

bringing us “remission of sins.” St. Ambrose wrote, “This is the image of the eternal King, at the price of whose wounds we are healed. We are redeemed by the precious blood, that we may avoid eternal death and alienation from God after we have died.” The man that was beaten, robbed and left to die represents fallen man. Christ came to where he was and brought him to the Inn—the Church—to rest and regain his strength and eventually become a Good Samaritan as well. We who are the faithful, patients at the Spiritual Hospital of the Church, are called to become inn-keepers, caring for others, caring for those that the Lord brings to us. Christ built the Church, His Inn, and has asked us to sustain it by prayer and worship, mercy and love. And this parable is given to us NOW, as we enter into the Nativity Fast on November 15 to prepare for the Feast of the Incarnation. The Church directs our attention at this time precisely so that we might remember our responsibility—not just to our own souls, to love it and care for it—but to love and care for others as did the Samaritan: “go and do likewise” says the Savior. Such active love is an antidote for fear, anxiety, uncertainty and apathy. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- LOT AND THE FLEA:

James (age four) was listening to a Bible story. His dad read: “The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.” Concerned, James asked: “What happened to the flea?”

- THE SERMON THIS MOM WILL NEVER FORGET:

“Dear Lord,” the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. “Without you, we are but dust...” He would have continued, but at that moment my four-year-old daughter leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little voice, “Mom, what is butt dust?”

- THE LIFE OF ALL:

God belongs to all free beings. He is the life of all, the salvation of all—faithful and unfaithful, just and unjust, pious and impious, passionate and dispassionate, monks and laymen, wise and simple, healthy and sick, young and old—just as the effusion of light, the sight of the sun, and the changes of the seasons are for all alike; “for there is no respect of persons with God.”

—*St. John Climacus, The Ladder of Divine Ascent*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER 13, 2016

Feast of St. John Chrysostom

- 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 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, Tone Eight:

Grace shining forth from thy mouth like a beacon hath illumined the universe, and disclosed to the world treasures of uncovetousness, and shown us the heights of humility; but while instructing by thy words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede with the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

- RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION, Tone Four:

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb, and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hades, and as Master, He has risen on the third day.

- KONTAKION OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, Tone Two:

From the heavens hast thou received divine grace and by thy lips thou dost teach all to worship the One God in Trinity, O John Chrysostom, all-blessed righteous one. Rightly do we acclaim thee, for thou art a teacher revealing things divine.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 12: 3:30 PM, Catechism: *On Sin*
5 PM, Great Vespers

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- Sunday, Nov. 13: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tuesday, Nov. 15: **Beginning of the Nativity Fast**
- Wednesday, Nov. 16: 7 AM, Divine Liturgy: Feast of St. Matthew
(*in Protection Church*)
6 PM, Vespers (*in Protection Church*)
- Saturday, Nov. 19 : 3:30 PM, Catechism: *Jesus Christ the Son of God*
4 PM, Children's Choir
5 PM, Great Vespers

- PRUNING VINES:

Norm Vachon plans to do some vineyard pruning this Sunday, Nov. 13, from 1:30–3:30 PM, and is looking for volunteers. Bring your pruning shears.

- PRESENTATION POSTPONED:

Kendra Meshnik's talk on her work in Guatemala with the OCMC — scheduled for Wednesday—has been postponed. New date TBD.

- FROM THE BOOKSTORE:

Christmas shopping alert! Our shelves hold a large and varied stock of books for children (young, older and old). Please stop by and check off names on your gift list.

- UPCOMING: FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS:

I encourage all of you to set aside some time for the Vespers of the *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*, Sunday, November 20 at 1:15 PM, and for the Matins and Liturgy the next morning at 8:30 AM. Those that know this feast look forward to hearing the Nativity hymn “Christ is born, glorify Him...” at the Matins of the Feast, because it invites us to prepare for the birth of the Savior.

- RETREAT AT HOLY TRINITY IN SF:

Archpriest Micahel Oleksa, former rector of our parish, will give a retreat at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Green St. in San Francisco on Saturday, November 26, 9 AM–2:30 PM. Call 415-673-8565 for more information.

- SISTERHOOD GET-TOGETHER:

On Saturday, November 26th after Vespers (about 6:30), I'll be hosting a

Sisterhood Get-together at my house. We have a couple special birthdays this month (Shenina and Vicky) and probably others. There are also several “Catherines” celebrating their name-day. I'm asking that it be a light potluck affair, just so we can spend some social time together (in a lenten fashion of course). Please let me know if you will attend. Call me at 707-544-1948, or email me at csowens@comcast.net. My address is 1709 Walnut Creek Drive, Santa Rosa. If you know any ladies in the church who might not receive this e-mail, please pass the invite on. —*Barbara Owens*

- THANKSGIVING DINNER PROJECT “FAMILIES TO FAMILIES:

Help provide Thanksgiving dinner for 100 Sonoma County families living in poverty. \$50.00 provides for a full Thanksgiving Dinner Food Box. If you, or your family, are not able to sponsor a full box, please consider sharing a box with other church members! In an effort to make this charity effort efficient we will be accepting monetary donations only (checks can be made out to St. Seraphim Church/charity). Help will be needed in putting together individual boxes (times to be announced). This effort is extremely appreciated and impactful. If you have any questions, you can contact Amy Ramirez Margitich at fosasquatch@gmail.com or Serge Anderson at s.anderson4990@sbcglobal.net.

- MASTER PLAN MEETING:

Please plan to participate in the Master Plan Meeting Wednesday, November 30 at 7 PM. We will be finalizing the new set of priorities (for 1, 3, 5 and 10 year projections), so it will be crucial to have as many people attending as possible. This meeting will set the stage for the next year and more of engagement and focus. Our moderator and guide is Sean Esbjörn-Hargens.

- THOUGHTS ON THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN:

We have the image of four Sacraments (Holy Mysteries) offered to us by Jesus in this Gospel lesson. When the Samaritan comes to the man who was beaten and left half-dead and saves him, this represents the new life given by God in Baptism. The oil the Good Samaritan—Who is Jesus Christ—applied to heal the man of his wounds represents both the Holy Mystery of Chrismation and of Holy Unction. The “seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit” is the beginning our healing. The Good Samaritan used not only oil, but also wine for the purpose of healing and restoring the wounded man; the wine represents the Blood of the Lord given in Holy Communion. But there's more: the Good Samaritan offered two *denari*—coins—in the form of a payment. This is significant because it relates to how Christ died for us,