

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN MAY 10, 2015



- TROPARION OF MID-FEAST, Tone Eight:

At Mid-feast give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety; for Thou, O Savior didst cry out to all: whosoever is thirsty let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Well-spring of Life, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN, Tone Eight:

The Samaritan woman came to the well in faith; she saw Thee, the Water of Wisdom and drank abundantly; she inherited the Kingdom on high and is ever glorified.

- KONTAKION OF MID-FEAST, Tone Four:

O Sovereign Master and Creator of all things, O Christ our God, Thou didst cry unto those present at the Judaic Mid-Feast: come and draw the water of immortality freely; wherefore, we fall down before Thee and faithfully cry aloud: grant Thy compassions unto us, O Lord, for Thou art truly the Well-spring of life for all.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 9: 5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, May 10: 9:30 AM, Akathist, *Mother of God Nurturer of Children*
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, May 11: *Fr. Lawrence in SF at Mission Board Meeting*
- Wednesday, May 13: 11 AM, Catechism Revisited
5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, May 14: Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY:

Today we celebrate the wonderful holiday—an international holiday—giving thanks to God for our mothers, grandmothers and godmothers. Each one of us began life in the womb of our mother, and we recognize the great travail, unceasing work, prayers and love endured by our mothers and godmothers for the sake of their children. Perhaps some mothers failed in that heavy task, but of course, they may be forgiven and certainly honored for giving us life. For those who would be less than loving and respectful of mothers the book of Proverbs states: “The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.” (Prov. 30:17) A rather stern and graphic warning that does not apply to any of us. We honor our mothers because they helped to form and shape us in creative synergy with God. Of course we are created in the

image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26), however, God created us so that we might participate in His creativity. Let us spend this day considering how precious are those good mothers that truly nurture their children. Indeed, our own mothers are forever in our hearts and minds. They are the subject of our fondest thoughts. When we are young, we treasure our mothers. As we get older, we know the treasure to be even greater than we ever imagined.

- THIS SUNDAY:

Father John will be serving the Divine Liturgy at Sts. Peter and Paul on Stony Point Road on Sunday, standing in for Fr. Alexander. With him away, and the Akathist “Nurturer of Children” being sung at 9:30 AM, there will be no time for Confession on Sunday before Liturgy. Those who wish to make a Confession this weekend are advised to do so on Saturday evening at the conclusion of Vespers, since Fr. Lawrence will be arriving late from a parish feast day in Saratoga.

- SENIOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP:

Thursday, May 14 at Noon. All seniors and retired parishioners are invited. This week’s menu: deli sandwich and salad bar.

- MEMORY ETERNAL:

Word was received that our former parishioner, 102-year old Sophia Silverman, reposed very peacefully on Thursday. Sophie moved back to the east coast about twelve years ago to live with her daughter. A few years back she was tonsured a nun, as widows often were in the old days.

- PASCHAL MATINS / LEAVE-TAKING & ASCENSION:

On May 19, at 6 PM, we will celebrate the final Paschal Matins Service of the year. For the last time this year we will sing “Christ is Risen” and all of the hymns of the glorious day of the Resurrection of the Savior. If you were unable to attend the Paschal Matins and Liturgy, or just want more, do come and rejoice in this bright Service. The Vigil for **Ascension Day** will be served the following evening, May 20 at 6:15 PM. and the Divine Liturgy will be on May 21 at 9 AM.

- PRAYING in Spirit and in Truth:

Who prays to God in spirit? He who, pronouncing the words of prayer, pronounces them not with his mouth alone, but with all his soul and heart; He who, making the sign of the Lord’s Cross over himself, looks in spirit at the Crucified One on the Cross; He who, bowing his head, bows down before God in his heart and soul; He who, casting himself onto the earth, casts his entire self into God’s hands in deepest humility and contrition of heart, with complete dedication to God’s will.

