

• THE WORD OF THE CROSS:

...to deny God's wrath is, at bottom, to deny God's love. When God sees humans being enslaved, and if God doesn't hate it, he is not a loving God... When God sees innocent people being bombed because of someone's political agenda, if God doesn't hate it, he isn't a loving God. When God sees people lying and cheating and abusing one another, exploiting and grafting and preying on one another, if God were to say, "never-mind, I love you all anyway," He is neither good nor loving. The Bible doesn't speak of a God of generalized benevolence. It speaks of the God Who made the world and loves it so passionately that He must and does hate everything that distorts and defaces the world and particularly His human creatures. And the Bible doesn't tell an abstract story about people running up a big debit balance in God's bank and God suddenly, out of the blue, charging the whole lot to Jesus. The Bible tells a story about the Creator, our God and Father, calling a people, (Hebrews) through whom He would put the world right, living with that covenant people even when they themselves went wrong (e.g. the golden calf, killing the Prophets, etc), allowing them to become the place where the power of evil would do its worst, and preparing them all through for the moment when, like the composer finally stepping on stage to play the solo part, He would come and take upon Himself, in the person of his Son, the pain and shame, yes, the horror and darkness (the Cross)—yes, but also, in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, in Paul and Acts and Hebrews and 1 Peter and Revelation, in St. Ignatius of Antioch and St. Irenaeus of Lyon—He would take upon Himself the condemnation which, precisely because He loves us to the uttermost, He must pronounce over that deadly disease we call sin. To deny this, as some would do today as they have for hundreds of years, is to deny the depth and weight of sin and the deeper depth and heavier weight of God's redeeming love. The "Word of the Cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

• GOSPEL BOOK COVER:

The Gospel book which sits on the smaller confession stand is being fitted with a proper iconographic/decorative metal cover (which serves as protection as much as decoration). The cost for this project is about \$500–600. Please see me if you'd like to join with others who are making an offering towards this project. —*Fr. Lawrence*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



September 15, 2019

Post-Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross



• 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 CROSS, Tone One:

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

• KONTAKION OF THE CROSS, Tone Four:

O Thou Who wast lifted up of Thine own will on the Cross, bestow Thy mercies upon the new nation that bears Thy name; make all Orthodox Christians glad in Thy strength, granting them victories over their enemies, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, Sept. 13: 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy in Protection
11 AM, Funeral for Simon Procopenko
6:15, Vigil for the Exaltation of the Cross
- Saturday, Sept. 14: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, Sept. 15: 8:40 AM, Matins
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
3 PM, Wedding of Alejandro and Anahi
- Wednesday, Sept. 18: 6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and Talk by Fr. Nicholas on the book *The Soul's Longing*
- Thursday Sept. 19: Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship
- Friday, Sept. 20: 5 PM, Camp Glendi (dinner at 6 PM)

• MEMORY ETERNAL:

Simon Procopenko reposed peacefully in the Lord very early on Wednesday, September 11, at Memorial Hospital. He had been ill for some time. His funeral will be on Friday, September 13 at 11 AM, burial in Healdsburg, next to his late wife, who reposed eleven years ago. A memorial meal in the Parish Hall will follow the burial.

• WEDDING TODAY, 3 PM:

All are invited to the wedding of Anahi and Alejandro (Oscar) Sunday at 3 PM. May the Lord grant them Many Years and His blessing.

• WEDNESDAY EVENING TALKS:

Father Nicholas Carr will give two talks about the book *The Soul's Longing: An Orthodox Christian Perspective on Biblical Interpretation* by Professor Mary Ford of St. Tikhon's Seminary: Wednesday, Sept. 18 and 25. Vespers at 6 PM, Potluck and talk at 6:45 PM.

• SENIOR LUNCH:

The Senior and Retired Lunch Fellowship will gather at Noon on Thursday, September 19 for a Glendi-inspired Macedonian lunch, to be prepared by

Petar Griovski. Additionally, Fr. Patrick has agreed to lead us in a brief Glendi-style church tour. Other treats await.

• PARISH FEAST: PROTECTION OF THE VIRGIN, Monday, October 1:

On October 1 we celebrate our Parish Feast Day, *The Protection of the Holy Virgin*. Our parish is named for this Feast and so we celebrate the day with a special solemnity and joy. This year neither of our bishops are able to be with us. **Vigil will be served on Monday, September 30, at 6:15 PM, and the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM, on Tuesday, October 1.** A festive meal will follow.

• CAMP GLENDI — SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21:

See September bulletin or the flyer for details. A reminder: Vespers on Saturday, **September 21 will be at 4 PM**, rather than the usual 5 PM.

• SISTERHOOD:

A Sisterhood meeting has been scheduled for 1 PM, Sunday, Sept. 21.

• ALTAR SERVERS:

You are invited to a brief workshop on Altar Serving on Saturday, October 5, from 11 AM until about 1 PM. Lunch will be included.

• MUSIC, SEWING AND LANGUAGE CLASSES:

Irina Wysocki is available to teach classical piano (for adults or children), and sewing (basic and couture). She is conducting Russian language classes on most Sundays from 1–2 PM, and is still taking students. She can be reached at (707) 608-8963 or by email at: irinamakc@gmail.com

• MATTHEW 16:24:

...the first duty of a Christian, of a disciple and follower of Jesus Christ, is to “deny oneself.” To deny oneself means: to give up one’s bad habits, to root out of the heart all that ties us to the world; not to cherish bad desires and thoughts; to quench and suppress bad thoughts; to avoid occasions of sin; not to do or desire anything from self-love, but to do everything out of love for God. To deny oneself means, according to the Apostle Paul, to be dead to sin and the world, but alive to God. —*St. Innocent of Alaska*

• AWE OF GOD:

“The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.” (Prov 1:7) Fear of God is clearly respect for God, devotion and spiritual reserve. Such fear of God makes one stand in awe before Him; it is something sacred.—*St. Paisios*