

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ January 7, 2018

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Six:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life-Immortal, Thou didst slay Hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead; and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, 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.

- TROPARION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Tone Two:

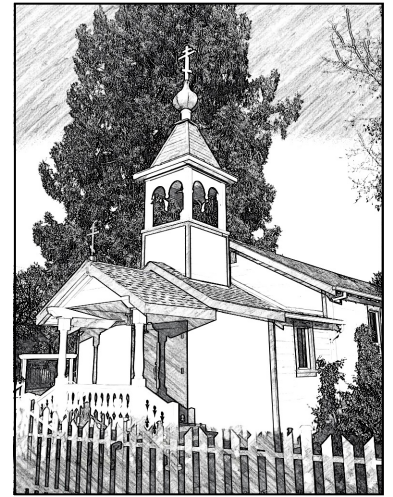
The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since thou was granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

- KONTAKION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Tone Six:

Terrified at Thy bodily presence, Jordan turned back in fear; and having fulfilled his prophetic ministry, John drew back in trembling. The orders of Angels were amazed to see Thee in the streams baptized in the flesh, and all those in darkness were illumined and praised Thee, Who hadst appeared and hadst enlightened all things.

- KONTAKION OF THEOPHANY, Model Melody:

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. 6: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of Water
House Blessings
5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, Jan. 7: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and second Great Blessing of Water
Noon, Agape Meal
House Blessings (singers needed)
5 PM, Going Away Party for Brendan and Eirini and family
- Wednesday, Jan. 10: 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Jan. 11: Noon, Senior and Retired Lunch Fellowship
6 PM, Sisterhood Meeting—*Proposal to reorganize, or not*
7 PM, Master Plan Meeting

- USHERS TODAY:

Elsie Avalon and Martin Thong

- THE LIGHT OF CHRIST:

The light of Christ is the Light by which we have been able to fathom so much of this universe, that is, through the Logos and power of reason and language of which he is the Source. But his Light is not only rational; it is moral. Surely, is there anyone who can honestly say and rightly assert that the Person of Jesus, as revealed to us from conception to death and resurrection, does anything other than shed light on the true condition of man and point the way to healing—to repentance, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, gentleness, humility, self-control, peace, joy, and love? Men’s resistance to Christ is sometimes from ignorance, lack of witness, or false witness by those who say they represent him. Make no mistake: the world cries in darkness without Christ, regardless of how it may appear from space at night, regardless of how much electricity flows illuminating our streets, buildings, offices, sports arenas, cinema screens, laptops, smartphones and interior spaces. There is much darkness when men seek first their own “star power” through mammon, power, sex, comfort, and seek not first the Kingdom of Heaven. Christ is God’s gift to the world; upon those who sat in darkness, a light has dawned! We shall become, through Christ, shining like the stars of heaven. And behold—see! Magi from the east come to worship him and offer him gifts. Wise men, indeed. In Christ, the World’s True Light. —*James Kushiner*

GOING AWAY PARTY

Eirini and Brendan Schettig and their sons Damian, Arsenes and Roman are moving to Greece. In order to send them off with our love and best wishes, all are invited to a going away party on Sunday, January 7 at 5 PM, in the Parish Hall.

Food will be provided. Please bring beverages.

Contact Matushka Xenia Schettig if you have any questions.



- PIROSHKI SALES:

Prep work will take place from Wednesday, Jan. 17–Friday, Jan. 19, with final pinching/frying on Saturday, Jan. 20. Contact Bobbi Griovski for more info.

- TALK BY FR. ANDREW CUNEO:

Our former associate pastor Fr Andrew will give a talk on January 17 on the book “Abolition of Man” by CS Lewis. Fr Andrew holds a PhD from Oxford where he specialized on the work of the famous English professor, novelist and religious writer CS Lewis. The talk will take place after the 6 PM Vespers. Please bring a lenten dish to share. Garrett Hamner will continue the discussion the following Wednesday after Vespers.

- PARISH RETREAT:

Philotimo as Sacramental to Marriage. The Greek word “philotimo” has many meanings: to sacrifice, to understand and to act—with joy—for the good of the other person. A retreat on marriage wellness, in relation to the idea of “philotimo,” will be led by Father Timothy Pavlatos Saturday, January 27 at 9:30 AM. Fr. Timothy serves at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Portland, OR., and is a licensed marriage and family therapist. He is the Family Wellness Ministry Director for the SF Diocese of the Greek Orthodox Church. See the flyer for more information.

• WALK FOR LIFE IN SF:

There are many opportunities to attend various activities at the annual **Walk For Life** weekend Friday, Jan. 26–Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018 in San Francisco. For those wishing to attend the talks and march from the Civic Center on Saturday, Jan. 27, we will be partnering again this year with St. James Catholic Church in Petaluma for transportation to and from San Francisco. The cost of this trip is \$20 per person. We will be leaving St. James at 7:45 AM Saturday and returning sometime following the conclusion of the **Walk**. For those interested in attending this aspect of the weekend activities please contact Dn. Jeremiah as soon as possible in order to secure a seat on the bus. For those wishing to attend further activities on Friday, Jan. 26 and Sunday, Jan. 28, there is information in the narthex regarding the times and schedules of the planned events. Transportation to and from the Friday and Sunday events will be the responsibility of the interested parties. Please take the opportunity to meet Orthodox Christians from all over the country for a pan-Orthodox weekend of prayer and fellowship while participating in the annual West Coast **Walk for Life**.

