

• SCRIPTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY:

In Genesis 2:7, God creates man from the dust of the earth... While God has called all of his creation thus far 'good', he says that it is not good that Adam is alone. This text represents the beginning of modern misinterpretation. It is not a statement that Adam is lonely. It is not a reference to his emotional or spiritual state in any way. In those senses, Adam is most certainly not alone, in that he lives continually in the presence of God himself, not to mention the angelic hosts who also dwell in the garden. Adam lacked nothing in regards to companionship, conversation, and fulfillment in his relationship to God. What was lacking becomes apparent when reading the preceding text. The plants all reproduced after their kinds. The seas and the skies teemed with life. The land animals reproduced after their kinds. Adam was alone. God is the one who gives life to the world, and in abundance. Adam was alone. God's solution to this problem is that he will make a helper who is suitable for Adam. God states this solution before the naming of the animals, so the latter does not present some sort of trial and error experiment. Rather, as Adam names the animals, he becomes aware of the problem as all of the animals exist in gendered pairs who reproduce, bringing new life into the world. He himself has been directed by God to serve in cultivating the garden, to assist in the bringing forth of life in the world (Gen 2:15), but he himself is not able to do so. The word which is generally here translated as 'suitable' or 'fitting' is the Hebrew *'kenegdo.'* This word contains the ideas of both 'parallel' and 'opposite.' This helper will be someone who is like Adam, but who is also differentiated from him in a way that the two will fit together. This includes the anatomical level, but also goes beyond it to the emotional, spiritual, and personal level. The two will fit together, and bring new life into the world. When God then sets out to fashion this helper for Adam, he does not simply create another human out of the earth who happens to be differently gendered. Rather, Adam is put into a deep sleep, like unto death. God then removes his side (not just a "rib").... To state it more simply, God pulls Adam in two. He then 'fills in' the missing portion of Adam and builds out the side of Adam which he has taken into a woman. As Adam staves upon awakening and seeing her, henceforth humanity ('adam') will exist as man and woman, in Hebrew 'esh' and 'eshah,' male and female. —*Fr. Stephen de Young*

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



**September 22, 2019**



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:

Let us the faithful praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

• TROPARION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, TONE FOUR:

Rejoice, O thou barren one who hadst not borne until now; for lo, in all truth thou hast conceived the lamp of the Sun, and he shall send forth his light over all the earth, which is afflicted with blindness. Dance, O Zacharias, and cry out with great boldness: The one to be born is the blest Prophet of God Most High.

• KONTAKION OF ST. JOHN, Tone one:

Rejoice with splendor, O great Zachariah and most glorious Elizabeth, his spouse, in conceiving John the Forerunner as is meet, whom the archangel announced, rejoicing. O ye people, let us right worthily honor him as the initiate of the mystery of grace.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Sept. 21:      *Camp Glendi*, all day  
4 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions (note time)
- Sunday, Sept. 22:      8:30 AM, Matins  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape Meal  
1 PM, Sisterhood Meeting
- Tuesday, Sept. 24:      6 PM, Vespers, Feast of St. Sergius
- Wednesday, Sept. 25:   6 PM, Vespers, Potluck and Talk #2 by Fr. Nicholas
- Thursday, Sept. 26:    9 AM, Divine Liturgy, feast of St. John the Theologian, in Protection Church
- Saturday, Sept. 28:     5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, Sept. 29:      8:30 AM, Matins  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy (no Confessions will be heard prior to Liturgy)  
11:45 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape Meal

• HYMN FOR THE FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN:  
*The Feast of the Conception of St John the Baptist falls on September 23 (His birth is nine months later, June 24. This year, we are “moving” the feast to Sunday, Sept. 22). Today the fruit of prayer buds forth from a barren womb: John the Forerunner. O wilderness, give glory! Dance, all ye people! Behold, the herald of repentance begins to take flesh in his mother’s womb! Come, O lovers of the feast, let us exult in his glorious conception, crying out: “Thou art the greatest among those born of women!” Do not cease to intercede for those who faithfully honor thy divine conception, that we may receive forgiveness of sins and great mercy!”*

### • PARISH FEAST:

On October 1 we celebrate our Parish Feast Day, *The Protection of the Holy Virgin*. Our Parish was named and dedicated for this Feast in 1936, and so we annually celebrate the day with great solemnity and joy. Unfortunately,

this year neither of our bishops are able to be with us. Vigil will be served in St. Seraphim Cathedral on Monday, *September 30, at 6:15 PM* (Vigil is a combination of Vespers and Matins) and the Divine Liturgy in the Protection Church on Tuesday, *October 1, at 9:30 AM*. A festive meal will follow.

### • VISITING THE SICK AND SHUT-INS:

The recently reposed Fr. Steven Belonick (+Aug 7, 2019), who spent the last two years of his life very ill, once reflected on his visits with countless people with illnesses of all kinds—some curable, others life-threatening—as well as his experience being one of the sick himself when he was laid up for weeks in a hospital bed: “...visits from fellow human beings are healing; just the presence of another human being is healing. Most noteworthy of all, I eventually learned that the ‘visitor’ and ‘visited’ become ‘Christ’ to each other. Jesus’ words (paraphrased), ‘...when you have done so to the least of the brethren, you have done so to Me,’ now take on new meaning: for, when we are in the role of the ‘visitor,’ we are in the guise of Christ coming to the needy; likewise, when we ourselves are the “visited,” we are equally in the guise of Christ, in the image of His humanity.”

### • MATUSHKA ELEANOR:

Many of you have been asking about Matushka Eleanor. She is still visiting her children, Mark and Gina, in Plymouth, MA. She will be returning home to Santa Rosa in November. Eleanor will be turning 91 years old on October 3rd. I am including her address so that we all can send her birthday greetings. We thought that individual cards would be better than a group card. *Eleanor Margitich, 82 Peter Rd. Plymouth, MA 02360. —Matushka Ann Margitich*

### • NEXT SUNDAY:

Matushka Ann and I will be traveling to Santa Maria to serve at Holy Annunciation Church next weekend. I will be filling in for Fr. Lawrence Russell, the rector there, who will undergo a knee operation. Please keep in mind that there will be no opportunity for Confessions prior to the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Sept. 29. —*Fr. Lawrence*

### • THANK YOU:

Many thanks to Barb, Debbie and Daphne who arranged such a wonderful “Glendi-themed” Senior Lunch on Thursday. We also thank Fr. Patrick for giving an edifying and informative church tour for us.