

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 10, 2016 ~ St. John Climacus

- PARISH TO-DO LIST and NEEDS:
 - Pick up “Glendi fencing” by east ditch (again)
 - the Ride Ministry needs volunteers (see Deanna Panages)
 - someone to clean offices and library weekly
 - move the pile of parking stops and bricks (see Fr Lawrence)
 - repair playground equipment (scrub stains off plastic slide, tighten bolts, fill in gravel, etc.)
 - weekly tasks: clean up playground and porch of all garbage, plates and cups after Sunday lunch
 - basketball needed for the court
- SIGN UP LISTS FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA:

For those looking to help out during Holy Week and Pascha at Church, please look for the signup sheets, to be posted in the Narthex on the Fifth Sunday of Lent: duties include cleaning the church after services, candle desk help, coloring Pascha eggs, reading Psalms and the Book of Acts, etc.

• FROM THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT:
The sun shines on all alike, and vainglory beams on all activities. For instance, I am vainglorious when I fast; and when I relax the fast in order to be unnoticed, I am again vainglorious over my prudence. When well-dressed I am quite overcome by vainglory, and when I put on poor clothes I am vainglorious again. When I talk I am defeated, and when I am silent I am again defeated by it. However I throw this prickly-pear, a spike stands upright.

Fire and water are incompatible; and so is judging others in one who wants to repent. If you see someone falling into sin at the very moment of his death, even then do not judge him, because the Divine judgment is hidden from men. Some have fallen openly into great sins, but they have done greater good deeds in secret; so their critics were tricked, getting smoke instead of the sun.

It is not the self-critical who reveals his humility (for does not everyone have somehow to put up with himself?). Rather, it is the man who continues to love the person who has criticized him.

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, 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 ST. JOHN, Tone One:
O John, our father, saint of God, thou wast revealed as a citizen of the desert, an angel in a body and worker of miracles. Through fasting, prayer and vigils thou hast received heavenly gifts of grace, and thou healest the sick and the souls of those that turn to thee with faith. Glory to Him who gave thee strength; glory to Him that crowned thee; glory to Him who through thee grants to all men healing.
- KONTAKION OF ST. JOHN, Tone Four:
Truly the Lord has set thee as a fixed star in the firmament of abstinence, giving light to the ends of the earth, O Father John, our teacher.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, April 9:
 - 9 AM, Women’s Retreat with Mother Melania
 - 4 PM, Children’s Choir
 - 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
 - 6 PM, Young Adult Group (Library)
- Sunday, April 10:
 - 8:45 AM, Matins & Confessions
 - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy / 11:45 Church School
 - Noon, Agape luncheon in Hall
- Monday, April 11:
 - 5 PM, Holy Unction at Sts. Peter and Paul *
- Tuesday, April 12:
 - [NO 8 AM MATINS]
- Wed., April 13:
 - 8 AM, Matins
 - 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
 - 6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy / Meal

- Thursday, April 14: 9 AM, Matins, Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, with the *Life of St. Mary of Egypt*
- Friday, April 15: [NO 8 AM MATINS]
6 PM, Matins of the *Akathist to the Theotokos*
- Saturday, April 16: 10:30 AM, Extended Choir Rehearsal
3:30 PM, Catechism *Death and the Funeral*
5 PM, Great Vespers

- SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: George Barsi and Vladimir Baer

- THIS WEEK:

As Great Lent progresses, it ebbs and flows with opportunities for worship and asceticism. The careful observer will notice that the fifth week of the Great Fast presents more opportunities for liturgical worship, and more variety, than other weeks. On Thursday morning we will sing the *Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete*, with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt. On Friday at 6 PM we will sing the magnificent *Akathist to the Theotokos* with Matins for the Fifth Week. Please note that Matins on Tuesday and Friday mornings is cancelled.

- REMINDER:

His Eminence Vladyka Benjamin will come to serve Presanctified here on Wednesday, April 20 at 6:15 PM. He will return to us on May 2, to serve the Bright Monday Paschal Liturgy.

- CONFESSION:

During Great Lent, we intensify our spiritual work, fasting, works of mercy. We make an effort to keep a watch on our mind, heart and words as we prepare for Pascha. I remind each of you to come to Confession during these final weeks of Great Lent, in order to cleanse the image of God within. For those **over the age of seven** who wish to receive Holy Communion during Holy Week and Pascha, it is required to make a confession at least once in the three weeks before Holy Week. No Confessions will be heard after Holy Wednesday. Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of repentance (2 Cor. 6:2). —Fr. Lawrence

- * MYSTERY OF HOLY UNCTION:

The Mystery of Holy Unction Service will be presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Kyrill at Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church (Stony Point Rd) on Monday April 11, 2016 beginning at 5 PM. Fr. Alexander Krassovsky, the host pastor, advises us that those who wish to be anointed must properly prepare themselves through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession. Those who will be coming to Confession and receiving Holy Communion this Sunday, April 10th, may participate in the sacrament without a repeat confession—if their consciences so allow.

- LAZARUS SATURDAY/PALM SUNDAY EVENTS:

On the last day of Great Lent, Friday, April 22, we will be cleaning up at the Church (inside and outside) to prepare for Holy Week: sweeping, polishing brass, dusting, etc..

That evening Matins of Lazarus Saturday will be served (a unique resurrectional service, runs about one hour) at 6:15 PM.

The next morning—April 23—will be the Feast of Lazarus Saturday, with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM, to be sung by our new Children's Choir.

That afternoon we will continue to clean in and around St. Seraphim and also decorate for Palm Sunday. Work will begin at 2 PM. See Patricia Krueger or Katherine Crawford if you'd like to help decorate.

In the evening the Vigil for Palm Sunday, with the blessing of palms, will begin at 5 PM. There will be an opportunity for confession during Matins, after the Holy Gospel is chanted.

The next morning, Sunday, April 24, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy, and have a procession around the Church at the conclusion.

- SOLOMON'S SONG OF SONGS:

The Sonoma Bach Consort will forces with the Green Mountain Singers to perform exquisite late Medieval, Renaissance, and early Baroque settings from King Solomon's *Song of Songs*. Two concerts will take place, here at the Church (see the flyer):

Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 8 PM, BachGrounder lecture: 7:25 PM

Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 3 PM, BachGrounder lecture: 2:25 PM