—Dn. Jeremiah Crawford

• THE GREATER THE GRACE:

“Those who confess sincerely and take upon themselves the shame for their sins are regenerated [not toxic shame of abuse]. But those who shrug their shoulders and say, ‘Nothing special, the usual things...’ they do not bear any shame, their heart remains unmoved, and they hardly receive any benefit. But those who, with shame and a contrite heart, strip their souls naked before God and before another mortal, ‘of like passions’ (Acts 14:15) with them—that shame of theirs really finds the heart, humbles it and brings it to the surface. This then, opens the heart to receive the grace of regeneration, of consolation. We see this in the life of many that come to us: the greater the shame they bear with contrition, accusing themselves before God, the greater the grace they receive to amend their lives and make a new beginning.” (*Remember thy First Love* by Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou, pp. 74-76). Although the term shame is used here, in most contexts shame is a harmful dead end leading to disheartened stagnation. I think it might be more helpful to view this movement as a *courageous letting go* of the tendency to protect ourselves and to run away from parts of the self that we are not proud of, because of a deep trust in the goodness of God that far exceeds any wrongness in man. Emotionally, we feel our smallness and our brokenness. Cognitively, we describe precisely how we have gone astray. And we wait on God’s response. Like the prodigal son, we are honest with ourselves and before heavenly Father, and like the prodigal son we also feel his embrace and his warmth. Being honest with ourselves, about ourselves, and before our God indeed brings the grace of God to begin again. With Him at our side, there is no need to procrastinate. We can act and live. —from *Ancient Christian Wisdom*, Hieromonk Alexis

Orthodox Christians Walk for Life!

Join fellow Orthodox Christians
of all jurisdictions and ages at the 14th annual
Walk for Life West Coast

Saturday, January 27, 2018 • Civic Center Plaza • San Francisco



Rally: 12:30 PM
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza, walking down Market Street (2 miles). Ends at Justin Herman Plaza/Ferry Building.

BART stations at both locations.
Ample parking.

Walk website:
WalkforLifeWC.com



PRE-RALLY:
PAN-ORTHODOX
MOLIEBEN SERVICE FOR
THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

11:30 AM
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
near corner of
Polk & Grove Streets

For information, please
contact Veronica Ruby at
(510) 882-7779

ANNUAL MEETING

Due to scheduling conflicts, the General Parish Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 11** (rather than on the first Sunday of February as the Bylaws stipulate). Topics include: review of the 2017 finances, adoption of the 2018 budget, reports from the Sisterhood, Church School, Rector, Parish Ministries, Sacraments. We will vote for Parish Council members, discuss fundraisers, e.g. a scaled down Glendi or no Glendi, and if so, and what to do with our Glendi equipment. The Meeting will begin at 12:30 PM on Sunday, February 11. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for Parish Council, please do that with a Parish Council Member no later than Sunday, January 21. Report booklets will be distributed on Sunday, January 28.



• HOUSE BLESSINGS:

Very few of parishioners have contacted me or signed up to have their homes blessed with the Holy Water of Theophany. Many of you haven't had your house blessed in years (my, my...) or ever (hmmm), so, let's get your house on the schedule.

I will be going to Mount Athos from Jan. 29–Feb 9, so keep that in mind, as well as the fact that Lent begins early this year (Forgiveness Sunday is February 18). I would like to bless every home in the parish. Let's start now. A few words about Holy Water are appropriate:

On the actual feast of Theophany, Orthodox Christians freely sprinkle, drink, and bless everything with Holy Water from the Great Blessing of the Waters. After the feast, the water is kept and treated with great reverence. Theophany

Water is partaken of while fasting and, if it happens that we are absent from the Divine Liturgy and therefore miss taking Holy Communion, we drink some Holy Water. The Water is taken while sick for healing, in the midst of spiritual struggle against sin, and for spiritual protection. "Re-bless" your home after times of familial strife or particularly difficult spiritual struggles. An Orthodox Christian's home is the family church, but also a place where there are often great temptations and trials. This annual blessing dedicates it again to the Lord and brings spiritual revitalization for those who live there. At the Service for the Blessing of a Home, we pray that the Lord protect those who live there from fire, earthquake, floods, pestilence and sudden death. My advice: get your house blessed. Make it an outpost of St Seraphim Cathedral in the midst of your neighbors, for yourself and for their salvation. —Fr. Lawrence

• SISTERHOOD MEETING:

All are invited to a meeting regarding the Sisterhood, Thursday, January 11, from 6 to 7 PM. We have a proposal to reorganize the work of this long-standing and dedicated Parish body. The basic idea is as follows: We have many wonderful Parish Ministries (see the Annual Meeting Report Book for the list), many of which do the tasks that were once handled by the Sisterhood, many of them done by couples, not just men or women. Considering that, maybe the time has come to roll the Sisterhood into the ministries, or rather, dissolve the Sisterhood as a separate organization and expand the Parish Council (total of eleven members rather than nine). Each Council Member would oversee one or more of the Ministries, and be involved in them as well, in order to unify the work of the parish. This is merely a proposal to be considered, beginning at the meeting on Thursday. —Fr. Lawrence