

• PARISH NEEDS:

- Yellow Jacket traps: collect traps, bait and distribute
- Scrap wax off church floor
- Clean and polish brass candle stands in St. Seraphim
- Clean up “irrigation box” in parking lot (next to the vineyard)
- Take “Lost and Found” things to *St. Vincent de Paul* or *Catholic Charities*

• NEVER ASSUME:

Until a man’s earthly life finishes its course, up to the very departure of the soul from the body, the struggle between sin and righteousness continues within him. However high a spiritual and moral state one might achieve, a gradual or even headlong and deep fall into the abyss of sin is always possible. Therefore, Communion of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which strengthens our contact with Him and refreshes us with the living streams of the grace of the Holy Spirit flowing through the Body of the Church, is necessary for everyone.
—*St. John the Wonderworker of San Francisco, “The Church as the Body of Christ”*



You are invited to celebrate with us!

We are having a molieben (thanksgiving service) to bless our marriage on **Sunday August 28th, at 4pm**, followed by a BBQ. We will serve meat and wine, but please bring a salad, side or dessert to share.

Love, Alex & Lina

Location: Saint Seraphim’s Orthodox Church
90 Mountain View Ave, Santa Rosa

Everyone is invited, but it would be helpful if you would RSVP to alexmargitich@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pre-Feast of Dormition August 14, 2016

• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF THE PREFEAST OF DORMITION, Tone Four:

In faith, O ye people, leap for joy while clapping your hands; and gather in gladness on this day with longing and shout in radiant jubilation. For the Theotokos cometh nigh to departing from the earth unto the heights; and we glorify her with glory as the Mother of God in our unceasing hymns.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat., August 13: 2 PM, 40th Day Panikhida for Musya Sakovich
5 PM, Vespers and Matins
- Sun., August 14: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
12:45 PM, Glendi Meeting
Calistoga: 5 PM, Vigil for Dormition of the Virgin
- Monday, August 15: *Calistoga: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for Dormition*
3 PM, Glendi Baking
- Tuesday, August 16: 9:30–2:30, Spanikopita prep for Glendi
3 PM, Glendi Baking
- Wednesday, August 17: All day, Spanikopita prep
6 PM, Vespers
- Saturday, August 20: 9 AM, Grounds/Garden Work Party
5 PM, Vespers and Matins

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- ANTICIPATING THE GREAT FEAST:

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (Dormition, *Kimisis* in Greek) or “falling-asleep” of the Mother of Jesus Christ. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos. The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, “Woman, behold your son!” and to John, “Behold your mother!” (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home. Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed. At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven. Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.

The Icon of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos shows her on her deathbed surrounded by the Apostles. Christ is standing in the center looking at His mother. He is holding a small child clothed in white representing the soul of the Virgin Mary. With His golden garments, the angels above His head, and the *mandorla* surrounding Him, Christ is depicted in His divine glory. The posture of the Apostles direct our attention toward the Theotokos. On the right Saint Peter censes the body of the Theotokos. On the left Saint Paul bows low in honor of her. Together with the Apostles are several bishops and women. The bishops traditionally represented are James, the brother of the Lord, Timothy, Heirotheus, and Dionysius the Areopagite. They are shown wearing episcopal vestments. The women are members of the church in Jerusalem. In front of the bed of the Theotokos is a candle that helps to form a central axis in the icon. Above the candle is the

body of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

This great Feast of the Church and the icon celebrates a fundamental teaching of our faith—the Resurrection of the body. In the case of the Theotokos, this has been accomplished by the divine will of God. Thus, this Feast is a feast of hope, hope in Resurrection and life eternal. Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our departed loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come. We also affirm through this Feast as we journey toward our heavenly abode that the Mother of God intercedes for us. Through Christ she has become the mother of all of the children of God, embracing us with divine love. —*adapted, www.goarch.org*

- CALISTOGA MONASTERY TO CELEBRATE DORMITION:

The Sisters in Calistoga will celebrate their Monastery Altar Feast on Sunday evening at 5 PM with the Vigil, and on Monday with the Festal Liturgy, starting at 9 AM. Mother Melania sends her regards and invitation to all.

- BAPTISM NEXT WEEK:

The child of Kristina and Safwan Daya, Milania, will be baptized next Sunday, August 21, at 4 PM.

- PRAYERS:

Please keep in fervent prayer our dear brother Gabriel Griovski, who is suffering from liver and kidney failure. May the Lord be with the Griovski family.

- GROUNDS AND GARDEN:

Matushka Ann, who manages the gardens around the churches, is organizing a work-party to take place on Saturday, August 20, starting at 9 AM. With Glendi coming, we like to have things looking their best, and that will take a bit of labor and love. Please let Matushka Ann that you are coming.

- GLENDI SIGNS:

Yard signs are now available for parishioners to check out (please return after Glendi). The signage for the roads will be posted during the coming week.

- GLENDI WORK PARTY:

The Glendi equipment will be organized on Saturday, September 3, 9 AM–Noon.