

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2013



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath shown strength with His arm; He hath trampled down death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, and hath granted the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF ST. NECTARIOS OF AEGINA, Tone One:

The offspring of Selyvria and the guardian of Aegina, the true friend of virtue who didst appear in the last years, O Nectarios, we faithfully honor thee as a godly servant of Christ, for thou pourest forth healings of every kind for those who piously cry out: Glory to Christ Who hath glorified thee. Glory to Him Who hath made thee wondrous. Glory to Him Who worketh healings for all through thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, TONE THREE:

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

- KONTAKION OF ST. NECTARIOS OF AEGINA (To thee the champion):

Come, let us all laud Orthodoxy's newly shining star and the divine and newly built bulwark of the Church; and in joyfulness of heart, let us sing his praises. By the working of the Spirit was he glorified, and doth pour forth the abundant grace of wondrous cures upon them that cry: Rejoice, O Father Nectarios.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 9:
 - 3:30 PM, Catechism
 - 4:40 PM, Panikhida for Sarah Rohrmann, anniversary of her repose
 - 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confession
- Sunday, Nov. 10:
 - 9–10 AM, Confessions
 - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
 - 11:45 AM, Church School
 - Noon, *Agape Lunch*
- Wed., Nov. 13:
 - 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. John Chrysostom
- Thurs., Nov. 14:
 - At Kazan Skete: 8 AM, Divine Liturgy***
 - Noon, Senior Lunch
 - 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim
- Friday, Nov. 15:
 - 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. Paisius of Moldavia.
 - Beginning of the Nativity Fast (we abstain from meat, eggs, dairy)***

- SAINT NECTARIOS OF AEGINA:

The Saint is commemorated on November 9 of each year. This year we will sing hymns in his honor on Sunday, November 10, so that the entire congregation will benefit. This remarkable and holy Bishop, a spiritual giant, reposed in the Lord in 1920.

- HAPPINESS:

How mistaken are those people who seek happiness outside of themselves, in foreign lands and journeys, in riches and glory, in great possessions and pleasures, in diversions and vain things, which have a bitter end! In the same thing to construct the tower of happiness outside of ourselves as it is to build a house in a place that is consistently shaken by earthquakes. Happiness is found within ourselves, and blessed is the man who has understood this. Happiness is a pure heart, for such a heart becomes the throne of God. Thus says Christ of those who have pure hearts: “I will visit them, and will walk in them, and I will be a God to them, and they will be my people.” (II Cor. 6:16) What can be lacking to them? Nothing, nothing at all! For they have the greatest good in their hearts: God Himself! —*St. Nectarios of Aegina*

- ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPOSE OF SARAH ROHRMANN:

A Panikida will be sung on Saturday prior to Vespers for the repose of the soul of our dear sister-in-Christ Sarah Rohrmann. She reposed in 2009, on November 9. Sarah was a devoted parishioner, a friend of monasteries, a benefactor of the Parish—she left a very generous bequest which enabled us to build the new hall; she was a lover and commissioner of icons—she commissioned St. Nectarios, St. Isidora, the Optina Elders, and St. Ignatius Brianchaninov (to be painted). Memory Eternal.

- MANY YEARS:

We wish Many Years to Father Michael and all those that bear the name of an Angel or Archangel: Michael (Missa-il in Hebrew), which means “Who is like God” / Gabriel (Jibra-il in Hebrew), which means “God’s power” / Raphael (Roupha-il in Hebrew), which means “God’s mercy” / Selaphiel (Salaata-il in Hebrew), which means “prayer to God” / Uriel (Oura-il in Hebrew), which means “God’s light”; Jegudiel (Yagoud-il in Hebrew), which means “God’s glory,” and Barachiel (Baraki-il), which means “God’s blessing.”

According to St. Dionysios the Areopagite, the angels were created as humans in the “image and likeness” of God. According to the “image” because they have an *nous* (a spiritual mind) that generates thoughts (ideas), and to the “likeness” because the angels are directed and attracted toward God. St. John of Damascus says they are creatures limited in space and time; they have their own specific external appearance. Compared to humans, they are bodiless due to the human’s “heavy body,” but compared to God they have a body. “We speak about the angels as bodiless and immaterial compared to us, but in fact everything is heavy and material compared to God, to Whom nobody can be compared, because only the Divine is non-material and bodiless.” He continues to say that, “God created the angels according to His own image and He created them weightless and with heat” in order to be attracted to Him and to serve Him. He adds: “The angel is always in motion, he has free will, gifted with an immortal nature. This nature is *noetic*, thus he has a free changing will.” The angels do not need a tongue or ears to communicate; they interchange thoughts, and their food is *theoria* (vision of God). Angels are messengers, and helpers to mankind and even nations. St. Gregory of Nyssa says, “Angels kneel in front of every man who is born again and celebrate the return of men to the original grace through the Newborn, because they are glad for every man who is saved from sin. This gladness of angels will not be complete until the second coming of Christ, for which the angels are waiting.” See www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2009/11/angels-according-to-orthodox-tradition.html

- BENEFIT DINNER — THANKYOU:

Many, many thanks to all who helped with the Sisterhood Benefit Dinner last Saturday on behalf of Father Michael and Matushka Eleanor Margitich’s combined 85th Birthdays and 60th Ordination Anniversary. It was a

magical evening—and there are at least fifty people to thank for making it a success. Monies raised, in the range of \$7,000, with an additional \$1,400 raised during the event, will be donated to the Parish for use in completing work in the St Seraphim church, as determined by Father Michael. He mentioned fresco work for the Altar not yet done. The Sisterhood and the Benefit Committee wish to thank all of our parishioners and their family members: those who donated and prepared the appetizers, those who donated and prepared the dinner entree; those who arranged tables and set up the hall; those who decorated and made the floral arrangements; those who donated and served the drinks; those who baked and served the desserts; those who designed and prepared the program, the memory booklet and the tablecloths; those who served as greeters; those who served the dinner; those who bussed the tables; those who gave toasts; and to those who cleaned afterwards and re-set the hall. A few persons I forgot to acknowledge and thank by name on Saturday evening were George Barsi and Matushka Ann Margitich for preparing the Memory Photo CD, Tom Pellizzer, Deacon Jeremiah Crawford, Justin Margitich and Mark Margitich for providing the entertainment and Eleni Rose for making the place and table cards, Aaron Brodeur for serving as the official photographer and Denise Pellizzer for making that awesome Moon Photography Backdrop, and not least, Matushka Elaine for serving as an excellent MC. Again, job well done!

