

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Martyrs Plato and Romanos

November 18, 2012



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF STS. PLATO AND ROMANOS, 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

- Saturday, Nov. 17:
  - 8 AM, Work Party
  - 9 AM, Panikhida for the Duquette family
  - Noon, Blessing at Pleasant Hills Cemetery
  - 3:30 PM, Catechism: *The Church as Spiritual Hospital*, Vincent Rossi to present
  - 5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 18:
  - 9 AM, Confessions
  - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
  - Noon, Agape Meal
- Tuesday, Nov. 20:
  - 1 PM, Panikhida for George Koloboff, anniversary of repose
  - 6 PM, *Great Vespers for Entrance of the Theotokos*
- Wednesday, Nov. 21:
  - 8:30 AM, *Matins and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entrance*
- Thursday, Nov. 22:
  - 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day, singing of Akathist—*Glory to God*

- FOR PARENTS:

Please supervise your children at all times, and most importantly, accompany them if for any reason they need to leave the Church during the Divine Liturgy. The property is large, and being a public place, parents are asked to know at all times the whereabouts of their children.

- METROPOLITAN TIKHON—EIS POLLA ETI DHESPOTA:

Clergy and laity of the OCA gathered on Tuesday, November 13, the feast of the Pastor of pastors, Preacher of preachers, St. John Chrysostom, in Parma, OH., to nominate and elect a new metropolitan, a “first among equals” and the one to preside with his brother bishops on the Holy Synod. After the ballots were cast (two

different ballots) and results were announced, no one name received an official majority, although there were three that did receive high vote counts. The Holy Synod then retired to the Altar to finalize the election by their own balloting between the three, one assumes. The name of Archbishop Tikhon of Eastern Pennsylvania was chosen out of all. The Council expressed its overwhelming approval and joy at this selection. Metropolitan Tikhon is a humble, kind, intelligent, experienced and by all accounts, holy man. Let us thank the Lord that He has raised up one, chosen from the people, to be our Metropolitan. Photos can be seen at [www.oca.org/media/photos/day-2-17th-all-american-council](http://www.oca.org/media/photos/day-2-17th-all-american-council). Some brief comments about the election will be given during our agape meal by our parish delegates, Fred, Sam and myself. —Fr. Lawrence

- THANKSGIVING HOSPITALITY:

If you or someone you know does not have a place to spend Thanksgiving, please let one of the clergy know. We have several people who would like to open their homes so everyone has a place to spend the holiday.

- FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE:

**Vespers for this Feast, ranked as one of the Twelve Great Feasts, will be served on Tuesday, November 20 at 6 PM; Matins and Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, starting at 8:30 AM.** As we celebrate the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, we offer a hymn of praise to her who became a living temple of God. Our merciful Lord calls each one of us to also become a living temple of His glory, and so sets the goal of this Nativity Advent season which we began on Thursday, November 15 with the Fast. As the Troparion of the Feast proclaims, “Today is the prelude of God’s goodwill.” And indeed, to know that our destiny—body and soul—is to be bearers of the Holy Trinity is news of salvation. It is during Matins that we first hear the joyous words of the Nativity hymns: “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.” Thus we continue our time of fasting and preparation in joyous knowledge of what awaits: the uncontainable God, born in the cave of the Virgin for the salvation of mankind. *Today the young maidens come forth joyfully, carrying their lamps before the super-sensuous torch, and in a noble manner take her into the Holy of Holies, going before and foretelling the ineffable Ray which shall shine forth from her, lighting in the spirit those who sit in the darkness of folly.* —A hymn from Vespers.

- PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE:

Those who missed the opportunity last Sunday to have your photo taken for the directory, please see Aaron Brodeur after the Divine Liturgy. He will be stationed with his camera in front of the storage building.