Who prays to God in truth? He whose soul and heart are animated by faith and love, animated by the thoughts, feelings, hopes, and desires that the prayers of the saints breathe; He who, worshipping God in church, does not bow down before the graven images of his passions outside church; He who, serving God by his participation in the Church’s Divine services, also serves Him through his own life and deeds; He who, asking God for his daily bread, himself shares it with other poor people and, moreover, does not take it from others; He who, asking the Lord for the forgiveness of his sins, himself forgives with all his heart all who sin against him. He who, praying to be saved from temptations and evil slander, does not himself place slander and temptation before his brother; He who, pronouncing in prayer the sacred words ‘may Thy will be done,’ is genuinely ready to fulfill and endure everything that this sacred will commands.

To undergo everything according to the will of God and for the glory of His All-Holy name, up to the cross and death, it is such who seek God as Father, worshipping Him. O Lord! Give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety! Truly Christ is Risen! Amen! —*Archbishop Dimitri of Kherson*

- PRIEST INTERN:

Plans are being made now to receive our intern family, Father Theodor, Matushka Hanne, Simon and the new baby (Matushka is due any day now). As God blesses, we are planning to host Fr. Theodor and family for a year.

During that time, he will work with me to learn all aspects of being a parish priest. Of course, when Fr. Theodor returns to his home in Norway, he will be serving in mission parishes, not in an established and large parish such as ours. To accustom him to mission work, Fr. Theodor will help out, now and then, at the St. Nicholas of Japan mission in Redding and elsewhere. As for the family's living situation, one of our parishioners has generously offered his condo (he will be moving to a smaller place) and greatly reduced the monthly rent. Fr. Theodor and family are expected to arrive here by the second week of July. What can we do to help? Please designate some of your weekly stewardship as "intern support." While we have some very limited diocesan and outside-the-parish financial support, we will be providing him a monthly paycheck. The training and hosting of a priest intern is a great and serious offering to the Church by our parish and parishioners—and we are honored to participate in this holy act. I ask that you be mindful of this each week and give as you can towards this offering, so that during the year we will be able to support the family. Secondly, I will ask the Sisterhood to help prepare the apartment for Fr. Theodor and Hanne's arrival in mid-July, to ensure that the place is clean, well stocked with food, kitchenware and the appropriate furniture. Finally, I ask that once the family is here, all of you make it a point to visit and help out in whatever way you can. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- **ADVICE FROM THE BOOK OF TOBIT:**

Do not turn your face away from any poor man, and the face of God will not be turned away from you. If you have many possessions, make your gift from them in proportion; if few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have. So you will be laying up a good treasure for yourself against the day of necessity. For charity delivers from death and keeps you from entering the darkness; and for all who practice it charity is an excellent offering in the presence of the Most High. —*Tobit 4:7–11*

- **A PRECIOUS GEM:**

Liturgy is not a rigid thing to be repeated unconsciously. It is an expression of the human need to talk to the Lord, and to thank Him for His grace. Liturgy is spirit and life running through the veins of the body of the Church, and nurturing all its members. It revives the Church, the community and the individuals with the grace that is bestowed upon them. Hence, we are here before a precious gem. We should polish it and reveal its glorious face, stressing the essence of the liturgical practice which leads the believer to grow in Christ. It is therefore important to resort to all tools that enable the people to reach the depth of this inspiring liturgy, that they may take from it that which will help them attain salvation and understanding of the mystery of God. —*Patriarch John of Antioch*

- **SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:**

Our annual "Vacation Bible School" will be held from June 8–12 this year. Daily schedule here at the church will start with arrivals by 9 AM, a morning prayer at 9:15 AM sharp, followed by a brief spiritual lesson with one of the priests, then crafts, games, snacks, folk dancing, music, and a wrap-up prayer at noon. Registration and Volunteer forms are available at the candle desk after Liturgy. We hope to have our core teen volunteers with us, and any other volunteers, age eleven and older. **Parents, godparents and grandparents:** it is very important that we have your involvement. Not only do our children need this, but we as a church community need to be involved with our children! Please contact Gloria Collins at (707) 849-6135.

- **BAPTISM:**

Miriam Brodeur, newborn baby of Anastasia and Aaron Brodeur, will be baptized on Sunday, May 24 at 9 AM. All are invited to come and rejoice with the family.

