

• COUNTERACTING THE RICH FOOL OF LUKE 12:

You see, each of us lives in two realms, the *within* and the *without*. Jesus called this man a fool [in Luke 12] because he allowed the means by which he lived to outdistance the ends for which he lived. You see, each of us lives in two realms, the within and the without. Now, the within of our lives is that realm of spiritual ends expressed in art, literature, religion, and morality. The without of our lives is that complex of devices, of mechanisms and instrumentalities by means of which we live. The house we live in—that's a part of the means by which we live. The car we drive, the clothes we wear, the money that we are able to accumulate—in short, the physical stuff that's necessary for us to exist. Now the problem is that we must always keep a line of demarcation between the two. This man was a fool because he didn't do that. —*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

If you give something to one in need, let the cheerfulness of your face precede your gift, and comfort his sorrow with kind words. When you do this, by your gift the gladness of his mind surpasses even the needs of his body. —*St. Isaac the Syrian*

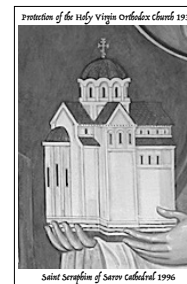
Send your treasures to the heavenly storage room. Deposit your wealth in God's Bank, distributing it to the poor, the orphans and the widows, so that you can receive a million times more in the Second Coming of Christ. —*Elder Joseph the Hesychast*

• STEADFAST PRAYER:

“I have cried, for You have hearkened unto me, O God. Incline Your ear unto me, and hearken unto my words.” (Psalm 17:6) Experience is of inestimable value in our spiritual life. Experiences are important because they give us the courage to continue. But woe to the person who does not have spiritual experiences. Our inner experiences of God during prayer of His presence, of communion with Him, and the spiritual joy that this gives us – herald the joy that will be ours for eternity. It is as if we were already living the resurrection to which we are journeying. And this is precisely why we have the strength to confront life's difficulties with so much patience. Our journey is *per crucem*, that is, “through the cross,” but *ad lucem*, “to the light.” And we make our way to the light having already tasted, having already experienced, the joy of communion with God. —*Elder Aemelianos of Athos*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



November 19, 2017

Prophet Obadiah



- 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.
- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:
The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hades is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: The Savior has come to them that have faith. Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 18: 3:30 PM, Catechism *On Sin*
4 PM, Children's Choir
5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions

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- Sunday, Nov. 19: 9:30 AM, Reception of Catechumens
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
9th Day Memorial for Fr. Michael
- Monday, Nov. 20: 6:15 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
- Tuesday, Nov. 21: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast
- Wednesday, Nov. 22: 6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Nov. 23: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day

• RECEPTION OF CATECHUMENS:

On Sunday morning at 9:30 AM we will receive the following as Catechumens: Sarah Stewart, Hannah Prudhomme, Sonya Elm with her two children Luke and Lilly. The exorcisms and prayers are said by the priest in the name of our Lord, and by extension, in the name of the Church—which means that this ceremony is of importance for the entire parish. We support our catechumens by our presence, our prayers and our good example, so do plan on coming to stand with them. Did you know that when the catechumens are directed by the deacon to “depart, all catechumens, depart” they go to the Parish Library where they will have a lesson taught by one of our seven catechists?

• FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE, MONDAY AND TUESDAY:

As we celebrate the Feast of the *Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*, the Church very vividly shows us that the goal of this Nativity Advent season—indeed, of our entire life—is to also become a living temple of His glory. 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 Monday evening, 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*

• THANKSGIVING DINNERS:

Serge Anderson and Amy Ramirez are organizing, on behalf of our parish, Thanksgiving dinner for 100 Sonoma County families living in poverty. Your contribution of \$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 please contact*** Amy Ramirez Margitich at fosasquatch@gmail.com or Serge Anderson at s.anderson4990@sbcglobal.net.

• ON HUMILITY:

Humility is such a simple friend, sitting patiently, always at our side. He holds the key to our freedom and will open every door. When we've done wrong, he is there to ease the shame; tossing copious flower petals thick upon the ground, and softening the pain when we fall to our knees. He turns the abhorrent word, repentance, into a beautiful action that makes all things pure again. Some men, in their foolishness, imagine him to be a doormat, which others will wipe their shoes on, or trample across as they go about their business. But they don't see, and can't understand, that humility is the strength which gives us the power to face any challenge, find victory in any difficulty, and to soften any blow. Humility is an outstretched net, catching us softly when we fall from the heights of our pride. He is like a beautiful butterfly, with outstretched wings carrying us to safety from the depths of an abyss. And if we fall into an abyss, and find ourselves in despair, humility is also a ladder by which we climb up and out and back into the sunlight. Humility is an open door and such a simple, loving friend, always ready to help and loyal to the end. —*Francis Spillane*