- SANCTIFY THE TIME—KEEPING THE FAST FOR NATIVITY:

...the time that defines today is that of the Nativity of Christ. “Four periods of the year have been set aside as times of abstinence, so that over the course of the year, amid life’s distractions, we might recognize our constant need of sanctification” (St. Leo the Great). As Orthodox Christians, it is our obligation to enter into the fasts of the apostolic tradition. Our preparation for Nativity is no less important than that of Lent for Pascha—no less important and no less of an opportunity for the experience of Grace...Fr. Alexander Schmemmann tells us, “We can only worship in time, yet it is worship that ultimately not only reveals the meaning of time, but truly ‘renews’ time itself. There is no worship without the participation of the body, without words and silence, light and darkness, movement and stillness—yet it is in and through worship that all these essential expressions of man in his relation to the world are given their ultimate ‘term’ of reference, and revealed in their highest and deepest meaning.” St. Simeon of Thessalonica wrote that “the Nativity Forty-day Fast is an icon of the fast undertaken by Moses, who, having fasted for forty days and forty nights, received the Commandments of God, written on tablets of stone. And we, fasting for forty days, will reflect upon and receive from the Virgin the living Word of God—not written upon stone, but born, incarnate, and we will commune of His Divine Body.” —Fr. Thaddeus Hardenbrook

- ALMS-GIVING TO THE POOR

No one can say, “I am poor and hence I have no means of giving alms to the poor.” For even if you cannot give as the rich gave their gifts into the temple treasury, give two farthings as the poor widow did, and from you God will consider it a greater gift than the gifts of the rich. —*St. Dorotheos*

- A PLAN TO READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE—starting Dec. 1:

Orthodox Christians love and trust the Bible. They read it regularly, study it with fervent prayer; seek guidance in understanding it. Daily reading reveals to us that the words of the Bible are “living and active.” Bible reading, like most other things, needs structure, or else nothing gets done. Toward providing structure, **a daily Bible reading-plan is will be available to you by Sunday, November 25, St. Catherine Day.** This plan aims at reading the entire Bible—starting December 1—over the course of one year. Surely it will be a daunting and challenging task, but also an extremely rewarding one. With the plan there will be information to help us in our goal. I hope you will enter into this great work of engaging with words of “spirit and life.”

- HOLIDAY BAZAAR:

Saturday, December 1, 11 AM–3 PM, and Sunday, December 2, Noon to 2 PM. We need donations of crafts and baked goods from everyone—see Tatiana Castillo who is in charge of Crafts; Kristine Tellefsen, in charge of the Bakery. Set up and cooking will take place on Nov. 29 and 30. Help is needed on those two days, as well as on Saturday. Contact info: Bobbi Griovski at 762-4742 (or cell 707-477-8418) or by email at bgriovski@sbcglobal.net if you are able to help in any way during the event or the days of preparation. If you have crafts, contact Tatiana at 776-0845. Please bring your baked goods on Friday afternoon or before 10 AM on Saturday.

- LOOKING AHEAD, DECEMBER 6:

St. Nicholas Parish in San Anselmo will celebrate its “altar feast” on December 6th. *Vigil* at 7 PM on Wednesday evening 12/5/2012, and the *Hierarchical Divine Liturgy* at 9:30 AM on 12/6. 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 again blessed by the presence of His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, at both the Festal Vigil and the Divine Liturgy.

- ZEAL:

The zealot according to knowledge, motivated by the love of God and his neighbor, does all things with love and self-effacement; he does nothing that might bring sorrow to his neighbor; such a zealot is enlightened by knowledge and nothing prompts him to deviate from what is morally right. The Christian who is inspired by zeal not according to knowledge is a ruinous man who turns the Gospel of Grace and love upside down. His zeal is a seductive fire, a consuming fire. Destruction comes forth from him and desolation follows in his wake. He beseeches God to send down fire from Heaven and to devour all of those who do not embrace his principles and convictions. He is characterized by hatred for those of other religions and confessions, envy and persistent anger, violent resistance to the true spirit of Divine Law, an unreasonable obstinacy in defending his own views, a passionate zeal for prevailing in all things, the love of glory, quarrels, contention, and a love of turmoil. —St. Nektarios of Aegina. from *Self-Knowledge*, pp. 135-136.

- ATTENTION ALL PARISH SENIORS!

