

commending the care of our beloved departed souls to God on a continuing basis has a sound grief resolution inherent in it. We remember them on their birthdays, on the anniversaries of their death, on the fortieth day after they have been called to eternity. We even visit the cemetery and conduct commemorations there at the grave sites. The theology of our blessed Church even teaches us the departed continue to participate with us in the glorification of our God. Our worship includes the souls of those who have been called to their eternal reward. We do not feel the drastic separation in death that so many others are forced to endure. — www.stpaul-freehold.com/chrgri.html. For more information on this topic, see the Articles page at the parish website: <http://saintseraphim.com/articles.html>

• THIRTEEN DAYS TO GLENDI:

As of Sunday, September 4, we have thirteen days to finish our GLENDI preparations: food for the booths, setting up the grounds (tents, electrical, tables, parking, signage, temp walls and fencing) cleaning and prepping equipment, sending out advertisements, delivering comp tickets and comp foods, picking up beer, wine, soda, water, food items, and serving ware, setting up the accounting, and a thousand other things. While doing all of this, each one of us will also continue to confess our sins, prepare ourselves for Communion, pray for others and ourselves each day, make our financial offerings to God and the Church (we should not rely on the GLENDI—money from outside the parish—to pay toward *our* mortgage and frescoes), read the Holy Scriptures, visit the sick and lonely, celebrate Services on Saturdays and Sundays and the Feasts of the Church (two feasts coming—Nativity of the Theotokos and the Exaltation of the Cross). While we are extraordinarily busy during these days of September, our main focus always and in all circumstances has to be prayer glorifying God and ministering to our neighbor. — *Fr. Lawrence*

• PARISH NEEDS:

- Yellow Jacket traps: collect, bait and distribute
- Take “Lost and Found” things to Catholic Charities
- Scrap wax off church floor
- Polish brass candle stands in St. Seraphim
- Clean up “irrigation box” in parking lot (next to the vineyard)
- Assemble a picnic table

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 4, 2016

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:
When Thou didst descend to death, O Life-Immortal, Thou didst slay hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead; and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.
- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:
Hades became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb. The dead arose, creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced with Thee; and the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Sept. 3: 9 AM, GLENDI Work Party
5 PM, Vespers and Matins
- Sunday, Sept. 4: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School & Party
Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, Sept. 5: *At Kazan Skete—9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy,
Archimandrite Irenei (Steenberg) to preside, and
give a talk after the Service*
- Wednesday, Sept. 7: 6 PM, Great Vespers for the Nativity of the
Theotokos
- Thursday, Sept. 8: 8:30 AM, Matins and Divine Liturgy for the
Nativity of the Theotokos
- Saturday, Sept. 10: 9 AM, GLENDI work party
5 PM, Great Vespers

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707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

- Sunday, Sept. 11: 9 AM, Baptism of Theodora Margitich
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal

- FEAST DAY ON THURSDAY:

I invite you to come together to celebrate the birth of the Virgin Mary on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:15 PM (Great Vespers), and/or Matins and Liturgy on September 8, at 8:30 AM. Obviously, the birth, or as we say, the Nativity of the Theotokos, is a major holy day of the Church and the first one of the Church New Year. We will gather to honor her as the All-Pure Temple of God, not built by hands, and our holy intercessor and common mother in Christ. We recognize in her birth God's guiding hand and the beginning of our salvation. Consider the *Troparion* of the Feast:

“Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole world; for from thee hath dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, annulling the curse and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.”

- CHURCH SCHOOL BEGINS:

The first class of our church school begins this Sunday. Joseph Anderson and his class will be preparing the Agape Meal, with hot dogs, watermelon, chips, baked beans, with ice cream for dessert. There will be a water-slide-bouncy for the kids, so please have them bring their swim suits and towels. Classes for the children are as follows:

- Pre school–K: Sunday School Building. Teachers are Niki and Gloria
- 1st–3rd Grade: Sunday School Building. Teachers are Vicky and Shannon
- 4th–6th Grade: Library. Teachers are Sarah and John
- 7th–9th Grade: Upstairs in St. Seraphim church. Teachers are Joe and Ryan/Meghan
- 10th–12th Grade meet outside by Father's office. Teachers are Garrett and Father Lawrence/Father Theodore
- Questions? call/text or email Gloria at 849-6135/gypsybootsie@sonic.net

- UPCOMING BAPTISM:

You are invited to attend the baptism of Theodora Margitich, Amy and

Justin's second child, to take place before the Divine Liturgy, at 9 AM, Sunday, September 11.

- EXPRESSING GRATITUDE BEFOREHAND:

Prayer and fasting—when done with faith and from the heart—give us capacity to receive God's grace. “Space” is made, so to say, for God in the soul by turning away from our own desires (whether good or bad desires). Tito Colliander, in the marvelous book, “Way of the Ascetics” put it this way: “Since the Fall [from Paradise] the will has been running errands exclusively for its own ego.” So some effort is required on our part to be free of ourselves and the power of our thoughts and impulses. In this effort we receive in return much more than what we offer. Of course, God's grace is not earned; we only prepare ourselves to receive it. All this is especially true of our participation in the Divine Liturgy and reception of Holy Communion. What is passed down to us as the most effective way to prepare for the Liturgy and to give us the “capacity” to carry the Holy Gifts within ourselves in a powerful way? Our practice in the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) is to make a confession at least once a month. We are also taught to do the Prayers Before Holy Communion, found in any common Orthodox Prayer book, before receiving Holy Communion. Finally, the Tradition of the Church also strongly encourages us to attend Vespers on Saturday evening as part of our preparation for Communion.

- THE PROCESS OF GRIEF:

The funeral as we know it in our Orthodox Church is vitally important as a communal, supportive, spiritually comforting, patterned way of working through our grief. The hymnology points out a great deal of reality. The more elaborate and profound the funeral practices are, the more elaborate the burial traditions, the more care the Church gives to its ritual related to death, the more quickly and effectively grief is worked through. At a time when many churches mistakenly de-emphasize the funeral as a kind of morbid vestige from a pagan past, priests and therapists are increasingly noticing the therapeutic value of funerals for believers, coupled with other meaningful rituals that are related to the grief process.

In our Church we do not forget the departed soul, but continue to pray for it, entrusting it to the merciful care of God in the Divine Liturgies and anniversary services as we continue to celebrate its memory. The Saturdays of the Great Fast are dedicated to departed souls, and