

Divine Liturgy at 12:30 PM or so—no Agape Meal will be served, so bring a lunch. Parish reports (budget, Church School Sisterhood, Glendi, etc.) will be distributed a week prior to the meeting.

- PROSPHORA:

Your Commemoration books await renewal for 2014. Please make your updates at the Candle Desk.

NEXT LIVE BROADCAST SUNDAY, JANUARY 12


ANCIENT FAITH  
**TODAY**  
WITH KEVIN ALLEN

CALL IN LIVE AT 8 PM EASTERN/5 PM PACIFIC

Popular culture tends to equate Christianity with a negative view of sex, or at least with a profound ambivalence about it. In this two-hour special, Kevin's guest is the V. Rev. Fr. Josiah Trenham (PhD), author of the recently published *Virginity and Marriage According to St John Chrysostom* (St Herman Press). They will discuss views of the church fathers and the contemporary Orthodox Church on sex, marriage, and celibacy (monasticism) in the context of a sex-obsessed contemporary Western culture.

**SEX, VIRGINITY,  
& MARRIAGE**  
IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

The call-in number is:  
**1-855-AFRADIO (1-855-237-2346)**

 **ANCIENT FAITH RADIO**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 12, 2014

- 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 bare 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 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. 11: 3:30 PM, Catechism—*On Reading the Bible*  
5 PM Great Vespers / Wedding Rehearsal
- Sunday, Jan. 12: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape Meal  
2 PM, Wedding of Eleni and Carl
- Wednesday, Jan. 15: 6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Jan. 16: Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship (potluck)

- HOUSE BLESSINGS:

Please email or call Fr. Lawrence or Fr. John to schedule a house blessing.

- READING THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR:

A new calendar of readings is being prepared for a starting date of **February 1**. I invite all of you to join with me in reading, or re-reading,

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the entire Bible in one year. The Catechism on Saturday, Jan. 11 will discuss this topic. — *Fr. Lawrence*

- CATECHISM:

The new “semester” of classes will start up on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 3:30 PM, and will meet in the Protection Church. Topics: Understanding Confession, the Eucharist, Great Lent, the Creed (three talks), the Holy Mysteries, Holy Week, Baptism. All are welcome.

- WALK FOR LIFE in SF:

The 10th annual **2014 Walk for Life West Coast** will be held on January 25 in San Francisco. It is the second largest gathering of its kind after the March for Life in Washington, DC, attracting more than 50,000 participants in 2013. Look for the *Orthodox Christians for Life* banner on the southeast corner of the Civic Center plaza, near the children’s play structure, and join in the witness to the sanctity of unborn life. The gathering begins at Civic Center Plaza in front of City Hall. The rally will be at the main stage from 12:30 to 1:30 PM. After the rally, the walk proceeds approximately 1.5 miles, from Civic Center Plaza down Market Street, to end at Justin Herman Plaza at the Embarcadero. For more information and a schedule of related pro-life events in the San Francisco Bay Area, visit **[www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com)**

- BAPTISM & CULTURAL WARFARE:

Everyone is sick of the “culture wars,” right? And if they are over, shouldn’t honesty require that Christians, of all people, just admit defeat and get on with being the church the best we can? I think it’s a bit more complicated than that, and ultimately I don’t think any “strategic withdrawal” or attack, for that matter, is really “the answer.” I say this in part because I consider “culture war” itself a slogan, a media-driven sound-bite that reduces the complexities of human life, sin, and faith to a phrase a reporter can ‘Google.’ The answer is the same as it has always been, and that is Christians should be engaged in spiritual warfare against the world, the flesh, and the devil 24/7. Our calling as Christians is much more rigorous than any culture war I’ve seen in my lifetime. Baptism means you wear the uniform of Christ. If defending life and marriage are tiring, what of our daily struggle against sin? Any decision to defend life and marriage should not be that hard to make, since these are primordial goods: God created life and God created marriage. (He didn’t create government bureaucracies.) The Christian’s duty to daily repentance and

to carry the cross is likely more rigorous than any engagement in a contemporary culture war—unless the culture is violently anti-Christian, in which case carrying the cross may mean martyrdom, as it did for Ignatius of Antioch (pictured in the icon). The defense of life and marriage in our society is not so heavy a duty to bear (for many, it may involve minimally a mere voting choice). Becoming holy is the harder thing, but Christ’s grace is sufficient, if only we would continually seek him and be faithful in small things. If we desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus, we will be persecuted. That’s what Paul wrote to Timothy (II Tim. 3:12) So, no matter what, do not be discouraged. We are in Good Company, for all who are persecuted for righteousness sake—theirs is the kingdom of heaven. He has already overcome the world.

— *James M. Kushiner, Touchstone magazine*

- PIROSHKI ORDERS:

Just a reminder that we will be making Piroshki again this month on Saturday, January 18th. Lots of help will be needed to make the work go smoothly and quickly. Prep will occur during the week preceding January 18th: if you are available to help at that time, please contact me at [bgriovski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bgriovski@sbcglobal.net). You don’t need kitchen or cooking experience. We are happy to teach you, and there are many tasks. And even if you need to be seated there are plenty of things you can do to help. **Orders are due on Sunday, January 12th, and order forms are available in the Hall and at the Candle Stand.** Thanks in advance for your orders and for your help with this important activity.

— *Bobbi (Eugenia) Griovski*

- NEEDS AROUND THE PARISH:

An additional Usher is needed for Sunday Liturgy, to serve once a month; Church cleaners for St. Seraphim (to keep the brass polished, once per month); Church cleaners for Protection; Sunday Agape Meal cooks and helpers. Call Fr. Lawrence if you would like to volunteer.

- NEW CATECHUMENS:

Keep in your prayers Shiloh and Jonathan, as they prepare to become catechumens, on Sunday, February 2, 2014.

- ANNUAL MEETING:

The parish will hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2014, in accordance with the Parish By-laws. The meeting will begin after the