- SAINT NICHOLAS PARTY AND PLAY:

This year we will stage a Christmas play—put on by St Seraphim’s Kids—to be performed on Saturday, December 21, following Vespers. We will have a potluck after Great Vespers, than a beautiful Christmas play to share with the parish. If your child would like to be part of this play, please email me as soon as possible. Rehearsals begin in November, so we need to have a head count as soon as possible. Lara and Carmen Anderson will direct the play. If there are any adults or teenagers that would like to assist in any way please contact me. We are looking forward to this Christmas season!

Practices for the play will be held on Saturdays, Nov. 16, 23, Dec. 7 and 14, beginning at 3:30 PM, and finishing before Vespers at 5 PM. —Gloria Collins, 849-6135, gypsybootsie@att.net

- CATHOLIC CHARITIES PRESENTATION — NOV. 17:

Fr. Lawrence has arranged for Amy Ramirez Margitich and a colleague from the family shelter of the local Catholic Charities to come to our **Agape Meal on Sunday, November 17**. They will speak to us about how we might participate in working with the shelter located downtown. Of the various ways our parish can get involved, one would be to fund a room at the shelter for a year by offering \$100 per month.

- TUESDAY NIGHT STUDY GROUP:

A series of talks will be presented on *The Protestant Reformation: An Orthodox Perspective*. Classes will be held on Tuesdays at 7 PM, in the home of Cathy and Nilus Veenis, 1670 Fulton Road, Santa Rosa. 526-2284.

Topics for November:

- November 12: The Precursors; Hus, Wycliffe, et al., Deacon Nicholas
- November 19: Luther and a “formal Orthodox response” to the Reformation, Deacon Jeremiah
- November 26: Calvin, Zwingli and the “Reformed Tradition,” Deacon Nicholas

- FROM THE BOOKSTORE:

A cache of CDs of Fr. Michael’s sermons from several years ago was brought out of the Bookstore for the gala benefit dinner on November 2. Copies are still available (at \$10, including sales tax), and we are all encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. We know the eloquence and value of Fr. Michael’s homilies, and these recordings reenforce those qualities. Perhaps more important for us, the recorded talks recreate the vigor and passion of our beloved Archpriest when he was a younger man with the gift of powerful speaking. His words guided many of us then; they can inspire all of us now and for years to come.

• FEBRUARY 14:

St. Valentine's Day is notorious for being a difficult time for those in love. What should I get her? What should I give him? Would this gift be too impersonal... or too personal? Or perhaps you don't have a special someone. Avoid all the headaches and plan on being at the MUSIC AND POETRY EVENING scheduled for February 14, 2014. This will **not be a talent show**, but it will be a presentation of the best by the best in our Parish. Details will follow.

• CHRISTIAN GIVING:

Every Orthodox Christian acknowledges that we should give to the support of our Church. We all realize that we should return to God a portion of that which we have received from Him. Problems often arise, however, when we must decide how much to give. Do we determine the amount simply by whim? Do we provide for all the "necessities" of life (which usually includes a few luxuries as well), and then give to God a bit from what is left over? The first and over-riding principle of Christian stewardship is that we give proportionally, that is, a percentage of our income. We yield back to God according to the degree that we have been blessed; the more He has given us, the more we should return, in gratitude and love. We give to God not merely a portion of what we receive, but a proportion. One of the most pernicious ideas about giving, and one very often heard, is that we give because "the Church needs the money." Yes, the Church exists in the world and needs funds to conduct its work. However, the Church trusts that God doesn't need our funds in order for the Church to survive (It's good to remember that not all parishes survive in this world. Many close down.) The more important spiritual basis of giving based on our awareness that God has given us everything that we have. We give back in gratitude to Him, **trusting** that He will take care of us. We give so that we who have been richly blessed may also contribute toward the mission of the Church.

We cannot look first at the Church's "needs" and then decide how much we feel like contributing toward meeting them. When we approach stewardship in this way, we only pretend to put the needs of the Church first. Our thinking is not focussed on the Church but on ourselves. We need, above all, to see giving as a part of our spiritual life, and that, like prayer, fasting, Scripture reading, etc., giving is something which contributes to our growth in God's image and likeness. When we do this we not only grow personally, but we provide our Church with the resources necessary to fulfill the mission which Christ has created it to perform. —*borrowed*


NEXT LIVE BROADCAST SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

ANCIENT FAITH
TODAY
WITH KEVIN ALLEN

CALL IN LIVE AT 8 PM EASTERN/5 PM PACIFIC

Father Wilbur Ellsworth, prominent ex-Baptist pastor and now priest of Holy Transfiguration Antiochian Orthodox Church in Warrenville, Ohio, discusses with host Kevin Allen the challenges and opportunities of presenting Orthodoxy as plausible to non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers.

**Making Orthodoxy
Plausible for the
Non-Orthodox**



The call-in number is:

1-855-AFRADIO (1-855-237-2346)



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