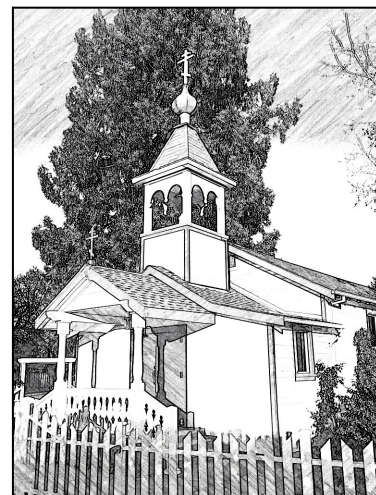


# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, November 17, 2019

St. Gregory the Wonderworker



- 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. GREGORY, Tone Eight:

By vigilance in prayer, perseverance in the working of wonders, thou didst obtain the name of thine achievements, but intercede with Christ our God, O Father Gregory, to enlighten our souls, lest we sleep in sin unto death.

- KONTAKION OF ST. GREGORY, Tone Two:

Having received the power to work many miracles, thou didst terrify the demons with fearful signs, and thou didst banish the diseases of men, O supremely-wise Gregory. Wherefore, thou art called a wonderworker, having obtained thy name from thy works.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 16:
  - 3:30 PM, Play Rehearsal
  - 3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Sin*
  - 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 17:
  - 8:30 AM, Matins
  - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
  - 11:45 AM, Church School
  - Noon, Agape Meal
- Wednesday, Nov. 20:
  - 6:15 PM, Vigil for the *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*
- Thursday, Nov. 21:
  - 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, *Feast of the Entrance*
  - 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Saturday, Nov. 23:
  - 3:30 PM, Play Rehearsal
  - 3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Jesus Christ*
  - 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 24:
  - 8:30 AM, Matins
  - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy (Feast of St. Catherine)
  - 11:45 AM, Church School
  - Noon, Agape Meal

***The Nativity Fast begins on November 15***



• 7TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER PROJECT:  
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). Contact Amy Ramirez Margitich at [fosasquatch@gmail.com](mailto:fosasquatch@gmail.com) and at (707) 478-6767 or Serge Anderson at [s.anderson4990@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.anderson4990@sbcglobal.net) and at (707) 291-7452. Assembly of the dinner boxes will take place on Nov. 26 and 27 in the Parish Hall.

• FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS—NOV. 20 AND 21:

As we celebrate the *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*, the Church vividly shows us that the goal of this Nativity Advent season—indeed, of our entire life—is to become a living temple of the glory of God. This is what it means that the Kingdom of God is within. The *Troparion* of the Feast proclaims, “Today is the prelude of God’s goodwill.” To know that our destiny—body and soul—is to be bearers of the Holy Trinity is the good news of salvation. **On Wednesday evening, Nov. 20**, during Matins, the hymns will call us to prepare for Christmas: “Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ is from heaven, receive Him. Christ is on earth, be exalted...” One pastor wrote that “with these words something changes in our life, in the very air we breathe, in the entire mood of the Church’s life. It is as if we perceive far, far away, the first light of the greatest possible joy— the coming of God into His world! Thus the Church announces the coming of Christ, the Incarnation of God, His entrance into the world for its salvation.” On this feast of the Entrance, we hear how the three year old Virgin was led into the Temple by young maidens, who joyfully carried their lamps before her, who is the Noetic Torch; in a “noble manner they take her into the Holy of Holies, going before and foretelling the ineffable Ray [Christ] which shall shine forth from her, lighting in the spirit those who sit in the darkness of folly.” (*Vespers Hymn*). The Church ranks this feast as a “great feast day” and calls all the faithful to partake of the joy and grace of this day. —Fr. Lawrence

• CARITAS VILLAGE TOUR:

On Thursday a number of our parish members toured the Catholic Charities Family Shelter

## Festive Christmas Bazaar

Find gorgeous handmade gifts and stocking stuffers, and support local businesses...

Have some family time with live music at the kid's craft tables...

Taste the season with delicious warm drinks and ethnic baked goods, including our famous baklava...

Learn about the rich history of Orthodoxy and the ancient art of fresco painting in our church tours...

### And so much more!

Saturday, November 30th 11:00 - 4:00 at Saint Seraphim Orthodox Church  
90 Mountainview Ave. Santa Rosa, CA  
Guest Speakers at 11:30, 1:00 and 3:00

downtown to learn about the new Caritas Village project. We were mightily impressed. The Village includes a housing-focused service center, emergency family shelter, and 128 units of permanent, supportive, affordable housing for those in need. The Village will replace the aging facilities (the former Santa Rosa hospital) on Morgan and A Streets. Ground-breaking will take place in a year. There are approximately 3,000 homeless people (includes children) in the County. Many residents of the County are a paycheck away from being homeless. 85% of the homeless population have been living in the area before they became homeless. Our parish sends monthly support \$200 for two rooms at the Family Shelter. Perhaps we can do more. —Fr. Lawrence

• AN INVITATION FROM ST. NICHOLAS PARISH:

On behalf of the entire parish of St. Nicholas in San Anselmo, I would like to cordially invite you and your family and your flock to join us in the celebration of our “altar feast” on December 6th. The Festal Vigil will begin at 7:00 on Thursday evening. The Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30 on Friday. Your presence is very special to us at St. Nicholas, not only as our neighbor, but also as most cherished friend! If any two parishes in the Bay area have a genuine “sister” relationship, it is St. Seraphim and St. Nicholas! There will be a festal trapeza and fellowship following the Liturgy with a “visit” from St. Nicholas. As usual, all proceeds from our annual raffle will go to the support of designated charities. This year we will be blessed by the presence of His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, at both the Festal Vigil and the Divine Liturgy. —Fr. Stephan Meholic

• THE NEED FOR A SENSE OF URGENCY:

...Remind yourself every day that “now” is in our hands, but “tomorrow” is in the hands of God, and that He who gave you this morning has not bound Himself with the promise to give you the evening too. Refuse to listen to the devil when he whispers to you: *give me now, and you will give tomorrow to God*. No, no! Spend all the hours of your life in a way pleasing to God; keep in your mind the thought that after the present hour you will not be given another and that you will have to render a strict account for every minute of this present hour. Remember that the time you have in your hands is priceless and if you waste it uselessly, the hour will come when you will seek and not find it. Consider as lost day when, although performing good deeds, you have not struggled to overcome your bad tendencies and desires. To end my lesson on this subject, I shall repeat the Apostle’s commandment: “Fight the good fight” always (I Tim 6:12). For one hour of diligent work has often gained heaven and one hour of negligence has lost it. Take care if you want to prove before God your firm faith in your salvation. “He that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat” (Prov 28:25) —*Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain*, from the book *Unseen Warfare*.

• RUSSIAN CONVERSATION:

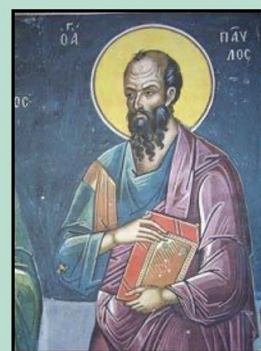
Пока наш любимый преподаватель находится со своей семьей в Украине, ее ученики хотели бы организовать русскую беседу с носителями языка. Если вы хотите поддержать начинающих ораторов, ответьте Владимиру на [ursusmjr@sonic.net](mailto:ursusmjr@sonic.net).

• SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NATIVITY FAST:

– Pray for people: prepare a list of names, and once a week or more frequently pray the *Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos*, or a portion of it. Ask the Theotokos to help those people.

– Celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas (San Anselmo, Dec. 6, see above) which spiritually ushers us—with joyful

## Scripture Study of the Epistle to the Romans



WEDNESDAYS:  
November 27  
December 4, 11 and 18  
Potluck, following  
Daily Vespers at 6 PM

exuberance—into the Nativity season. Celebrate the Feast of St. Herman of Alaska, December 13.

- Each week as you set aside a financial offering to the Church in thanksgiving to God, also set aside a portion to give to the poor.
- Fast from meat, eggs, cheese, and all dairy. Abstaining from particular foods is really the easiest part of the fast. Much more effort is required when fasting from anger, criticism, resentments, and wandering thoughts, especially those of lust and envy and wasting time in idleness and pointless entertainments. Even more effort is required when we engage in works of mercy to the needy.
- Attend Vespers on Saturday evening, and by doing so, prepare yourself for Communion on Sunday. Confess at least twice during the Forty Day Fast, one of those times in the week prior to Christmas.
- Volunteer at one of Santa Rosa's many charitable institutions (Catholic Charities, Redwood Gospel Mission, the Living Room, Bridges Pregnancy Care Center, etc.).
- In the week before Christmas read the Nativity accounts from St. Matthew and St. Luke.



**Holy Trinity Cathedral & Pacific Central Deanery  
Annual Advent Retreat**

**Saturday, December 7, 2019**

## **Meant to be Mediators!**

***Mutual Prayer at the center of our lives***

**Dr. Edith M. Humphrey**

**William F. Orr Professor of New Testament  
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**

If every Christian has a direct relationship with the Father, through Jesus Christ, then why are the prayers of the saints so important? Why do we pray for each other? Shouldn't we simply go "straight to the top?" We are excited to have Professor Edith M. Humphrey with us to discover what the Scriptures and the Fathers have to say about the nature of the Church and why our prayers one for another are so crucial.

### **SCHEDULE**

10:00 am	Registration
10:30 am	<a href="#">First session</a>
11:45 am	Lunch
12:45 pm	<a href="#">Second session</a>
1:45 pm	Short break
2:00 pm	<a href="#">Third session</a>
3:00 pm	Closing Prayer

Pre-register at [holytrinity.org/events](http://holytrinity.org/events) with a suggested donation of \$20.

Registration will be accepted at the door as space permits with a suggested donation of \$25.

Contact Father Kirill Sokolov, Dean, at [frkirill@holy-trinity.org](mailto:frkirill@holy-trinity.org) or 415-673-8565 with questions or to register by mail or phone. Please pre-register regardless of your ability to contribute. We look forward to seeing you!



**Holy Trinity Cathedral**

1520 Green Street @ Van Ness Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
[holy-trinity.org](http://holy-trinity.org)

Parking available at St. Brigid School (Enter on Broadway between Van Ness and Franklin)