



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, June 12, 2016

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First
Ecumenical Council

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Six:

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hades, and wast not tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF ASCENSION, Tone Four:

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

- TROPARION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed the one Faith in the Church. And wearing the garment of truth woven from theology on high, she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

- KONTAKION OF ASCENSION, Tone Six:

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from them that love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: "I am with you, and no one will be against you."

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 11: 1 PM, Work Party to clean and sort the Storage Building
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
5:45 PM, BBQ for the Work Party team and their families
- Sunday, June 12: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School (last class of year); *Noon*, Agape Meal
- Monday, June 13: St. Seraphim Week activities, 9 AM–Noon, Monday–Friday
5 PM, Panikhida for John Andronico

- Tues., June 14: 11 AM, Funeral for John Andronico
- Wed., June 15: 6 PM, Vespers
7 PM, Master Planning Meeting
- Thurs., June 16: 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Sat., June 18: 9 AM, Memorial Liturgy for day before Pentecost
Afternoon—decoration of Church for the feast
5 PM, Vigil for Pentecost

- SUNDAY USHERS:

Anastasia Alphonse and Ryan Duval.

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK:

Our annual “Vacation Bible School” will be held from June 13–17. 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. This year our spiritual focus will be on the saints and their relationship to animals and nature.

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. Please contact Gloria Collins at (707) 849-6135.

- MEMORY ETERNAL:

John Andronico, who had been quite ill for the last few years, peacefully fell-asleep-in-the-Lord on June 8. His wife, Rosalyn Athanasia Andronico called to tell me that John reposed just as the Vigil for Ascension was beginning. That’s a beautiful and providential co-incidence. On Ascension day our devoted and pious Myrrh-Bearing men (Serge, Tom, James Moody and Ambrose) went to the home where they washed, anointed, prayed and dressed John, placed him in a casket that we had here in the storage building, and brought him to church that afternoon. A Panikhida for his repose was sung. John’s body is now at Eggen and Lance Mortuary, and will be brought back to us on Monday afternoon. **A Panikhida is scheduled for 5 PM on Monday, June 13, and the Funeral at 11 AM on Tuesday, June 14.** Interment will be at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery. —*Father Lawrence*

- MASTER PLANNING / PARISH COUNCIL:

The Master Plan group will meet on Wednesday at 7 PM, and the Parish Council on Thursday, 7 PM.

- VACATION:

Father Lawrence will be away from June 20 until late in the evening of June 28.

- POSTPONEMENT:

His Grace, Bishop Daniel, will not be able to visit us on July 3, as originally planned. He hopes to be here for the Feast of St. Seraphim, July 18 (for Vigil) and July 19 (Divine Liturgy).

- TODAY’S CELEBRATION

The seventh Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the *Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council*. This day commemorates the “318 God-bearing Fathers who gathered in Nicaea” in 325 at the request of the Emperor, Saint Constantine the Great, to address the

heresy of Arianism together with other issues that concerned the unity of the Church. Arius was a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria, and in 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son of God saying that He was not the true God, consubstantial with the Father, but rather a work or creation of God and different from the essence and glory of the Father. He also falsely maintained that the Son of God had a beginning. This heresy shook the faithful at Alexandria. The Bishop of Alexandria, Alexander, attempted to correct Arius through admonitions, cut him off from communion, and finally deposed him in 321 through a local council. Arius continued with his heretical teachings, creating controversy and division in the churches of other cities, which led to a theological and ecclesiastical crisis throughout the Christian Church. Moved with divine zeal and concern for unity, the Emperor Constantine the Great, equal to the Apostles, summoned the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325. The Holy Fathers composed the holy symbol of Faith, the Nicene Creed: “We believe in one God. The Father Almighty. Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven...” The Fathers also anathematized Arius for his heretical beliefs and teachings, cutting him off from the Church. Recognizing the divine Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honor, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith. Today’s feast affirms that the One Who rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, is truly God and truly man, uniting in Himself therefore, heaven and earth. —*borrowed*

- DOUBT, FAITH and MATURITY:

What is tragic in the doubt which we find in a believer, is that instead of saying that the model of God, of creation, of the Church, of man, which satisfied him fifty years ago **no longer** satisfies him, can no longer satisfy his intellectual and spiritual development; so he makes an “either/or decision:” either to retrench himself in the old or to abandon his former position altogether. Whereas the developing person who rejects the model he earlier had of God, or the creation, when confronted with the depths and range of science or of philosophy, is proceeding with something not only legitimate, but essential. By contrast, a believer who at the age of eighteen, or eighty, who remains faithful to a model adequate for an eight-year-old, will be spiritually and mentally backward, incapable for communing with all the vastness, depth and greatness of God and of his creation. —*from a talk by Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom)*