- **PARISH MEN'S GROUP:**

Last Saturday morning the newly created parish men's group gathered for breakfast at the Happy Hen Restaurant (the irony of that name was fully appreciated). The purpose of the men's group is to support the Church, the parish, each other and our families and youth. We hope to respond, as we are able, to the needs of the parish and parishioners and local monasteries. We are planning a trip to venerate the relics of St. John of Shanghai and San

Francisco at the Geary St. Cathedral, and afterwards attend a Giant's ballgame. We are hoping to organize a pilgrimage to the Monastery of St. John in Manton and the Monastery of St. Herman in Platina. Already a couple of guys have responded to a call from Mother Melania in Calistoga to help cut down some trees and a work party at the Kazan Skete is being organized. All parish men and teens are welcomed to join the men's group. Scott Basil Brown is doing most of the organizing at the moment, so, if you have questions, give him a call at (559) 362-5682.

• PENTECOST—THE FULFILLMENT OF PASCHA—SUNDAY May 31:

By the Gift of the Holy Spirit upon them on the first Pentecost (see Acts 2), the Apostles and all the disciples of Jesus were empowered to live the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pentecost is so great and so important for the Church that we say it fulfills and actualizes Pascha within the Church members. This gift is still given and is available for every person. The Holy Spirit—not an impersonal life force but a Divine Person, turned everything upside down. He made the fishermen into theologians and gave them, and the Church, the grace, power and courage to announce—in every language—that the Risen Jesus is Lord. Caesar isn't Lord (although Caesar said he was a son of a god); the ego isn't Lord, politics isn't Lord, our belly isn't Lord, and our intellect isn't Lord. Jesus is Lord, and those who confess, repent and are baptized die to the old and rise to a new life in Christ and receive the Holy Spirit and become children and heirs of the Most High God. His children are called together into the unity of love, life and uncreated Grace of the Holy Trinity, a unity from above, not man-made or man directed. Those living this unity, called to worship in His name are called the Church, where God's sanctifying Grace (the Holy Mysteries) are given not just for them only, but for the "life of the world." Jesus Christ said: *If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified* (John 7:37–38). These are not empty words, but should be true in the lives of the followers of Jesus. St. Philaret of Moscow remarked that perhaps unto us also the "Holy Spirit is not yet given" in the sense of living by the Spirit—because Jesus is not yet glorified in us each day. Perhaps we have as yet only received Jesus as a prophet, a man, rather than as our King, our Lord, the master of our life, so that no thought, no desire, no intention should arise in us without his will. What are we to do, who live according to the spirit of the world, yet desire to live according to the Holy Spirit? What will become of us who procrastinate in prayer, almsgiving, who postpone forgiving others, worship, repentance, self-examination, and spiritual labor, fasting, and love? What will become of us, who are dead in the spirit, cold and dry, like the bones dispersed in the valley in Ezekiel's vision? "Can these bones live?" asked God of the prophet in that passage which we read at Matins of Holy Saturday. God wishes that the Holy Spirit, Whose Temple we are by virtue of Baptism/Chrismation, quicken us, empower us, convert us. No doubt the Lord looks down on these spiritual skeletons of ours with compassion, and with impatient desire—so to speak, so that they may be made alive by the Spirit. "As a lamp," wrote St Simeon the New Theologian, "although it is full of oil and has a wick, remains dark unless it is lit with fire, so the soul is quenched and dark until it is touched by the light and grace of the Holy Spirit." **The feast of Pentecost—the Descent of the Spirit is celebrated with great solemnity, joy and many services, as is only appropriate for something that is the "fulfillment of Pascha" in us. Divine Services will be celebrated as follows:**

Saturday, May 30:	9 AM, Memorial Liturgy
	5 PM, Vigil for the Feast
Sunday, May 31:	10 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Kneeling Vespers
Monday, June 1:	the Day of the Holy Spirit, Liturgy at 9 AM

• MUSIC & POETRY, JUNE 5:

Share your performing talents on this Fast Free Friday evening at the *St. Seraphim Salon*. Sing – Play – Read – Celebrate! Potluck meal with spaghetti and salad provided begins at 6:00 PM. Sign up to perform and to dine: Vladimir, 707 479-9437, ursusmjr@sonic.net.