

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ December 2, 2018

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life-Immortal, Thou didst slay hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead; and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF THE PROPHET HABAKKUK, Tone Four:

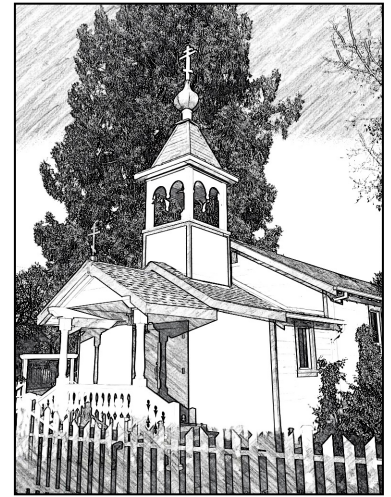
From aforetime thou didst describe the undefiled Theotokos as mountain, from which the God of all hath shined forth in the flesh for our sake; hence we honor thee as a God-proclaiming prophet, and we beseech thee to make us partakers of heavenly grace, by thy God-pleasing intercessions, O glorious Habakkuk.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

Hades became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb. The dead arose, creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced with Thee; and the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

- KONTAKION OF THE PROPHET HABAKKUK, Tone Two:

Thou didst clearly behold the sacred disciples as horses troubling the seas of ignorance and slumbering error with the doctrines of piety, O God-proclaiming Habakkuk; Wherefore we acclaim thee as true prophet, and beseech thee to intercede that we may find mercy.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Dec. 1:
 - 3 PM, Play Practice
 - 3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Jesus Christ the Savior of the world*
 - 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
 - 6 PM, 40th Day Memorial, Daria Jorgenson
- Sunday, Dec. 2:
 - 8:40 AM, Resurrectional Matins
 - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
 - 11:45 AM, Church School (in St. Seraphim, Fr. Lawrence to teach *On Vestments*)
 - Noon, Agape Meal
 - 12:45 AM, Men's Group Meeting, in the Hall
- Wednesday, Dec. 5: *No Vespers here, Vigil in San Anselmo for St. Nicholas*
- Thursday, Dec. 6:
 - Liturgy in San Anselmo at St. Nicholas, 9:30 AM*
 - 5 PM, "Angels Unawares"

- PARISH MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The men of the parish—of all ages—are invited to attend a brief organizational meeting on Sunday, December 2, about 12:45 PM, in the Parish Hall. Our goal will be to determine the service, fellowship and pilgrimage activities for the coming year. Any questions, speak with Father Nicholas.

- THE LIGHT OF CHRIST:

The light of Christ is the Light by which we have been able to fathom so much of this universe, that is, through the Logos and power of reason and language of which he is the Source. But his Light is not only rational; it is moral. Surely, is there anyone who can honestly say and rightly assert that the Person of Jesus, as revealed to us from conception to death and resurrection, does anything other than shed light on the true condition of man and point the way to healing—to repentance, forgiveness, mercy, kindness, gentleness, humility, self-control, peace, joy, and love? Men's resistance to Christ is sometimes from ignorance, lack of witness, or false witness by those who say they represent him. Make no mistake: the world cries in darkness without Christ, regardless of how it may appear from space at night, regardless of how much electricity flows illuminating our streets, buildings, offices, sports arenas, cinema screens, laptops, smartphones and interior spaces. There is much darkness when men seek first their own "star power" through mammon, power, sex, comfort, and seek not first the Kingdom of Heaven. Christ is God's gift to the world; upon those who sat in darkness, a light has dawned! We shall become, through Christ, shining like the stars of heaven. And behold—see! Magi from the east come to worship him and offer him gifts. Wise men, indeed. In Christ, the World's True Light. —*James Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James*

- ANGELS UNAWARES:

On the first Thursday of the month (December 6, St. Nicholas Day!) our parish welcomes guests from the Redwood Gospel Mission, hosting about twenty or so folks for dinner and providing a place to sleep for the night. Guests will arrive about 6 PM, departure about 6:30 AM the next morning. Michael and Rachel Dovey coordinate the program. You are invited to participate in serving and welcoming our guests. Any questions, call Michael or Rachel Dovey at (707) 799-4117. *"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them who suffer adversity..."* (Hebrews 13) Outreach is for all members of the Church.

