

- SISTERHOOD MEETING:

Please join us after the Agape lunch at 12:45 PM in the Parish Hall for our Sisterhood Meeting, Sunday, April 6. Any questions, please contact me by phone at 415.279.0353 or by email at email [kirastaykow@gmail.com](mailto:kirastaykow@gmail.com)—*Kira Staykow*

- LAZARUS SATURDAY:

The feast of the raising of Lazarus from the dead, which is the end of Lent and the transition to Holy Week, is April 19 and 20. The unique, rather brief and joyful resurrection Matins—6:30 PM on Friday, April 19—will begin the celebration. The following morning, Saturday, April 20, at 9 AM, we will God-willing, have the baptisms of the catechumens Harriette, James, and Aaron and Alejandra with their beautiful children Aaron, Xavier, Paloma, Belen and Celeste. The Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Raising of Lazarus (see John 11) will begin at 10 AM, and will be sung by the Children's Choir. Following the Liturgy, an Agape Meal—in honor of the newly-illuminated—will be prepared by those celebrating their own baptism on Lazarus Saturdays past.

- WORK PARTY AND PREP FOR HOLY WEEK:

Please join me in cleaning the church and polishing the brass and silver as we prepare for Holy Week and Pascha. We will begin to work on Friday, April 19 from 4–6 PM, and continue on Saturday, April 20 from 2–4:30 PM, with the clean up and decorating the church for Palm Sunday. Those who are interested in decorating with palms and flowers, please see Denise Pellizzer. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- THANKS:

We thank those who contributed towards the new wireless mic system in the Parish Hall, just in time for our two retreats; thanks to those who gave for the new Sebo X4 vacuum cleaner for St. Seraphim; thanks to those who gave for the purchase of a Byzantine style chanter lamp for the Protection Church choir. Thank you to the women who prepared our refreshments and lunch at the Retreat with Fr. John Bethancourt.

- PARISH MEN'S GROUP FIELD TRIP:

Guys: sign up with Fr. Nicholas for the Men's Retreat at St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Concord. Fr. Edward Henderson will be speaking on the witness of St. Maximos the Confessor, on Saturday, April 13. On June 9, the Men's Group will attend Liturgy at old Holy Virgin in SF (ROCOR) and then a baseball game. See Tom Pellizzer for a ticket.

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



**March 24, 2019**

**Second Sunday of Great Lent: Prefeast of Annunciation**



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

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 THE PREFEAST OF ANNUNCIATION, TONE FOUR:

Today the proclamation of the universal joy, moves us to sing the pre-festal hymn of the Annunciation; for behold Gabriel cometh and shall cry to her: Rejoice, thou who art full of grace; the Lord is with thee.

### ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, March 23: 9:30 AM, Lenten Retreat  
3:30 PM, Catechism, *On the Priesthood*  
5 PM, Great Vespers

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- Sunday, March 24: 8:30 AM, Matins of the Resurrection  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape luncheon  
**1:15 PM, Great Vespers for Annunciation**
- Mon, March 25: 5 PM, Vespersal Liturgy for Annunciation
- Tues., March 26: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
- Wed., March 27: 8 AM, Lenten Matins  
5 PM, Confessions  
6:15 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, Meal and Spiritual Reading
- Thurs., March 28: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
- Friday, March 29: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions  
6 PM, Akathist to the Theotokos

• ANNUNCIATION:

One of the great joys of the Lenten season is the feast of Annunciation, which occurs on March 25. The feast commemorates the coming of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, the incredible conversation (if one can say that about those words which changed the course of human history) and the All-Holy Maiden's conception of the Word of God by the Holy Spirit. "Let it be according to Thy word." The fresco of the Annunciation is painted on the eastern-most columns of the Church, left and right—showing us how heaven and earth come together in the Virgin; the Royal Gates to the Altar have an icon on them—showing us that the Incarnation of the Son of God is our entry into the Kingdom. Our celebration of the Feast of Annunciation will begin with hymns of the prefeast on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. (The second Sunday of Great Lent is usually reserved for the memory of St. Gregory Palamas, but since Annunciation will be on Monday, that commemoration was moved to last Wednesday). On Sunday afternoon at 1:15 PM we will sing the Vespers of the Feast, with the appropriate Old Testament readings. On Monday, which we keep as a strict fasting day, we will celebrate the Vespersal Divine Liturgy (Vespers is later in the day than a "regular Liturgy" which means we can maintain our weekday

Lenten fast). On the Feast we are blessed to have fish, wine and oil.

The palace of light is ready for thee, O Master, the womb of the pure child of God. Do Thou come down to her; come to visit Thy fallen creation, for many ages have passed since its beauty was destroyed, and which has been held in bitter bondage to the jealous enemy; therefore make haste to descend, O Lord, come now to deliver us from the tyranny of death. —*Prefeestal Hymn*

• NEXT WEEKEND:

Next Sunday will be the third Sunday of Lent, which is dedicated to the Veneration of the Precious Cross. On Saturday, March 30, we will celebrate Matins at 5 PM, with the bringing out of the Precious Cross near the end of the Service. Normally we would have a Vigil on this commemoration, but I made a mistake and scheduled a concert for 8 PM that evening, not leaving sufficient time for us to have the Vigil (the Green Mountain Singers will sing a concert of Renaissance Sacred music on Saturday evening and on Sunday at 3 PM). —*Fr Lawrence*

• MANY THANKS:

His Grace, Bishop Daniel, sent a letter of thanks to the Parish for the wonderful hospitality that was shown to him, to Archbishop Benjamin and to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon. Our celebration was truly glorious and full. We are all grateful to those who worked so hard to make that hospitality real: servers, those who decorated, church cleaners, kitchen crew. Thank you all for your love for the church and for the bishops, our Fathers in Christ. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• UPCOMING VISIT OF BISHOP DANIEL:

His Grace, Vladyka Daniel, will be with us for the weekend of April 6–7. He will present a talk on Holy Week on Saturday, April 6. Registration and refreshments at 9:30 AM, and the talks will begin at 10 AM. **Child Care will be available.** At 5 PM we will have Vespers, as always, and on Sunday morning, Matins at 8:30 AM, and the Divine Liturgy at 10 AM. Normally we greet and vest the bishop before the Liturgy—instead, His Grace will serve "as a priest" and we will begin the Liturgy as usual.