

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, January 25, 2015 / St. Gregory the Theologian

- 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 ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN, TONE ONE:

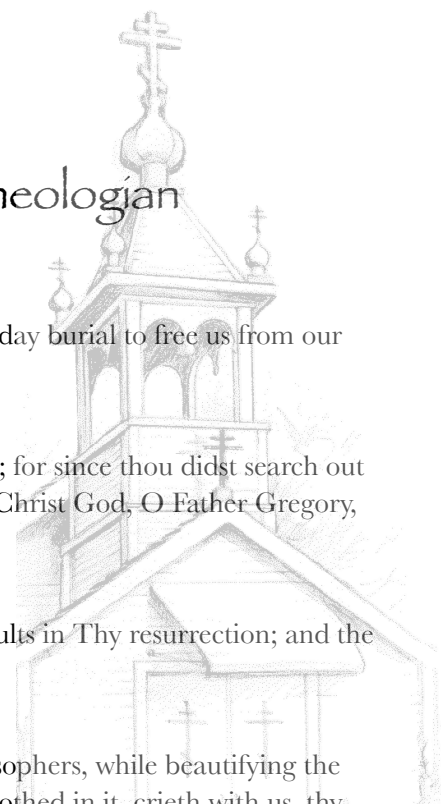
The shepherd's pipe of thy theology conquered the trumpets of the philosophers; for since thou didst search out the depths of the Spirit, beauty of speech was added to thee. But intercede with Christ God, O Father Gregory, that our souls be saved.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, TONE EIGHT:

By raising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam; Eve exults in Thy resurrection; and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One.

KONTAKION OF ST. GREGORY, to the melody: *On this day the Virgin:*

With thy theologian's speech thou didst destroy the entangled webs of vain philosophers, while beautifying the whole Church with the robe of Orthodoxy woven in Heaven; and the Church, clothed in it, crieth with us, thy children: O wise Gregory most glorious, rejoice, O Father, great theological mind.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Jan. 24: 5 PM, Great Vespers (His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek will be present)
- Sunday, Jan. 25: 9:30 AM, Greeting of Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Benjamin, Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh, Bishop David of Alaska, Bishop Paul of Chicago
Greeting of Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, Vesting and Divine Liturgy
Festal Luncheon in honor of Bishop Daniel
- Tuesday, Jan. 27: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. John Chrysostom
- Wednesday, Jan. 28: 11 AM, Catechism Revisited
6 PM, Vespers
- Saturday, Jan. 31: 3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Holy Unction*
5 PM, Vigil: beginning of the Triodion and Feast of the *Meeting of the Lord*
- Sunday, Feb. 1: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy — *Publican & Pharisee / Meeting of the Lord*
12:30 PM, Annual Meeting

- WELCOME:

What a great and distinctive honor we rejoice in this Sunday as we welcome His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh, His Grace, Bishop David of Alaska, His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago, and His Grace, the newly consecrated Daniel, Bishop of our fair and God-protected city of Santa Rosa. As the Rector of our Parish, I am humbled and hardly know how to express our joy! To be blessed to welcome even one holy bishop for Divine Liturgy is a heavenly gift for which our

gratitude overflows when our beloved Vladyka Benjamin is present with us. How much more are we blessed with God's grace when so many hierarchs are present—for the bishops of the Church of Christ bring with them the fullness of the Apostolic faith! To them all we extend our love and ask for their blessings. The honor of their presence is beyond telling. Still, there is more, as we welcome with cries of "Many Years" our newly consecrated Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa. We of this Parish are in awe. The abundance of liturgical ceremony, the joyful and bright singing of the choir, the many blessings of bishops, the hearty с праздником's, the festal banquet, and all the other pomp and ceremony overwhelm us, and rightfully so. May the grace of this day unfold for each one of us for many years. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• ZACCHAEUS SUNDAY - PRELUDE TO LENTEN PREPARATION:

To remind us of what we need to do to get ready for Great Lent, the Church offers us—five weeks prior to the beginning of Lent—the Gospel account of the meeting of Jesus, as He passes through Jericho toward His passion and death in Jerusalem, with a public tax collector named Zacchaeus. St. Luke says he was "little of stature," i.e., short—physically and morally, being a corrupt tax collector in the employ of the occupying Roman forces. Ironically, this short man, who wants to see Jesus—let's recall the blind man from last Sunday who also wanted the same—climbs a tree to see Jesus. It's ironic because of what Jesus said earlier in the Gospel: "for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Zacchaeus is wealthy, self-exalted, so one imagines that he is also well dressed, up there in the tree (in the first-century equivalent of a three piece suit and wingtip shoes). He cares little of what others think, since he has so little self-awareness (just as we have so little knowledge of our own alienation from God and our own sins, while seeing those of others quite clearly). Zacchaeus hears the Master's voice: "Make haste, today I must abide at thy house." And he comes down, and Jesus abides with him, and Zacchaeus makes the first powerful steps towards repentance—changing his actions towards others and towards God. So we ought to desire to see Jesus, humble ourselves before one another and Him, return good for ill, and hasten to Him, so He may abide within us.

• BEGINNING OF THE LENTEN TRIODION—NEXT WEEK:

The Orthodox Church uses many different books and collections of hymns in the Divine Services. On the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, next week, Feb. 1, we begin to use the Lenten hymn book, called the **Lenten Triodion** (referring to the many three-ode hymns found in it). This book contains the magnificent collection of hymns, composed by many saintly hymnographers from the 3rd–18th centuries, among those whom we can identify we count St. Romanos the Melodist (6th century), St. Kosmas the Melodist, Bishop of Maiouma, St. John of Damascus and St. Andrew of Crete (all three from the 8th century), and the 9th century Leo the Emperor and nun St. Kassiani. The earliest hymn in the book, *Beneath thy compassion, we take refuge, O Theotokos...* can be traced to a Coptic manuscript dating about 250 AD. Much of the material contained in the *Triodion* was compiled and arranged by the monks of the Monastery of Studios in Constantinople during the course of the 8th–9th centuries.

There is a wonderful tradition from the Greek island of Zakynthos regarding the "opening" of the *Triodion* at the Vespers of the Publican and Pharisee. The *Triodion* book is placed on a table under the icon of Christ, to the right of the Royal Gate on the iconostasis. Following the Resurrection hymns of *Lord, I Have Cried*, and before the hymns from the *Triodion* are to be chanted, a member of the clergy takes the *Triodion* from its place and gives it to the bishop, who is standing at his episcopal throne. From there it is handed over to the lead chanter, who after venerating the book opens it and begins chanting the appropriate hymns, thus inaugurating the season of repentance.

• ON PRIDE & HUMILITY

...after grievous [spiritual] wounds I have come to know that the signs of pride are disparaging or disdaining one's neighbors and carelessness over confession. But in and of itself, pride is not noticeable to a man, being the subtlest passion, which deceived a light-bearing angel and caused the Fall in Heaven. Upon this passion the others are supported, like a building upon a foundation that is hidden beneath the earth. —*by St. Ignatius Brianchaninov*

When you see someone crying over the many insults he has received, you should know that, because he was overcome by vainglory [pride], he is now unknowingly reaping the crop of evils in his heart. He who loves

pleasure is grieved by accusations and abuse. On the other hand, he who loves God is grieved by praises and other superfluous remarks. The degree of our humility is measured by slander. Don't think that you have humility when you cannot forbear even the slightest accusation. —*Abba Mark*

Remember the one who has ridiculed you, who has grieved you, who has wronged you, who has done evil to you, as your physician, your healer. Christ sent him to heal you; don't remember him with anger. (*Abba Zossima*)

Do not condemn, even if you see with your eyes, for they are often deceived. —*St. John Climacus*

Do not listen gleefully to gossip at your neighbors expense or chatter to a person who likes finding fault. —*St. Maximos the Confessor (First Century on Love no. 58)*

Even if a person's sin is not only obvious, but very grievous and comes from a hardened and unrepentant heart, do not condemn him, but raise your eyes to the wondrous and incomprehensible judgments of God; then you will see that many people, formerly full of iniquity, later repented and reached a high degree of sanctity, and that, on the other hand, others, who were on a high level of perfection, fell into a deep abyss. Take care, lest you also suffer this calamity through judging others. —*Bishop Theophan the Recluse, Unseen Warfare*

