

^a FROM ELDER PAISIOS, MONK OF MOUNT ATHOS:

Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if they ask a fly: “Are there any flowers in this area?” it will say: “I don’t know about flowers, but over there in the heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want.” And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to. Now, if you ask a honeybee: “Have you seen any unclean things in this area?” it will reply: “Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers.” And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow. You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or the hyacinth is. As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see. The stupid person thinks stupidly and takes everything in the wrong way, whereas the person who has good thoughts, no matter what he sees, no matter what you tell him, maintains a positive and good thought.

• BAPTISM:

Remarkable are the words of the Apostle: “That henceforth we should not serve sin,” as well as his other words: “Sin shall not have dominion over you” (Rom. 6:14). This gives us to understand that the power which, in our disordered, fallen nature, draws us towards sin, is not entirely exterminated in Baptism, but is only placed in a condition in which it has no power over us, no dominion over us, and we do not serve it. But it is still in us, it lives and acts, only not as a lord. The primacy from now on belongs to the grace of God and to the soul that consciously gives itself over to it. Saint Diadochos, explaining the power of Baptism, says that before Baptism sin dwells in the heart and grace acts from outside, but after Baptism, graced settles in the heart and sin attracts us from outside. It is banished from the heart as an enemy from a fortress, and it settles outside, in the parts of the body, from where it acts by means of attack in a fragmented state. This is why there is a constant temper, a seducer, but no longer a master: he disturbs and alarms, but does not command. And so, the new life is born in Baptism!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 4, 2015

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:
When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.
- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:
As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master, Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, October 3: 4 PM, Reader Course, Choir Master’s apartment
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, October 4: 9 AM, Matins / Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
- Wednesday, October 7: 7 AM, Divine Liturgy, *Sts Sergius and Bacchus*
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, October 8: 6 PM, Vespers St. Tikhon of Moscow
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Friday, October 9: *At Kazan Skete—9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy*

- RESURRECTIONAL SUNDAY MATINS:

One of its high points of the weekly cycle of Divine Services in the Orthodox Church is Sunday Matins of the Resurrection. The many beloved hymns glorifying the Lord's death and resurrection serve as a prelude and preparation for the Divine Liturgy. Sunday Matins offers us—potentially, at least—an experience of the resurrection of Christ, in the way that liturgy does: we sing, for example, “Having beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus...” This type of hymnography, combined with the Resurrectional Gospel account read during Matins, brings home to us each Sunday the victory and power that “Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.” The official guidelines (Typikon) of the Church more or less expect that Matins will be done in each and every parish. Some parishes celebrate Matins with Vespers on Saturday evening, as part of the Resurrectional Vigil. Some serve Matins on Sunday before the Liturgy. Some, such as ours, rarely do Saturday Vigils. Yet, if indeed Sunday Matins is a high point of the Liturgical cycle of Divine Services, it seems that at least we should try—here in our parish—to make the experience of this wonderful service available as often as possible. With that in mind, beginning this Sunday and at least for October, we will have Matins at 9 AM. I'll be the chanter, since our choir needs to be in rehearsal on Sundays before Liturgy, but will be happy to have help with the reading of psalms and the Canon. Whether or not there are few or many people present at Matins is secondary in some sense since it's simply important for the service to take place. Sure, it makes the morning longer, but, on Sunday morning there's no better place to be than in church. Confessions will be going on concurrently, heard by Fr John, starting at 9 AM. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK:

The Food Bank distribution will take place on Wednesday, October 14 (not Oct. 7 as the calendar mistakenly has it), at 5 PM. Volunteers: please come early for set up.

- RETREAT LED BY FATHER THEODOR:

Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga is hosting a retreat on Saturday, October 10, led by Fr. Theodor Svane, on the Orthodox Church in Norway—her saints, history and present situation. The schedule is as follows: Divine Liturgy at 9 AM, breakfast, first session at 11 AM, lunch, second session at 1:30 PM. No fee, but donations are accepted.

- SISTERHOOD MEETING:

The Parish women are invited to a Sisterhood Meeting in the Parish Hall, Sunday, October 11 at 12:45 PM. FYI: there is no formal membership in the Sisterhood—it's open to all. It's an organization comprised of women, and some men, who practice diverse ministries (nurturing the community life of the parish, care of the temple and of vestments, organizing meals, retreats, fundraisers, etc.).

- SENIOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP:

Our monthly senior lunch will be held at Noon on Thursday, October 15.

- PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THIS THURSDAY:

Parish Council members please remember that we have a meeting on Thursday, October 8 at 7 PM. Hopefully we will hear some preliminary reports on Glendi and renovation of the front of the Protection Church.

- MASTER PLANNING:

The next meeting for the Master Planning Group (all are invited to participate) will be on Thursday, October 15, at 7 PM. Our meetings only run an hour and a half. At the moment we are mostly discussing maintenance issues, however, we are always trying to think clearly about the proper, most sensible and aesthetically pleasing way to care for and develop our property.

- BAPTISM DATE ANNOUNCED:

Katia Lucia Ramirez, new born daughter of Mica and Tito, will be baptized on Saturday, October 17, at 11 AM. All are welcome.

- GLENDI FUNDS:

During the festal luncheon on the Feast of the Protection, Alex Stameroff, Glendi Chair, presented a \$30,000 check to the parish building fund.

- GOSSIP

St. Philotheos of Sinai says: “Silence your tongue, even though the intellect (nous) itself may not yet be still.” This reminds me of a popular urban proverb: “Don't put your mouth in gear when your mind is still in neutral.” Then, there is this wonderful old Italian proverb: “From listening comes wisdom, from speaking repentance.” A spiritual father once said to me: “Take a lesson from the holy icons. The subjects always have their mouths closed!” —*Archpriest Basil Rhodes*