At our last Senior luncheon we introduced our first ever “Giving Tree” project which will provide Christmas presents to a child in the parish, and some outside of our parish, that would otherwise go without on Christmas Day. If you were unable to attend the last luncheon on November 8 but would still like to help a needy child, we have **six children** in need of a gift. Next time you are in the Hall, help yourself to one of the “gift tags” hanging on the tree. The “gift tag” has the age and sex of a child in need. Buy an appropriate gift, wrap it and attach the “gift tag.” Return the gift at our *December 13/St. Herman Day Luncheon* or bring it to the church office. We will make sure your gift is delivered before Christmas. Also, please **Save the Date**. We are planning a progressive House Blessing event on January 10th. Please mark it on your calendar. More details to come.

- REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSION BARRELS IN PARISH HALL:

Please bring canned goods and coats/jackets in excellent condition which will be delivered to the Redwood Gospel Mission downtown.

- COLLEGE STUDENTS:

The organization called *Orthodox Christian Fellowship* offers you an opportunity to really live it up and be a light to the world this Spring! For over a decade, **OCF's Real Break** has organized trips all over the world, sending college-aged young adults out to meet Christ in serving the needs of others. The Real Break experience will challenge you in many ways, physically, emotionally and spiritually. You will walk away with a life-transforming experience that will not only re-charge your batteries for school, but it will feed your soul and allow you to better understand your own vocation or calling in life. This year trips are planned for Guatemala to serve at the Hogar Ophanage; Honduras to work with the Orthodox parish there to feed the hungry, visit the sick; New Orleans to work with Habitat for Humanity; Constantinople, to restore an ancient Orthodox cemetery, working with the Ecumenical Patriarch's staff; Project Mexico, to assist in home construction and visit the Orthodox orphanage there; LA Skid Row to serve the poor (estimated 20,000 homeless there). See Father Lawrence for more information and how to raise funds to afford **Real Break**. For more info see [www.ocf.net/wikis/programs/real-break-program.aspx](http://www.ocf.net/wikis/programs/real-break-program.aspx)

- BRINGING PEACE:

You cannot cure the soul of others or “help people,” without having changed yourself. You cannot put in order the spiritual economy of others, so long as there is chaos in your own soul. You cannot bring peace to others if you do not have it yourself. Often, we help other people, not by a series of conscious acts directed upon their soul, but rather by influencing them through our spiritual gifts, without ourselves seeing or knowing how we do so. Once St. Anthony the Great asked a visitor who said nothing at all, “Why do you not ask me anything?” and the other answered, “It is enough for me to look at you, holy father.” —Fr. Alexander Elchaninov (reposed 1953) from *The Diary of a Russian Priest*

- DIOCESAN MEMBERSHIP REPORTS:

Come January our parish is obligated to send to the Diocese the number of people we have listed as “parishioners.” This year we will format our list in a little bit different way than in the past. First, we will list the names of all our active parishioners, meaning, all Orthodox Christians who attend Services here on a regular basis of whatever age. We have about 180 names on that list, possibly more. Secondly, we will list those parishioners who are “Parish Members,” (we have 118 last count) i.e., those who fulfill the following requirements:

- at least eighteen years of age
- Confess and Commune in this parish on a regular basis
- strive to lead a life in obedience to the moral, spiritual, theological and doctrinal teachings of the Orthodox Church
- Make regular offerings. Please note, these are not “dues” since the Church is not a club. And because the offerings are free will offerings, based on the scripturally supported concept of proportional giving (we give a portion from what God blesses us), there is no need to indicate a minimum amount for the offerings, although the parish does make an offering to the Diocese of \$200 for each member it claims

The fourth point regarding offerings is not strictly according to the Bylaws of the Parish—Article X, section 5(a)—however, it **is** according to the spirit of the Bylaws, the teachings of the Scriptures (1 Cor. 16:2, to cite one verse), and the giving standard of the Parish to the Diocese (our parish makes a tithe of 10% of the budget to the Diocese). When the lists are posted in the *Annual Meeting Report Book*, and if your name does not appear in one or both lists, please do see me or Petar Griovski immediately. With an attendance of 200 on the average Sunday, I would hope that both lists, the Parishioner List and the Member List would be—accounting for children under eighteen—very close.