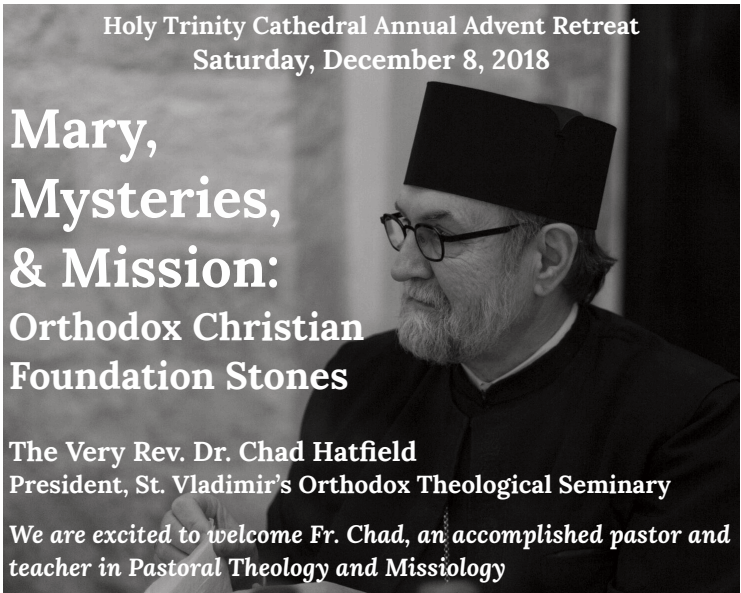
- SENIOR AND RETIRED LUNCH FELLOWSHIP:

Our monthly lunch will be held on Thursday, December 13, St. Herman Day at Noon. We will have a Vigil the evening before and the Divine Liturgy that morning to celebrate this great saint who labored in Alaska.

- CHRISTMAS PLAY:

Our parish children are rehearsing their annual Christmas play, scheduled for Sunday, December 16. Festivities start with *St. Romanos' Kontakion* of the Nativity at 5 PM in the Protection Church, then the play, dinner, and a visit by St. Nicholas and Christmas Carols.

Holy Trinity Cathedral Annual Advent Retreat
Saturday, December 8, 2018



Mary, Mysteries, & Mission: Orthodox Christian Foundation Stones

The Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield
President, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

We are excited to welcome Fr. Chad, an accomplished pastor and teacher in Pastoral Theology and Missiology

SCHEDULE
Saturday, December 8


8:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:30 pm 1:30 pm 3:30 pm 4:00 pm	Divine Liturgy Registration, coffee, light breakfast <u>First session</u> Lunch <u>Second session</u> Closing prayer Vigil
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Pre-register at holy-trinity.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 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

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



• COMMEMORATION OF ST. PORPHYRIOS, DECEMBER 2:

Many of us are familiar with and love the book *Wounded by Love* about the life and teachings of St. Porphyrios, a very recent Greek elder (1906–1991). December 2 is his feast day. The following story was told by the cardiologist of Elder Porphyrios, Dr. George Papazahos, when he visited the Elder in his cell one Bright Tuesday following Pascha.

I went to see him as a doctor. After the cardiological examination and the usual cardiogram, he asked that I not leave. I sat on the stool near his bed. His face was shining with joy. He asked me: “Do you know the hymn which says, ‘Let us celebrate the death of death...?’” “Yes, Elder, I know it.” “Say it.” I began to say it quickly. “Let us celebrate the death of death, the overthrow of hades, the beginning of another life which is eternal. And leaping for joy, we sing the praises of its source: He alone is blessed and most glorious, the God of our fathers.” “Did you understand it?” “Of course I understood.” I thought he was asking me about its interpretation.

He made a sudden movement with his hand and told me: “You understood nothing, George my man! You said it like a hurried chanter. Listen to what fearful things this hymn says: Christ by His Resurrection did not cross us over a lake, over a crack in the earth, over a canal, over a river like the Red Sea. He brought us over an abyss, of which it was impossible for man to cross alone. For centuries we awaited this Pascha, for this passage. Christ brought us from death to life. This is why today we ‘celebrate the death of death, the destruction of hades’. Death is lost. Do you understand? Today we celebrate ‘the beginning of eternal life,’ a life near Him.” He spoke with enthusiasm and conviction. He was moved.

He paused for a moment then continued more loudly: “Now chaos, death, and hades do not exist. Now there is all joy, thanks to the Resurrection of our Christ. Together with Him human nature was resurrected. Now we can be resurrected and live eternally near Him. What happiness is in the Resurrection! ‘And leaping for joy, we celebrate the Cause.’ Have you ever seen the little goats now in the spring who jump on the grass? They eat a little from their mother and begin to jump again? This is what it means to leap—to jump. This is how we should also jump for unspeakable joy at the Resurrection of our Lord and our own.” He stopped speaking again. I breathed in a joyous atmosphere.

He continued: “Can I give you some advice? In your every sorrow, in your every failure, concentrate for a moment within yourself and say this hymn slowly-slowly. You will see that the greatest thing in your life—and in the life of the whole world—happened. The Resurrection of Christ, our salvation. And you will realize that [all your current problems] will seem to you very small.”

