

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 8, 2016 ~ St. Thomas Sunday

- CARMINA CHROMATICA:

Nicolas Custer's renaissance choral ensemble will present a free concert for the Parish on Sunday, May 15 at 1:30 PM, in St. Seraphim. The group will sing eight motets on lenten themes, six from the Renaissance, one by C. Saint-Saëns, and one piece, which is a premier performance by a member of the group.

- PASCHAL ARTOS

At the end of the Paschal Liturgy a beautifully decorated "loaf" of bread, the Artos, is blessed. The Artos symbolizes the physical presence of the resurrected Christ among the disciples. We bless the Artos with a special prayer and sprinkle it with Holy Water. It remains on a table before the Iconostasis throughout Bright Week. It is customary, to kiss the Artos, as a way of greeting the Risen Christ. In monasteries, the Artos is carried to the Trapeza every day of Bright Week, where at the end of the festive meal, it is lifted in a ceremony called the Lifting of the Artos. The one performing the ceremony will lift up the Artos (symbolizing Christ's Resurrection) and say, "Christ is Risen!" All will respond, "He is truly Risen!" The celebrant will then make the sign of the Cross with the Artos as he says, "We worship His Resurrection on the third day!" Then two Paschal hymns are sung and everyone comes forward to kiss the Artos and receive the Superior's blessing, as all sing the Paschal troparion many times. On Bright Saturday (here we do it on Sunday), before the Agape Meal, the Artos is brought to the Parish Hall, a prayer is offered, and it is then broken and distributed among the whole congregation.

- PARISH NEEDS:

- The Ride Ministry *still* needs volunteers (see Deanna Panages)
- After the Sunday Lunch: clean up playground and porch of all garbage. A resident raccoon or neighbor's dog regularly knocks over the cans searching for food, so garbage cans must be dumped on Sunday, plates, cups and silverware must be collected.
- Gardening help is always needed—see Matushka Ann
- Maintain playground equipment (scrub stains off plastic slide, tighten bolts, fill in gravel, etc.)

- TROPARION OF THOMAS SUNDAY, Tone Seven:

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

- KONTAKION OF THOMAS SUNDAY, Tone Eight:

With his searching right hand, Thomas did probe Thy life-bestowing side, O Christ God; for when Thou didst enter whilst the doors were shut, he cried out unto Thee with the rest of the Apostles: Thou art my Lord and my God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 7: 9 AM, Paschal Liturgy / Feast of St. George
5 PM, Great Vespers
6 PM, Young Adult Group get together
- Sunday, May 8: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy / No Church School
Noon, Agape luncheon
2 PM, Wedding
- Tues., May 10: *Radonitsa*: Memorial Prayers & Blessing of graves*
- Wed., May 11: 7 AM, Divine Liturgy for Sts. Cyril and Methodius
5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank Distribution
6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., May 12: 7 PM, Master Planning Meeting
- Saturday, May 14: 5 PM, Vespers and Matins

* RÁDONITSA — DAY OF REJOICING:

The Tuesday after Bright Week is dedicated to the blessing of graves and prayers for the repose of the departed, those who are waiting in the Lord for

the General Resurrection. Blessing of graves: 10 AM, Sebastopol; 10:45 AM, Forestville; Noon, Healdsburg Cemetery; 1:30 or 2 PM at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery. Please join us. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP:

Our young adults will meet together Sat., May 7, following Great Vespers.

- GIVING THANKS:

The Services of Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha are celebrated in our Parish with solemnity, beauty, exuberance and competence thanks to the many who offer their time and talent. On the morning of Pascha at the Agape celebration in the Hall, I did my best—with a long-winded toast—to thank God for the work of our Choir Master Nicolas and the singers. I thanked God for all the Parish Council Members and the parishioners, starting with my family, who so extravagantly care for my well-being and comfort. We also raised our hearts and our glasses in gratitude for the work of our Subdeacon Marc, and the pious and beautiful chanting and serving of Deacons Jeremiah and Nicholas. We have many faithful Altar Servers, and we thank God for their offering. Also thanked at the Paschal Agape, at 3:30 AM, were Father John and Matushka Xenia. Without their profound work our parish would be spiritually impoverished. I commented that there are many, many people to thank, and I haven't forgotten them and that they would be recognized in due time. So, on Monday at the post-Liturgy Agape with Vladyka Benjamin, we thanked Bobbi and Gabe Griovski and Barb Owens for the marvelous breakfast. We also thanked Bobbi for her expertise in running the parish office, and willingness to put up with the rector. Today, we must give thanks to God for those who decorated the Church for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha. There are a number of women, and a few men as well, that do the work of floral decoration because they “love the beauty” of God's House. I fear that I will accidentally omit a name or two, so, those who did the decoration, please know how much we appreciate your work. We must also recognize the work of our Sacristan the Reader Nilus, and those who assist him (Elisabeta, Leonard, Isaac and others) who care for the lighting and cleaning of the church at almost every single Divine Service. Thanks be to God for our wonderful Candle-Desk Staff (it's not an easy job). We are so blessed by their work! We thank Tom Pellizzer for taking care of the temp

lighting in the parking lot. The Council will be working on permanent lighting structures for the property. We are also grateful for those who spend hours at the BBQ on Pascha preparing our food. We thank the Parish Sisterhood members for ironing the white cloths, for dyeing the eggs, for contacting members to help, for the “few, we happy few, we band of sisters” (apologies to Shakespeare for the paraphrase) who spent time cleaning the kitchen on Pascha after the BBQ —*Fr. Lawrence*

- TRADITIONS OF THE PASCHAL SEASON:

The Resurrection of Christ is a powerful spiritual force in our lives, especially during the Forty Days until the Ascension (June 9), when the Church teaches us to pray in certain ways. For example, because Christ is raised, and we are raised with Him, we do not kneel or prostrate in Church until Pentecost. Watch the priests in the Altar at the time of the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, and you will see that they do not prostrate, but only bow. Also noteworthy during the Paschal days is that when we pray we replace “O Heavenly King” with “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down...” and “It is Truly Meet to Bless Thee” with “The Angelo Cried....”

- PIROSHKI PREP THIS WEEK:

9 AM–Noon, Wednesday: chopping eggs, herbs, etc. 9 AM–1 PM, Thursday, prep mushroom and meat filling. 3 PM, Wednesday, prep cabbage. 9 AM–Noon, Friday, prep cabbage filling. 2:15 PM, Friday, prep dough. 7 AM–4 PM, making, frying, packaging piroshki. See Bobbi Griovski to volunteer for a slot.

- SERBIAN CATHEDRAL IN NEW YORK:

We mourn for the loss of the historic Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in NYC, which burned down on Pascha. Investigators have tentatively determined that at the end of the Liturgy paschal candles were placed in a cardboard box which caused the cardboard to burn and ignited the rest of the building. Please note: in our church when we collect candles, we pinch the wick (not only to extinguish it but to alleviate some of the smoke, which is bad for the icons) and they are placed in a metal bucket, which will not ignite. Nevertheless, considering all the lamps and candles, much care is needed.