THEOPHANY, Tone One:

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His Word. O Christ, our God, Who hast revealed Thyself, and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THEOPHANY, Tone Four:

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise: and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light Unapproachable.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Jan. 12: 5 PM, Vespers, Confessions before, during and following Vespers
- Sunday, Jan. 13: 8:40 AM, Matins
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape (Coffee and sweet rolls only)
12:45 PM, Floral Decoration Committee Mtg in the church
3 PM, Wedding
- Wednesday, Jan. 16: 6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and talk on the Letters of St. John Chrysostom to St. Olympia
- Thursday, Jan. 17: Noon, Senior and Retired Lunch

- Saturday, Jan. 19: 8 AM, Men's Group Breakfast at the Happy Hen on Santa Rosa Ave

- WELCOME:

We welcome our former parishioners, Fr. Ian and Matushka Priscilla Shipley, who are with us today for the Divine Liturgy and to serve the wedding for two of their faithful parishioners at 3 PM. We welcome all those visiting from Sts. Cyril and Methodius parish in Chico.

- THIS SUNDAY THEOPHANY CONTINUES:

The Feast of Theophany, which is the core and climax of the Nativity season—the season of the Incarnation of God—is a feast of eight days. The hymns of the feast are sung at Vespers each day and at Liturgy as well. The Nativity season will conclude on the fortieth day after Christmas, February 2, with the Feast of the *Meeting of the Lord in the Temple*. Vigil for that feast will be served on Friday, February 1 at 6:15 PM, and the Liturgy the following morning at 9 AM. We bless candles then, as a reminder that Christ is the Light of the world.

- HOUSE BLESSINGS:

The *Master List* of house blessings is in the Narthex. It seems to be working well. Please check to see if your name appears on it because one of the priests is planning to show up at your home. If your name does NOT appear on the *Master List* please call either Fr. Lawrence or Fr. Nicholas to schedule a blessing.

- FLORAL DECORATIONS TEAM MEETING:

Denise Pellizzer is re-organizing the church floral-decoration team. A short meeting will be held for those interested in working together to beautify the Church, primarily for the Great Feast Days, and of course Holy Week and Pascha. The meeting will take place in the Church today at 12:45 PM.

- PIROSHKI ORDERS:

Piroshki prep will take place Jan. 16–19. Get your order placed now. Order forms are at the candle desk.

- ANNUAL MEETING:

The parish will hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 3, 2019, in accordance with the Parish By-laws. The meeting will begin after the Divine Liturgy at 12:30 PM.

- WALK FOR LIFE IN SF:

The **2019 Walk for Life** will take place on January 26 in San Francisco (12:30 PM). We hope to provide transportation for those who are interested in going. See Fr. Lawrence or Deacon John for information.

- AN INSUFFICIENT ANSWER:

Last Sunday, on the Feast of Theophany (one of the Twelve Great Feasts, and THE feast of the Nativity season), I spoke in my homily to the children about the meaning of Theophany, Christ's baptism, our own baptism and the blessing of Holy Water. During my remarks, young and bright Eleanor Scarborough raised her hand to ask a profound question, entirely apropos to the topic being discussion. She said, "What is baptism." While I gave a theologically correct, if unmemorable, answer, it was the wrong answer for the children. What I should have said is: "Remember three things. First, that when we are baptized we go into the water, and rise again out of it, three times—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In that Holy Water we "put on Christ." Your shirt is as close to your skin as is possible; and Jesus Christ is even closer to you. You can, if you want, become like He is. Second: When you 'put on Christ' you are invited by God to have Holy Communion—and Holy Communion is to have Christ, the Son of God, living with you, making you holy and giving you Food from Heaven, from God Himself. You are joined to God. And, thirdly, when we are joined to God in baptism, He becomes our Father. Yes, we keep our parents, but God Who made everything adopts us, makes his heavenly children to share—in His House, the Church—all the beautiful, playful, wonderful things of Heaven. Not automatically. No, we have to live like children of God." That's probably what I should have said. I'll be ready next time! —Fr. Lawrence

- WEDNESDAY EVENING TALKS:

On the next three Wednesdays, following Vespers and a potluck, Fr Nicholas will speak to us about the book of letters from St. John Chrysostom to the Deaconess St. Olympia. Starting February 6, Fr John Schettig will present three Wednesday evening talks: the teaching of the Holy Fathers of the Orthodox Church 1) on the Book of Genesis; 2) the Creation of Man and 3) the age of the world. Vespers at 6 PM, followed by the potluck (please bring a dish to share, which is what potluck is all about) and the talk.