He squeezed my hand saying: “I pray that you leap for joy, looking at the chaos behind you from which the Risen Christ crossed you over, ‘the only blessed of our fathers.’ Chant now ‘Christ is Risen!’” My postscript: Truly, He is Risen!
—George Papazahos, *Professor of Cardiology*

Troparion of St. Porphyrios, Tone One:

The offspring of Evia and Elder of all of Greece, the mystic of theology and genuine friend of Christ, Porphyrios, was filled with gifts of grace from childhood. So let us honor him. He delivers those oppressed by demons, he cures the sick who shout with faith and gratitude: “Glory to Him who hath given thee strength; glory to Him who hath made thee wondrous, glory to Him who worketh healings for all through thee.”

Kontakion, Tone Eight, sung to “To Thee the Champion Leader” Let us extol him, St. Porphyrios, wholeheartedly, that consecrated holy temple of the Comforter and beloved of the pure Lady Theotokos. For he loves all people, curing and protecting us, and he prays for us, that we attain to theosis. So we shout to him: “Rejoice, father Porphyrios!”

• SAINT SERAPHIM DAY, JAN. 2:

We celebrate the second of our Annual Parish Feast Days on January 2, the repose of St. Seraphim. Services: Vespers and Akathist, January 1 at 5 PM; Liturgy with His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin and His Grace, Bishop Daniel, Jan. 2, at 9:30 AM followed by a festal meal.

- HOLY THEOPHANY:

January 6—the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan—is on a Sunday this year. We will begin the Theophany celebration with the Royal Hours on Friday, Jan. 4 at 6 PM. Vigil on Saturday evening, January 5 at 5 PM. After the Sunday Divine Liturgy we will serve the *Great Blessing of Water*. The Blessing of Homes will begin that day as well.

- HOUSE BLESSINGS THIS YEAR:

Beginning about 2 PM on Sunday, January 6, and then on the following Saturdays and Sundays, I will plan on blessing homes—one day in Rohnert Park/Cotati, another day in Petaluma, then in the various sections of Santa Rosa and environs, all according to a master list/times posted in the next few weeks. I will assume that you will be expecting me and if not, then I will ask that you let me know you will not be home. Of course, those who would like to schedule a house blessing for another time are invited to do so as well and can simply cross their name off the list and give me a call. —Fr. Lawrence

- FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS, DECEMBER 6:

It has been pointed out recently, I recall it was Reader Nicolas who said it during the Children's Concert last week, that the feast day of St. Nicholas of Myra is an essential part of the preparation for Nativity. With this in mind, I apologize that our parish will not have services for this feast. Instead, I will be celebrating the Feast at St. Nicholas parish in San Anselmo with His Grace Bishop Daniel, Fr. Stephan Meholick, the Rector there, and all the faithful (Vigil at 7 PM, Wednesday, December 5; and the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM, December 6). Perhaps some of you will be able to come to the Liturgy on Thursday; If possible, at least attend a portion of the Vigil on Wednesday evening. Without a doubt, the faithful of St. Nicholas know how to celebrate their feast day. If it is not feasible to attend some of the Vigil (those with children will be having dinner, doing homework, getting ready for bed), then gather around your family icon on Wednesday evening, and before dinner on Thursday, and recite the *Troparion*, *Kontakion* and some of the [Akathist to St. Nicholas](https://akathistreconstructed.wordpress.com/nicholas-great-wonderworker/) at <https://akathistreconstructed.wordpress.com/nicholas-great-wonderworker/> —Fr. Lawrence

Troparion, Tone Four:

The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, and image of meekness and a teacher of temperance; for this cause thou hast achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God, that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion, Tone Three, sung to "On this day the Virgin beareth..."

Thou, O righteous Nicholas, in Myra truly wast shown forth as a sacred minister, fulfilling Christ's holy Gospel; for thou didst lay down thy life for thy flock and people and, O Saint, didst save the innocent from unjust death. Wherefore, thou wast sanctified as a great initiate of the divine grace of God.

- THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK:

The food bank distribution is held on the second Wednesday each month. Volunteers, please arrive around 5 PM to help set up. This Food Bank is an important way in which our parish does outreach to the community. Come and participate in this worthy endeavor.

- CONGRATULATIONS:

Thanks be to God, Alex and Keri DeMaar are now the legal parents of three-year old Matthew. The adoption proceedings took place at the County Court House on Thursday, November 29,. Many Years.

- CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make the Christmas Bazaar a success. Income for the event was about \$3,300 (there are very few expenses, thanks to our generous volunteers).