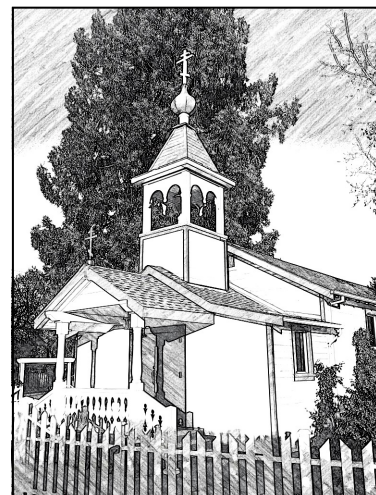


ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Forefeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos



- 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 THE PREFEAST, Tone Four:

Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow, by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin. In fulfillment of her vow, today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.

- KONTAKION OF THE PREFEAST, Tone Four, to the melody "On this day...":

The whole world is filled today with joy and gladness on the Theotokos' auspicious and resplendent feast, whereon with great voice it crieth out: she is in truth the heavenly tabernacle.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 19: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy (in Norwegian)
3:30 PM, Catechism, on *Jesus Christ, the Son of God*
4 PM, Children's Choir Rehearsal
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, Nov. 20: 9:30 AM, *Receive Jesse Capella into catechumenate*
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School / Noon, Agape
1:15 PM, Vespers for the Feast of the *Entrance of the Theotokos*
- Monday, Nov. 21: 8:30 AM, Matins and Divine Liturgy for the Feast
- Tuesday, Nov. 22: 7 PM, Rohnert Park Study Group at Gretchen's house (see info below)
- Wednesday, Nov. 23: 6 PM, Vespers for the Great Martyr Catherine
- Thursday, Nov. 24: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. Catherine and Thanksgiving Day

- NOVEMBER 21 ~ FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE.

Vespers on Sunday, November 20 at 1:15 PM; **Matins/Divine Liturgy** at 8:30 AM, Monday, November 21.

The great Feast of the *Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple* is not only an opportunity for us to laud the Virgin Mary and her noble and pious parents at Vespers, Matins and the Divine Liturgy, but to be present in spirit to the

reality of that historic event in our own lives. This seemingly ordinary visit of a young three-year old girl, the Virgin Mary, to the Temple in Jerusalem, becomes an announcement, far in advance, of the coming of Christ. For this reason, at Matins for this feast day, we hear, like a herald of things to come, the hymn “Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ is from heaven, meet Him...” Father Alexander Schmemmann remarks that upon hearing this festive song “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, born of the Virgin for the salvation of mankind. “Zachariah cried in gladness, I open to thee the gate of the Temple, O gate of the Lord. Abide therein rejoicing; for I have known and do believe that the salvation of Israel shall come now openly, and from thee shall be born the Word of God Who granteth the world the great mercy.” —*A Vespers Hymn*

- NATIVITY FAST:

The Nativity Fast began on November 15, ushering Orthodox Christians into a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ. How are we to fast? Simply and effectively—each person struggling to his or her true potential, to keep the divinely-inspired guidelines of the fast (i.e., no meat, dairy, etc), to increase prayer, worship and of course, to make a conscious effort to give alms. In thinking about this fast, it is possible that it isn’t that the rules for fasting are too demanding to fulfill; no, the difficulty lies in what goes on *around us* in the world and society. Unlike Great Lent, the Nativity Fast does not have a clear ascetical structure (e.g., no Presanctified, no special services). Recognize that, plan ahead and you’ll have a good fast. I pray that during the Nativity Fast the Lord grant you to *increase the capacity of your heart*, to expand your soul, that is, to acquire “greatness of soul,” and so become a healing presence in these days of sorrow and grief. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- FOURTH ANNUAL 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). 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. **Dinner Boxes will be assembled here at the Parish Hall on Tuesday morning, Nov. 22, at 10 AM.** We invite you to help.

- NOMADIC SHELTER—THANKSGIVING DAY:

Come one, come all! Thanksgiving day, 6 PM in the Parish Hall. What better way to spend the evening of Thanksgiving than with our guests and others from the parish? We’ll be expecting anywhere between twenty-five to forty men, women and children from the *Redwood Gospel Mission* shelter to join us in celebration of this holiday—you are certainly welcome to join us. A hearty meal and a word of encouragement will be given to our guests. Come to visit and help. “Glory to Him Who has shown us the Light.” —*Ryan Ambrose Inlow.*



- CONCERT HERE DECEMBER 1 AND 2:

Cantiamo Sonoma, one of the area's most renowned choral ensembles, directed by Carol Menke, will sing a Christmas concert on December 1 and 2, from 8–10 PM, here in St. Seraphim Church. The *Cantiamo Christmas* features a wonderful variety of seasonal pieces—both familiar and rarely heard. An evening of candlelight and music sure to delight and inspire. Tickets available from *Cantiamo Sonoma* members (see Nicolas Custer). Limited seating for both Thursday and Friday night, so please get your tickets soon.

