

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, August 21, 2016, Post-feast of Dormition

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF DORMITION, Tone One

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity, in thy dormition thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos; thou wast translated unto life, since thou art the Mother of Life; and by thine intercessions dost thou redeem our souls from death.

- KONTAKION OF DORMITION, Tone Two

The grave and death could not hold the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her intercessions, and an unfading hope in her mediations. For as the Mother of Life, she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 20: 9 AM, Garden and Grounds Work Party (see Matushka Ann)
4:30 PM, Panikhida for Paul Byron Burch, one year anniversary
5 PM, Vespers and Matins
- Sunday, August 21: 9:30 AM, Receiving Keri DeMaar into the Catechumenate
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Blessing for students returning to class (conclusion of Liturgy)
Noon, *Agape Meal*
4 PM, Baptism of Milania Daya, daughter of Kristina and Safwan
- Monday, August 22: 3 PM, *Glendi Baking*
- Tuesday, August 23: 3 PM, *Glendi Baking*
7 PM, **Parish Council Meeting**
- Wednesday, August 24: 6 PM, Vespers
- Friday, August 26: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy, sung in Norwegian, *Feast of Martyrs Adrian and Natalie*

- WORK PARTY:

Matushka Ann is organizing a garden and kitchen work party for Saturday, August 20, from 9 AM until Noon or so. None of the work will involve heavy lifting.

- PARISH NEEDS:

Yellow Jacket traps: collect traps, bait and distribute

Scrape wax off church floor

Clean and polish brass candle stands in St. Seraphim

Clean up “irrigation box” in parking lot (next to the vineyard)

Assemble a picnic table

Take “Lost and Found” things to St. Vincent de Paul or Catholic Charities

- DORMITION:

The Church has believed and ever taught that the All-Holy Lady died—fell asleep in the Lord (Dormition means sleep), being subject to death. However, the Church teaches us that she was assumed into heaven—body and soul brought back into unity that God intends for all of us. In the “immaculate Virgin the bounds of nature are overcome” says a hymn. Another hymn tells us that: “the Mother of God was bodily ‘translated’ to heaven, since the Lord did not allow the most pure temple of the Word to experience corruption:

“The Lord and God of all gave thee as thy portion the things that are above nature. For just as He kept thee virgin in thy childbirth so did He preserve thy body incorrupt in the tomb; and He glorified thee by a divine Translation, showing thee honor as a Son to His Mother.” (*Matins, Canticle Six*)

What is this saying? The hymn is celebrating the great mystery in Christ that she—as we will be too in God’s time—was raised from the dead and she was taken up into heaven, in her body as well as in her soul (humans have both). She has passed beyond death and judgment, and lives wholly in the Age to Come, the Eighth Day—as we will too. The Resurrection of the Body, which all Christians await, has in her case been anticipated and is already an accomplished fact. In this fact, she is not a great exception in her death and life: what we are celebrating is that we all hope to share one day in that same glory of the Resurrection of the Body which she enjoys even now. The feast of Dormition shows us a glorious passing from a holy and unique life, through death toward resurrection—now she is in the Age to Come—even beyond what we think of heaven, since she dwells in the coming age of the resurrection, at her Son’s side. The triumph of the Theotokos is our triumph; her assumption is our hope of glory; we struggle even now to overcome the bounds of nature, to be in Communion with the Lord, to overcome sin, and prepare ourselves daily for a blessed death. But it will take some planning and some attention for us. Hopefully we will learn from our Most Holy Lady Theotokos how to do that. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- SOME INSPIRATION:

We are currently getting ready for our annual GLENDI festival; it looms very large. There are a few who might say this activity is all about making money for the parish. There are moments when I, and others, wonder why we are doing it. Perhaps in those moments of difficulty and struggle we need to adjust our perspective (how much one does at Glendi is for each person to decide, in freedom). The new perspective is to remember that there is a spiritual aspect to the work we do, something in the way we support and encourage one another. As we work together with a common purpose we set aside our differences, we take actions to help each other, we put into practice to the best of our ability the virtues we have gained through prayer and fasting. As we fail, and maybe fall into conflict during this activity, we can immediately see our weaknesses and where we need to grow. When we hold a spiritual aim for this kind of activity it becomes a process of spiritual growth for all of us. Our difficulties become opportunities for

the expression of love and spiritual growth. Fr. Dimitru Staniloae, the renowned Romanian confessor and theologian (reposed 1993) makes the following comments: “The road to Christian perfection doesn’t exclude work. It requires that it contribute to the winning of the virtues. No one should imagine that the work he does is an end in itself; it has the role of beautifying his nature, with the virtues of patience, self-control, of love for his neighbor, of faith in God, and in turn of opening his eyes to the wise principles placed by God in all things...The ultimate purpose of work and the taking part in life of this world isn’t so much the development of nature as it is the normal development of the dormant possibilities in man and in his neighbors.”