- PENTECOST:

The holy mystery of the day of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, is to be understood in the following manner: the spirit of man must be completed and perfected by the Holy Spirit, that is, it must be sanctified, illuminated, and divinized by the Holy Spirit. This holy mystery is realized continually in the Church of Christ and because of this the Church is really a continuous Pentecost...From Holy Pentecost, the day of the Holy Spirit, every God-like soul in the Church of Christ is an incombustible bush which continuously burns and is inflamed with God and has a fiery tongue within it. (*St. Justin Popovich, reposed 1979*)

- VIGIL FOR PENTECOST: Saturday, June 18/19, 5–7 PM

There are certain days, and times within the Church Calendar of Holy Services that take precedence over every other event in our schedule (with the exceptions of giving oneself to a charitable need; i.e., following the way of the Good Samaritan, Who is our Lord). The Feast of Pentecost is one of those

notable days because it is both the completion of Pascha, and our access to the Paschal way of life—the Holy Spirit is God’s “seal” upon us. Our celebration will begin with the **Saturday evening Vigil, June 18 at 5 PM**, and fully blossom with the Divine Liturgy and *Kneeling Vespers* the next morning. Please do keep in mind that Vespers begins as Liturgy concludes next Sunday. The Vespers of Pentecost is unique in the entire Church year, having very long and beautiful prayers said, during which we kneel for the first time since before Pascha.

- HOLY SPIRIT DAY, Monday June 20, 9 AM.

We serve Liturgy on the day after Pentecost as a confirmation and celebration of the Orthodox Christian doctrine that the Holy Spirit is a Person, of one essence with the Father and the Son, co-reigning, co-eternal, and in communion with us. In fact, the Liturgy is always celebrated as a feast of the Holy Spirit, Who leads our worship. He is not a lesser god, not a feeling, not a metaphor for God, not an idea, not an impersonal “force.” As are the Father and the Son, He too beyond understanding and human knowledge, yet in communion with us in the Church and given in Holy Baptism to enlighten and unite us to the Trinity. He effects and affects all of God’s works in the world, and in fact, upholds all of creation, and He is, as we sing, the “Spirit of Truth” (Jn. 16:13) “everywhere present and filling all things.” Scripture tells us that He is not begotten, not made, not created, but “proceeds from the Father” and testifies of Jesus (Jn. 15:26). The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and guides the believers to “all truth” (Jn. 15:13). It is all this that we celebrate on Holy Spirit Monday.

- A LETTER FROM REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSION:

We have an opportunity for you to show the homeless in our community who they are in God’s eyes and heart. We’d love for St. Seraphim to be a part of the Birthday Party for the Homeless, Friday, June 24 Noon to 2 PM at Juilliard Park. There are different ways to participate: Do a drive to collect items for the birthday gift bags; volunteer at the event (manicures, foot spa, haircuts, table hosts, etc). To get involved contact Alice Lowe, Redwood Gospel Mission, ph. 707-578-1830.

- FRESCOS:

Congratulations! Parishioners gave very generously to cover the cost of the fresco Entrance into Jerusalem. \$6,000 was given, with another \$6,000 in matching funds to cover the \$12,000 total. Next fresco: the Last Supper, the Washing of the Feet and the rest of that wall.

- PARISH MINISTRIES:

A number of Parish Ministries have recently been highlighted in the bulletin and announcements (Prophora Baking, Ride Ministry, Facilities Repair, Greeters and Ushers, Choir). Let’s look at two more, the *Myrrh-bearers* and the *Floral Decoration Team*. We have two teams (men and women) of Myrrh-bearers, whose task it is to care for the reposed. For example, when a female parishioner dies, our women Myrrh-Bearers, led by Shenina (men are headed up by Serge Anderson) come to the home (or to the funeral home) to wash, anoint, pray and dress the person’s body, which is then brought to the Church for the funeral. We are extremely proud of this ministry, and are very grateful for those who serve. Another vital parish ministry, that we should not take for granted, places flowers in the church every weekend, creates a floral decoration around the icon of a given feast, and manages to decorate the entire Church for the festal days of Palm Sunday, Holy Friday, Pascha, Pentecost (the church is filled with greenery for this feast) and Nativity. Members of the team: Patricia and Alicia Krueger, Denise Pellizzer, Tatiana Castillo, Kate Willens, John Geoffrey Lake, Katherine Crawford and Natasha Collins. New members would be most welcome. Those who are interested in participating in this ministry, please see Patricia Krueger.