- ROHNERT PARK STUDY GROUP:

Deacons Jeremiah and Nicholas are planning to do talks on **Tuesday evenings at 7 PM** on the topic of the so-called “Great Schism” (separation of the Eastern and Western Christians) and also plan to discuss the ecumenical movement, its origins, goals and problems. The Study Group will meet at Gretchen McPherson's home, 6063 Elsa Ave., Rohnert Park, (707) 584-4205.

- HOLY COMMUNION:

We welcome our visitors and our guests this morning, and would remind them, as well as all Parish and Church members, that the reception of Holy Communion is reserved for Baptized and Chrismated Orthodox Christians, only. Indeed, no Orthodox Christian should approach the Chalice to receive Holy Communion unless he or she has prepared by fasting, prayer (especially the “Pre-Communion Prayers”) and a **recent** participation in the Holy Sacrament of Confession. We confess our sins when our conscience dictates, but certainly, **no less than once per month for those that receive Communion weekly**. St. John of San Francisco exhorts us to keep a regular participation in Holy Communion, and not to let sin, poor attendance or laziness come between ourselves and the Holy Chalice: “Until a man's earthly life finishes its course, up to the very departure of the soul from the body, the struggle between sin and righteousness continues within him. However high a spiritual and moral state

one might achieve, a gradual or even headlong and deep fall into the abyss of sin is always possible. Therefore, communion of the holy Body and Blood of Christ, which strengthens our contact with Him and refreshes us with the living streams of the grace of the Holy Spirit flowing through the Body of the Church, is necessary for everyone. —from the book *Man of God: Saint John of Shanghai & San Francisco*

- BAPTISMS:

Romanos Schettig, son of Irini and Brendan will be baptized on Saturday, December 3 at 10 AM. Alden Flores, son of Ioana and Kevin Flores (Ioana is a new parishioner) will be baptized immediately after, about 11 AM. Many Years to these God-loving families.

- PROJECT MEXICO PRESENTATION:

Fr. Nicholas Andruchow, who is the spiritual director at Project Mexico, will be visiting our parish for Vespers on Saturday, December 3. We invite all those who are interested in learning about Project Mexico to attend a dinner presentation by Fr. Nicholas after Vespers. All are welcome, but please contact Bonnie Alexander, Serge Anderson or Fr.




St. Nicholas CHRISTMAS FAIR

Handcrafted Gifts to Make and Purchase

Saturday, December 3rd
12PM-6PM
Monroe Hall
1400 W College Ave, Santa Rosa
Across from G&G Market
Free admission and parking




Live Music and Caroling
Holiday Decorations

Children's Gifts
Ornaments



Waldorf-Style Dolls
Hostess Gifts

Festive Breads
Christmas Cookies






It's Time to Get Into The Holiday Spirit!



A Family Festival Presented by
Holy Dormition Eastern Orthodox Church
www.holydormitionchurch.org
707-528-9705

Lawrence if you would like to attend this dinner event, Saturday, December 3, at 6 PM. The presentation and dinner will take place at the Anderson home, or if the response is very good, here in the Parish Hall. Please let us know if you plan to attend. For information on Project Mexico, see the following: www.projectmexico.org

- CALISTOGA MONASTERY WORK PARTY:

The Men's Group is invited to participate in a work party at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, on Saturday, December 10, starting at 10 AM. We apologize for the cancellation of the original work-party date and the mis-scheduling of the make-up date. Call/email Father Lawrence or Fr. Theodor if you will participate.

- RETREAT IN SAN FRANCISCO:

Archpriest Michael 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 PM), 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). Call me at 707-544-1948, or email me at csowens@comcast.net if you plan to attend. My address is 1709 Walnut Creek Drive, Santa Rosa. —*Barb Owens*

- 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.

- PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Council Members: please mark your calendar for the next meeting, 7 PM, Thursday, December 8.

- ON THANKSGIVING

God did not create us for wrath but for salvation, so that we might enjoy His blessings; and we should therefore be thankful and grateful towards our Benefactor. But our failure to get to know His gifts has made us indolent, and indolence has made us forgetful, with the result that ignorance lords it over us." —*St. Peter of Damascus*

- TATIANA'S MINI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:

December 11, immediately after the Divine Liturgy, I will offer some interesting items for your Christmas shopping pleasure. Half of the proceeds will go directly back to our parish as a gift from all of us, the other half to cover materials. Glory to God for all things! Any questions, please call me at (707) 235-8911. —*Tatiana Castillo*

- CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

Carmen Anderson and Gloria Collins are preparing a Christmas play, featuring many of our parish children, to be performed on Sunday, December 18. Prior to the play, there will be a Vespers at 4 PM in the Protection Church followed by a potluck dinner.

During the week leading up to Nativity there are special Services of the "Prefeast." Tuesday–Thursday we will serve Matins at 8 AM and Vespers at 6 PM. On Friday, December 23, the Royal Hours of Nativity will be sung, then Vespers at 6 PM.

On Saturday, Christmas Eve, our Children's Choir will sing the Divine Liturgy, which will begin at 9:30 AM. The children have been rehearsing since October for this important church service. The wonderful and festive Matins of Christmas will begin at 5 PM on Saturday, Christmas Eve. Carols will be sung at the conclusion of the Matins. **The Divine Liturgy for Nativity will begin at 9:30 AM, rather than at 10 AM.**