- READING THE BIBLE:

For our reading of Scripture to be fruitful, to help save our souls, we must ourselves be leading a spiritual life in accordance with the Gospel. The Scriptures are addressed precisely to those who are trying to lead a spiritual life. Others will usually read them in vain, and will not even understand much. St. Paul teaches: “The natural [i.e., unspiritual] man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (I Cor. 2: 14). The more one is leading a spiritual life, the more one is capable of understanding the Scripture. A second point. Because we are weak and can only boast of our infirmities, we must pray to God to open the eyes of our understanding by His grace. Even Christ's disciples on the road to Emmaus did not understand the Scripture; they did not understand that it was Christ in front of them interpreting the Scripture, until Christ Himself opened their minds (cf Luke 24:45). So unless we have our minds opened—which comes from the grace of God—we will read Scripture and not understand it; hearing we will not understand, seeing we will not see. —*Fr. Seraphim (Rose)*

- FAMILY AND CHURCH SCHOOL

Our Parish Church School classes will begin this year BEFORE Glendi, on September 4. Our teachers are excellent instructors, well-organized, and have extremely good material. However, please remember that the Church School classes are only twenty to thirty minutes long—even if every student came each and every week, the time spent in class is only enough to reinforce what the child should already be learning and practicing at home. Also, consistency in attendance is very important. Without consistent attendance, without parental teaching at home, we see that Christian youth come out of years of Sunday school and still don’t know the basics of their own faith. I know Orthodox Christians who think that the Holy Trinity is God, Jesus, and Mary; who don’t know the difference between the New Testament and the Old; who never pray, never mind before meals; who have never had the joy of hearing the *Magnificat*; who don’t know the life of their patron saint; who are not aware that the Lord will return in glory to judge all, and to raise the living and the dead. Christian faith is learned at home, for the most part. We cannot out-source religious education. A living knowledge and internalization of the Orthodox Christian faith cannot happen in a Sunday church class. There was no Church School until recently in history, and yet Church history is full of families—parents and children—who were so devoted to loving Jesus Christ, that they were willing to be martyred, to bear witness with their life for the Cross and Resurrection (read the life of the early second-century martyrs Sophia and her three children...if you dare). Parents, make your home a little church, a place where God comes first.



WHAT'S HAPPENING:

A number of parishioners—some having read the article, *Available Resources*, that appeared in the August Bulletin—expressed the opinion that certain areas of GLENDI need to be simplified. One might clarify and say, let's work smarter. The GLENDI organizing team is all about, and always has been, working smarter and finding ways to simplify things. Consider the following:

- *Kabob and Balkan:* Since the Kabob Booth has only one item, Kabobs, this year we are thinking of serving them out of the Balkan booth. We are also hoping to purchase pre-cut, marinated and skewered meat, and thus save on the very involved prep work.
- *New Pop-Ups:* The Lamb Booth and the Gyro Booth will be provided with new pop-ups. They will have mesh wrapping around the pop-up (with a service window).
- *Signage:* This year we will be posting only the Yard Signs, rather than the 4x4 signs that are usually hung on fences and posts around town (they also need the date changed, which is an expense we don't need). Of course, the 8x8 banners will be set up next to Hwy 101, and the red banner hung at the church entrance.
- *Children's Area:* This year the kid's area will have fewer activities.
- *Bakery:* To simplify staffing, this year the Outdoor Bakery has been eliminated (it was always a great spot, but we ARE trying to work with our resources). The Bakery relies on home-made items. Please bring your favorite items no later than 9 AM on September 17. The Bakery is the most profitable area of GLENDI because of your support and participation. There will be two more baking sessions in the Hall: On Monday we'll make *Melomakarona* (Greek Honey Cakes), a NEW ITEM this year. On Tuesday, we'll be baking our last big batch of Ginger Cookies—very easy to make, as long as we have plenty of willing hands. We start at 3 PM in the Hall, and continue until we're done. Come and learn how to make these tasty treats. Hope to see you there! Questions? Speak with Catherine Ostling or Daphne Russell.
- *Work Parties:* Saturday, September 3 and 10, 9 AM.
- *GLENDI Friday:* Father Lawrence and Alex Stameroff are putting together a team for set up, especially for the day before Glendi, Friday, September 16, from 9 AM until dark. The few, the proud, the tired... Nevertheless, we end the day with a great sense of accomplishment.
- Please take GLENDI flyers, signs and postcards to distribute. Visit our GLENDI Facebook page.
- GLENDI sign up sheets are in the Hall.