

means, Your treasure will be where your heart is. We think that the thought is what matters. But Christ was quite materialist (wholistic) about the matter. Your treasure (your stuff) controls your thoughts. If you say you care about the poor, give them some of your stuff. If you don't care about them, give them some of your stuff. If you give enough, over time you will come to care. The heart follows. Prayer is very much like this as well. We imagine prayer to be some sort of mental force. Thus, when a matter seems desperate, we call on others to pray with us and for us, imagining that the more minds we can join in prayer, the more powerful the prayer becomes. This is simply secular nonsense. If you want powerful prayer, then do as the Fathers did, fast and give alms. Deny yourself, and give stuff away to the poor. Ask the poor who benefit from your generosity to pray for you. They will with glad hearts. —*Father Stephen Freeman*

• CONVERSATION WITH A RUSSIAN ELDER:

One afternoon, when we were sitting in his tea-house, I asked Fr. Nikolai about reincarnation. Why was the church so certain about that? Oh, that's simple, he said. All the people I know in heaven have kept their individuality. Then he went on to tell me a story. A certain woman in his church had been having discomfiting dreams involving her deceased mother. In the dreams the mother accused her of not writing to her, All my friends here receive letters from their children at home. But you send me none! The dream was recurring. After a fourth dream, and in great distress, the woman came to Fr. Nikolai. He suggested they include her mother in the Panikhidas served after Sunday liturgy. Four weeks later her mother appeared again to her in a dream, beaming and joyfully holding up handwritten letters from her daughter. You wrote...You wrote! Thank you! —*Personal account*

• CONVERSATION WITH A PASTOR'S KID (PK):

Three boys in the school yard are bragging about their fathers. The first says, My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50. The second boy says, That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100. The third boy says, I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 26, 2018
Martyrs Adrian and Natalia

• RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS ADRIAN AND NATALIA, Tone Three:

Thou didst deem that Faith which hath salvation to be riches never lost or plundered. Thou forsookest thy fathers' impiety, and thou didst follow thy Master, becoming rich in His divine gifts, O glorious Adrian. With the godly minded Natalia, who emboldened thee, entreat Christ God, O Martyr, that our souls be saved.

• RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION, Tone Four:

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb, and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hades, and as Master, He has risen on the third day.

• KONTAKION OF THE MARTYRS, Tone Four:

Having wisely laid to heart all the divine words of thy godly-minded wife, Adrian, Martyr of Christ God, in torments thou strovest ardently; and with thy yoke-mate thou now hast received thy crown.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 25: 11 AM, Panikhida, Oak Mound Cemetery,
Healdsburg, anniversary of repose of Gabriel
Griovski
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions

- Sunday, August 26: 8:45 AM, Resurrectional Matins
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
6 PM, *Cantiamo Sonoma Concert*
- Tuesday, August 28: 8:30 AM, *Parish Feast at Holy Dormition, Rose Ave*
6 PM, Great Vespers, Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- Wednesday, August 29: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast
6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and Talk on the Holy Trinity by Andrew Vernon
- Saturday, Sept. 1: 9 AM, WORK PARTY - Church New Year

• MEMORY ETERNAL:

Longtime parish member Zoya Drake reposed peacefully on Monday, August 20th after a long illness. The photo on the right shows Zoya at the blessing of the vineyard, Transfiguration Day, about ten years ago. In place of a funeral (Zoya was cremated), a Panikhida was served on Wednesday evening, and a Trisagion for the Repose will be served after the Liturgy this Sunday. We will also have a Panikhida on the Fortieth Day (September 28 or 29). May her memory be eternal.



• WITH THANKS AND PRAYERS:

This weekend we bid farewell to Father Peter Fermiglia, who is being assigned to St. Michael Orthodox Church in Concord, and to John and Caryl Burns, off to their next destination and then home to Hawaii. We all very much appreciate Father Peter's good counsel, edifying homilies, his beautiful liturgizing and pastoral heart as a confessor. Without a doubt, the parishioners at St. Michael Church will love him. Equally, we will miss John and Caryl's presence with us. We are blessed to see them for about three

months of the year, and during that time they give themselves fully to parish life. May the Lord grant many years to Fr. Peter and John and Caryl.

• WEDNESDAY POTLUCK AND SPIRITUAL TALK:

Join us on Wednesday evening for a brief Vespers at 6 PM, followed by a potluck supper in the Hall, and a talk by Andrew Vernon from St. Nicholas in San Anselmo (for the next two Wednesdays) on the Orthodox dogma of the Holy Trinity. During September and October we will continue with the Wednesday evening discussions: I plan to read with you and talk about the following books: *For the Life of the World*, by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *The Four Pillars*, an essay by Metropolitan Tikhon, *The Soul's Longing: An Orthodox Christian Perspective on Biblical Interpretation* by Dr. Mary Ford of St. Tikhon's Seminary and the book *Elder Joseph the Hesychast*, by the Monastery of Vatopedi. —Fr. Lawrence

• PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Those who regularly partake of Holy Communion prepare themselves by fasting, prayer (ideally, also attendance at Saturday Vespers) and a regular Confession, at least once per month. —Father Lawrence

• WORK PARTY:

Making Glendi happen took an enormous amount of work. Whatever exhaustion that resulted was offset by the fellowship of working together closely with one another for the good of the parish. Many of us miss that type of work. Let's get together on Saturday, September 1 from 9 AM–1 PM and have a work party here—compared to Glendi, it will be easy work, but, we will be together and working on tasks that have needed attention for a long time: Begin sorting Glendi equipment; cut down dead plum tree; create Innocents' Garden, move graveyard cross to Garden; sort junk behind Storage Building, clean kitchen pantry, etc. A full list will be posted this week. —Fr Lawrence

• WHAT IS REAL:

Some complain about their minds wandering when they pray. I have ADD, my mind always wanders. But I don't worry so much about it. When I pray, I stand before the icons. If my mind wanders, I remain standing. The icons have been given to us for communion, and that communion is real regardless of the noise of my mind. The noise is not me; it's noise....Our glorification of ideas perverts our Christian understanding. Christ said, Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. But we distort this and think it