

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, August 9, 2015

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

- TROPARION OF TRANSFIGURATION, Tone Seven:

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, O Christ our God, showing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. By the prayers of the Theotokos, let Thine everlasting light shine forth upon us sinners. O Giver of Light, glory to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, Tone Seven:

On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.



## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 8: 11 AM, Memorial for Don Brown (father of Lara Anderson)  
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, August 9: 9:10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
Noon, *Agape Lunch*  
12:30 PM, Church School Teacher Meeting (*Library*)  
1:30 PM, Vespers for St. Lawrence
- Monday, August 10: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. Lawrence, Archdeacon of Rome, brunch to follow  
3 PM, Glendi Baking
- Tuesday, August 11: 3 PM, Glendi Baking  
5 PM, Glendi Baking  
6 PM, Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos, in Protection Church
- Wednesday, August 12: 11 AM, Catechism Revisited, *On Reading the Holy Scriptures*  
5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank Distribution  
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday August 13: *At Kazan Skete*: 8 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Benjamin of Petrograd  
6 PM, Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos, in Protection Church
- Friday, August 14: 6:15 PM, Vigil for the ***Dormition of the Theotokos***
- Saturday, August 15: 9 AM, at the Monastery in Calistoga, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for ***Dormition***

- **THANKYOU TO ALL:**

We want to thank everyone at St. Seraphim out of the depths of our hearts for receiving us so warmly. We have felt truly welcomed and appreciated by everyone. An especial thanks to all of you who very generously have given money to this internship, an internship that will benefit not only us, but also the Orthodox Church in Norway—may God reward you all, to Fr. Lawrence for making this internship possible, Dennis for renting his house out to us, to everyone who have cooked dinner for us and in particular to the sisterhood who really has gone out of their way to make us feel at home. We have really had a great start on our stay here and we look forward to get to know you all better. Thank you to everyone and may God bless you all. —*Fr. Theodor, Matushka Hanna, Simon and Filip*

- **CHURCH-SCHOOL TEACHER MEETING TODAY:**

Our teachers will have a lunch meeting on Sunday, 12:30 PM, in the Library.

- **ST OLAV, ETERNAL KING OF NORWAY:**

I thought it would be interesting for you all to learn a little about the Orthodox Church in Norway while we are here, some of its history and current situation. What better way to start this venture than to introduce you to the greatest and most well known Orthodox saint in Norway, Saint Olaf, or holy Olav as we call him. His feast was just celebrated a few days ago on July 29th, and the translation of his relics (less known) is celebrated on August 3rd. St. Olav is the patron saint of Norway, Åland and Gotland.

St Olav was king of Norway from 1015 until 1030 when he was killed in the battle of Stiklestad not far from contemporary Trondheim where Nidaros Cathedral later was erected over his relics. (Fun fact: Ole is a short for Olav).



*Icon of St Olav from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem from 1160. St Olav is dressed like a member of the Byzantine court.*

St Olav saw it as his mission to complete the christianization of Norway a process that had already been going on for a couple of hundred years and he brought priests and bishops to Norway and strengthened the Church's position in his kingdom. Many historians consider him to be the king that made Norway a Christian nation.

St Olav's first 10 years as king was peaceful, but in 1025 St Olav had to flee from Norway because of opposition. He fled to Russia, Novgorod and Kiev and spent several years there before he returned to Norway to claim his kingdom back at the battle at Stiklestad in 1030. At that time the ties between Norway and Russia was very close and many of the early christian kings in Norway spent time in Russia where they received important influences from Orthodox Christianity. This was also the case for St. Olav who had close ties to Russia and especially to St Anna (called «Ingegjerd» in Norwegian) whom he was engaged to be married to at some point. During his time in Russia St. Olav seems to have had an awakening and deepening of his faith. He even contemplated renouncing his kingship to become a monk. It was clear for people to see that he had become a pious and devout Christian. He also had the gift of healing the sick and healed St Anna's and Jaroslav the Wise's son Vladimir. Even the people who killed



*During a fire in Novgorod in the 13th century an icon of St. Olav was taken out of the Church dedicated to him and carried in procession to the fire which stopped. This is an icon celebrating the miracle.*

him in the battle at Stiklestad acknowledged his sanctity, a sign of his widespread recognition as a saint already very shortly after his death. Signs and miracles happened at his tomb, holy myrrh gushed from his body and some years later when they had to remove his body, his hair and nails had grown according to the hagiographies.

St Olav is not only an important Norwegian saint, but he is also an important European saint and he has been venerated all across Europe and in many Orthodox countries. In the middle ages people came from all over Europe to venerate him at the Cathedral in Nidaros. Many icons were painted and churches were dedicated to him, for instance over 50 in Norway and over 70 in Sweden. Churches were also dedicated to him in important cities such as Novgorod, Kiev, Viborg, Gdansk, Tallinn, London, Rome, and even in Constantinople. Today the veneration of St Olav is increasing among Orthodox, icons are made again and people are pilgrimaging to his tomb. Catholics are strengthening their veneration of him and even the Lutheran Church of Norway is giving him increasing attention. —Fr. Theodor

• FEAST OF DORMITION, AUGUST 15:

We are currently keeping a fast in preparation for Dormition. The fast ends on the feast day, which is Saturday, August 15. I encourage all of you to attend the Vigil and the Liturgy of this remarkable and incredibly important feast—essential to the Christian life and understanding of salvation, death, and the age to come. **The Vigil will be celebrated here at 6:15 PM. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated in Calistoga at 9 AM with His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin and the Nuns of the Holy Dormition (Assumption) Monastery, it being the monastery feast.** Of the feast days of the Theotokos, perhaps none is more celebrated than the Dormition on August 15 of each year. This Feast commemorates the repose of the Virgin, and her “translation” (to use the “Church word”) to the life of the age to come. It’s a Summer Pascha in that it is about the death, resurrection and glorification of the All Holy One. Although she is unique, being the Mother of the Lord, Theotokos, and the Ever-Virgin, she is nevertheless one of us, and the events of her life serve as a model for our own spiritual life as disciples of Christ. The death of the Virgin and her being raised to life and the Kingdom have a great deal to tell us about our own destiny. Come to the Vigil and you will hear more about this. The greatness of this Feast, its importance in the life of the whole Church, dictates that every Orthodox Christian keep it.



WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Our *Advertising Committee* has created ads for the PD and other publications, as well as radio and internet. The Glendi website, [glendisantarosa.com](http://glendisantarosa.com) is being updated. Signs have been made and are ready for distribution around town (in a week or two). We do not yet have a *Parking Chair*. This job involves scheduling workers to help with parking cars in the back lot during Glendi. We are grateful to our neighbors, Mary Ellwood and Jim Severdia, for allowing us to park in their

fields. However, the field needs setting up for the parking. That’s a job for the *Parking Set-*

*Up Chair*, which is also a position we have not yet filled. So, there are two areas of need. Our *Baking Team* has been working on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, and have baked and frozen many dozens and dozens of cookies and sweets. Baking will continue on Monday, August 10 and 17 at 3 PM, and Tuesday, August 11 and 18 at 3 and 5 PM. Those interested in helping are very welcome to join the baking club! Another area needing a chair is the busy *Gyro Booth*. The *Gyros* are one of the most popular of our food items at the Glendi. See Alex Stameroff if you think you can handle running this booth. *Sanitation*: Ole Kern and Father Lawrence are looking to put a team together to keep the grounds clear of trash and the tables bussed. *Sanitation* is ironically one of the best places to work during Glendi, since one is always where the action is and engaged with meeting our guests. See Fr. Lawrence if you’d like to get on the *Sanitation Team*. Father Lawrence and Alex Stameroff are also putting together a team for set up, especially for the day before Glendi, Friday, September 18, from 9 AM until dark.

- PARISH MEN'S GROUP FIELD TRIP:

At the initial Parish Men's Group breakfast a couple months ago, we spoke about planning a field trip to do two things: venerate the sacred relics of St. John of Shanghai and SF and after that, attend an SF Giants game. We now have a concrete plan, which has the blessing of Vladyka Benjamin and Fr James Corazzo (SF, ROCOR priest): on Sunday, August 30, depart here at 7:30 AM, carpooling. Arrive at St Tikhon's Church, 15th and Balboa (home of St John of SF, and has a nice chapel), attend Divine Liturgy with Bishop Theodosi and Archimandrite Irenei. After the Liturgy, and hopefully a tour of the house, drive to AT&T Park for the the ballgame (Giants vs. Cardinals), which begins at 1 PM. Tickets are \$60, plus we want to have an honorarium/offering to St Tikhon's church, bridge toll, parking. Total cost per: \$77.00.

Those interested are asked to sign up and pay up on Sunday, so we can get a group price on the baseball game tickets. There will be a table in the Parish Hall. See George Barsi.

- PARISH LIBRARY:

The Library is now located in the former parish office. A sign is being prepared now. The library is in need of a decent wooden table—size about 3-1/2' x 5' give or take a bit. See Fr. Lawrence if you can help.

- HOSPITALITY:

The importance of hospitality in parish life—between parish members and towards visitors and guests, cannot be exaggerated. In our parish, typically, all of us are warmly met at the church door by our Greeters, Judy and Joseph Gumper. One of our two weekly Ushers will then assist a visitor to a place, and ensure that the visitor is escorted, if they so desire, to the Parish Hall for lunch. Here's where our hospitality seems to break down. Frequently I see a visitor, someone I haven't yet met, standing or eating alone in the Parish Hall. I'd like to encourage each and everyone of you to take responsibility to greet and welcome that person that the Lord has sent to you and me. Bring the guest to me, or come get me, and I will have lunch with the guest. Let me put this another way, in terms of an *admonition*: last week there was a guest from a OCA parish in Rochester, MI. This woman and her niece were standing by themselves in the Parish Hall—no one came forward to get them lunch or introduce them to me. I went over to introduce myself and had a delightful time with them eating lunch. I hope to *never see a visitor standing or eating alone in the Hall*. Such is as incomprehensible as having guests in one's home and ignoring them. Please, brothers and sisters, I beg you, love by welcoming our guests—extend yourself. Evangelism begins with hospitality. —Fr. Lawrence

## CATECHISM REVISITED

*God is real and is incarnate in Jesus Christ; He is the Key to the Scriptures.*  
—Bishop Michael of New York



Father John Schettig will be teaching  
two sessions on how to read the Holy Scriptures

*11 AM, Wednesdays*  
*August 12 and 26*

### PRAYER BEFORE READING HOLY SCRIPTURE

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.