

• CANCELLED DINNER:

Due to the resignation of Abbot Meletios from the Monastery of St. John in Manton last week, the Monastery Benefit Dinner, scheduled for Sunday, October 28, will be cancelled. The parish is not withdrawing its support from the Monastery, it is simply that without Father Meletios it will not be possible to sell \$50 tickets. I will propose to the Council that we make some kind of financial offering to the Monastery as soon as possible. The recent fire in that area burned over 7,000 acres and 3,000 homes stopping, literally, at the Monastery fence, and nothing there was damaged. So, we may take this to mean a blessing from the Lord, and continue to do what we can to be of help to the fathers and brethren. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• SENIOR LUNCHEON:

The *Senior and Retired Parishioner* Luncheon has been renamed, at the request of one of our number, as the “Gifted Senior Parishioner Luncheon.” The next gathering of this ultra-talented group will take place on Thursday, October 18 at Noon. All parishioners over 65 years of age (and gifted retirees) are welcome.

• PREPARING TO SAY YOUR PRAYERS:

The first preparation consists in rejecting resentment and condemnation of our neighbors. This preparation is commanded by our Lord Himself: When you stand praying, He orders, *if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father, Who is in heaven may forgive you your offenses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father Who is in heaven forgive you your offenses.* Further preparation consists in the rejection of cares by the power of faith in God and by the power of obedience and surrender to the will of God; also a realization of one’s sinfulness and the resultant contrition and humility of spirit. The one sacrifice which God accepts from fallen human nature is contrition of spirit. *If Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it,* says His Prophet to God on behalf of everyone who has fallen and remains in his fallen state. It is not merely some partial sacrifice of body or soul, but even total holocausts do not please Thee. The sacrifice for God *is a contrite spirit; a contrite and humble heart God will not despise.* St. Isaac the Syrian repeats the following saying of another holy father: “If anyone does not recognize himself as a sinner, his prayer is not acceptable to God.” —St. Ignatius Brianchaninov, *The Arena*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus October 7, 2012

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• 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.

• TROPARION OF STS. SERGIUS AND BACCHUS, Tone Four

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, They cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons’ strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, for Thou art merciful.

### ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat., Oct. 6: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions  
6 PM, Baptism of Annmarie Myles
- Sun., Oct. 7: 9 AM, Baptism of Tito Vincente Ramirez  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:30 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape Meal
- Wed., Oct. 10: 5 PM, Catechism  
6 PM, Vespers for the *Synaxis of the Optina Fathers*
- Thurs., Oct. 11: 8:30 AM, Matins and Liturgy, *Optina Fathers*

- WELCOME:

We welcome the newly baptized and illumined Annmarie Myles, infant daughter of Niki and Freddie Myles, and Tito Vincente Ramirez, fiance of Mica Anastasia Castillo. In Baptism, a person of whatever age, receives in place of the old existence he had, a new existence and life, and becomes a child of God, a member of the Body of Christ—which is the Church, and an inheritor of eternal life. One is saved from the oblivion of death, decay and ignorance of God, not because of a teaching, an ideology, philosophy or secret knowledge, but by being joined to the God-Man Jesus Christ, and through Him, to the Father by water and Spirit.

- THE FEAST THIS PAST WEEK:

Last Sunday evening members of the Parish gathered to celebrate the Vigil for the Feast of the Protection of the Holy Virgin. Since the small church, and indeed, our Parish, is dedicated to this particular holy day, naturally the vigil and the liturgy were served there. Father John Schettig served with Archdeacon Kyril Sokolov of San Francisco, and Deacons Jeremiah and Nicholas. I was grateful and honored to sing and conduct the choir, at least for the Vespers portion of the Vigil. The faithful gathered around the magnificent icon of the Protecting Veil of the Theotokos, which had been beautifully decorated by Patricia Krueger and Matushka Katherine Crawford, and we sang our Lady praises for two joyous hours.

The following morning we celebrated the Divine Liturgy, and were pleased to welcome Father Pavel of the Russian Patriarchal parish of St. Nicholas in San Francisco, along with some of his parishioners as well as the Sisters of the two area women's monasteries. After the Gospel, Father Michael offered an extremely uplifting homily, theologically and spiritually concise and convicting, the best that I have heard in 27 years of celebrating this feast here in Santa Rosa. I hope you will take the opportunity to listen to this sermon on our parish website, and be edified.

The Liturgy continued with the Holy Eucharist, given to us by God. Most of those present received Holy Communion, as I had fervently hoped. Why would this have been my hope, and why do I write that here? It is always my fervent hope that you receive Holy Communion frequently and worthily because I love each of you, and desire that you all become sanctified people, united to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and through them to the Theotokos and one another, in the One Body and Blood given in

Communion. Christ has called us to be sanctified in this way, and it is impossible for us to progress in this sanctification without preparation for, and participation in, Holy Communion—we have this teaching from our Lord Himself in John, Chapter 6. And without frequent Holy Communion, we are in grave spiritual danger from the “noetic wolf” as the *Prayer after Communion* makes clear. I say all of this here precisely because this feast of the Protection is about the nature of the Church, united in God, gathered by Him, fed by Him at the Liturgy, sanctified by Him, as we stand together before Him in attentive prayer and worship, the Theotokos standing first among us always directing us to her Son, Jesus Christ.

After the Liturgy we were treated to a beautiful and delicious meal prepared and served by Bobbi Griovski and her delightful crew. Toasts were made, and we all enjoyed the wonderful fellowship.

Historically this feast day is an important part of our parish life, and we pray for the repose of the souls of the founders and benefactors of the parish with gratitude to God for their great sacrifice. They planted, God gave the increase, and we are enjoying the plentiful fruit. In this feast we also glory in the profound teaching, which our experience confirms, that the intercessions of the Mother of God protects us, and directs us to her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. One further aspect of this feast: it comes after the tiring labors of long summer days, the great exertions of Glendi, the change to autumn and the activity of a new school year. For me at least, the Feast is exactly what I need to be reinvigorated and restored for the work I have before me now. I pray that those who have not yet had an opportunity to celebrate this feast and its blessings—the feast of our founding here on 90 Mountain View Avenue, seventy-six years ago, will mark their calendars now for Tuesday, October 1, 2013. —*Father Lawrence*

- COMMENTS ON THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY:

At the Agape Meal this Sunday Father Lawrence and your parish delegate, Bonnie Alexander, will offer comments about their participation at the Denver Diocesan Assembly which took place this last week. Topics to be discussed: the forthcoming November All American Council and the election of a new Metropolitan; the surprising resignation of Abbot Meletios from Manton; the good financial health of the Diocese; new missions; news from the various departments of the Diocese, etc.