

listed. We should each have a duplicate book of names for our own use, and pray for those names we have listed each Saturday evening or Sunday and before coming to Church for the Divine Liturgy since the priests are praying *with* you, not *instead* of you. —*Fr Lawrence*

- FRESKO OF THE FORTY MARTYRS:

God willing, Father Patrick will return about January 23 to paint the fresco of the Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste, with the intention to finish before Lent begins. Thanks to three very generous donations, we have \$15,000 of the needed \$20,000 for the large fresco (will be located at the end of the south aisle, west wall). I am appealing once again, to those who are able, for help in completing the funding for this icon. Yes, we have other icons that HAVE been commissioned and are fully funded. However, this particular fresco needs only minimal scaffolding, and is completely “self-contained” (not part of an ensemble) and can be painted before Lent begins.

- ORTHODOXY IN GUATEMALA:

You are invited to a presentation by Kendra Sophia Meshnik on Sunday, January 15, after the lunch, on her recent OCMC work in Guatemala. Kendra spent about four months in that country working at a medical clinic, run by the Orthodox Church. There are now 338 churches and more than 350,000 Orthodox faithful there. Come hear about this exciting evangelization.

- GREEK DINNER DANCE:

The Parish Sisterhood will present a Greek Dinner Dance with Classes and Raffle. Review traditional Greek dances at three great classes during January, then join us in the Parish Hall on a Fast Free Friday for a fun night of dancing and food. Classes will be held January 17, 24 and 31 at 6 PM. The Dinner and Dancing night is Friday, February 10, 6 PM. Cost: \$35 for adults includes dance classes and dinner; \$25 dinner only; \$15 for children includes both dance classes and dinner. Tickets available in the hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 8, 2017

- RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION, Tone Four:

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

- 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 FORERUNNER, 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 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. 7: 4:30 PM, Panikhida for Barbara McMillian and Natalie Hansen
5 PM Great Vespers
- Sunday, Jan. 8: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tuesday, Jan. 10: 7 PM, Master Planning Meeting
- Wednesday, Jan. 11: 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Jan. 12: 6 PM, Hospitality Ministry Meeting

• HOUSE BLESSINGS:

Please sign up to schedule a house blessing. The priests are happy and honored to come to your home to renew it with the Holy Water of Theophany.

• THANKSGIVING:

The Agape meal today is being prepared today by James and Svetlana Clark in thanksgiving to God for the blessings given to their family.

• PIROSHKI ORDERS:

Piroshki prep has been postponed until Jan. 17–21. Orders for piroshki must be placed by Sunday, January 15.

• ANNUAL MEETING:

The parish will hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2017, in accordance with the Parish By-laws. The meeting will begin after the Divine Liturgy at 12:30 PM or so—no Agape Meal will be served, so bring a lunch.

• WALK FOR LIFE IN SF:

The **2017 Walk for Life** will take place on January 21 in San Francisco (12:30 PM). See the bulletin for more information.

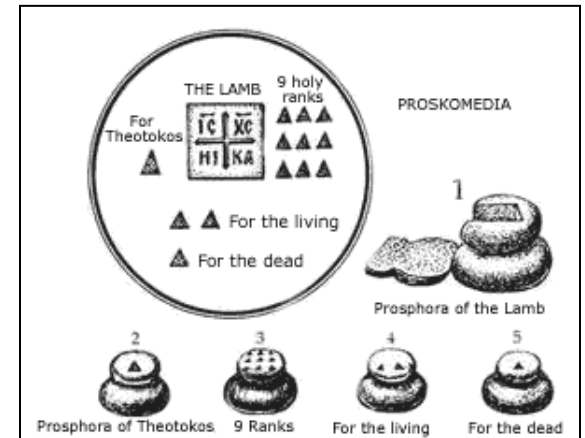
• TWELVE STEP RECOVERY RETREAT:

The Monastery of St. John in Manton, will host a Twelve-Step retreat on March 31–April 2, led by Monk Cosmas. Check with www.monasteryofstjohn.org for more information.

• PROSPHORA:

Your Commemoration Books await renewal for the new year at the Candle Desk. These books are given to the priests prior to the Divine Liturgy so they can pray for those whose names you have listed. The *Prayer of Proskomedie* is extremely powerful and beneficial, as affirmed by Church tradition.

Proskomedie is the “service of preparation” of the bread and wine before the Liturgy. The bread that will become the Holy Eucharist is brought to the Altar on a tray, the *Diskos*.



In the center is the bread—the Lamb—which will be changed by the Holy Spirit to the Body of Christ from which we commune. To the right is the particle in honor of the Virgin taken from another loaf; and to the left, particles for the nine ranks of saints from another loaf (Prophets, Apostles, Bishops, Martyrs, Monastics, Unmercenary Healers, St. Seraphim and others and St. John Chrysostom). Below the Lamb are particles of bread for the living and the departed, from two other loaves—included here are the Metropolitan, the Diocesan Bishop, and particles for all those names submitted by you. The visual aid above—that of the *Diskos* and the particles, is an image of the Church, the Body of Christ: here is Christ and His Holy Mother on His right hand, the Saints, and the faithful, you and me and our spiritual family in Christ. After Holy Communion, all the particles are placed in the Chalice, immersed in the Precious Blood of Christ. Because this is about Holy Communion and the Body of the Church, your lists of names should be divided between those who are Orthodox (in this life now, or departed this life) and those who are not. This is not to ignore the non-Orthodox, but to make clear that this is about Communion and the Church, which is the visible Body of Christ. The priests absolutely do pray for everyone