He who busies himself with the sins of others, or judges his brother on suspicion, has not yet even begun to repent or to examine himself so as to discover his own sins...—*St. Maximos the Confessor (Third Century on Love)*

- CHURCH FOOTBALL ~ THE OTHER SUNDAY SPORT:
- Quarterback sneak: Church members quietly leaving during the homily.
- Draw play: What many children do with the bulletin during worship.
- Halftime: The period between the end of the Homily and the Creed, when many choose to leave.
- Benchwarmer: Those who do not sing, pray, work, or apparently do anything but sit.
- Backfield in motion: Making a trip to the parish Hall during the service.
- Staying in the pocket: What happens to a lot of money that should be given to the Lord's work.
- Two minute warning: The point at which you realize its almost Communion, and the rush to form a large "clump" at the front begins.
- Illegal formation: What happens

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY VESPERS

Sunday, March 1, 2015

with the blessing of

Metropolitan Gerasimos, *Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco*
Metropolitan Joseph, *Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*
Archbishop Kyrill, *ROCOR San Francisco and Western America Diocese*
Bishop Maxim, *Serbian Orthodox Western American Diocese*
Archbishop Benjamin, *OCA Diocese of San Francisco and the West*



5 PM:

Theological and practical considerations regarding the Fresco Program of the Church, by Iconographer, Monk Patrick (Doolan)

6 PM:

Lenten Vespers with Reception to follow

Protection of the Holy Virgin / St. Seraphim Orthodox Church
90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95407

after the Two Minute Warning. A “line” is the proper formation.

- Instant replay: The preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week’s Gospel reading.
- Sudden death: What happens to the attention span of the congregation if the priest goes “overtime.”
- Trap: You’re called on to pray and are asleep.
- Flex defense: The ability to allow absolutely nothing said, read or sung during the Liturgy to affect your life.
- Blitz: The rush for lunch following the Dismissal.

Humanizing Mary: Discovering the Reality of her Life



Please Join Us for an Orthodox Women's Retreat!

Saturday, February 7, 2015

9:00am - 5:00pm

Vespers to follow

Suggested Donation \$40 per Person

St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church
90 Mountain View Ave. Santa Rosa, CA 95407

The Theotokos was a real human person, just like each one of us. She lived a complex life with many demands and responsibilities and faced challenges as she worked out her own salvation. Dr. Constantinou will discuss important scriptural passages and unique Orthodox theology about the Theotokos, culminating in a thought-provoking presentation of Mary as a woman of her time whose life can serve as a model and inspiration for all of us regardless of our age, gender or particular situation.

Guest Speaker - Presvytera Jeannie Constantinou, Ph.D.

Register By January 25, 2015

To register online visit our website
www.saintseraphim.com
or mail your Registration form and payment to:
Sisterhood, St. Seraphim Orthodox Church
90 Mountain View Ave. Santa Rosa, CA 95407

*For more information,
call Juliana Veenis, (707) 694-3733
Sponsored registration may be available. Please inquire.



Presvytera Jeannie Constantinou, Ph.D. is a rising academic and biblical scholar. Dr. Constantinou earned a Juris Doctorate from Pepperdine University, and two Masters of Theology from Holy Cross University and Harvard. Dr. Constantinou lectures on the Bible and early Christianity, has lead numerous retreats at Orthodox parishes and is known for her series *Search the Scriptures on Ancient Faith Radio*. Dr. Constantinou is also featured on the Orthodox Christian Network in a series of podcasts on the *Book of Revelation*, called *Beyond the Veil*. She is married to Fr. Costa, who is a Greek Orthodox priest, and is simply “Mom” to son Christopher.

Suggested donation \$40 per person. Includes coffee and light breakfast at registration, lunch, snacks and drinks. Daycare provided on request.

Registration forms are in the Narthex and online at the St Seraphim website. Contact Juliana Veenis, Deanna Panages or Meghan Inlow to register and apply for childcare needs, a scholarship, or rideshare.