

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **SACRAMENT OF HOLY UNCTION IN CALISTOGA:** Father Joakim Provatakis, the pastor at St. Simeon Orthodox Church in Calistoga, has invited our parishioners to join them for a Service of Holy Unction, starting at 5 PM, on Thursday, March 29. Archbishop Kyril of San Francisco will preside. Those who wish to be anointed must be baptized/chrisdated Orthodox Christians who have very recently made a confession of sins, and are in need of the healing of physical ailments.
- **HIS GRACE, BISHOP BENJAMIN** is planning to join us for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday, April 4, 6:15 PM. We will all want to greet him and pray with him, and receive the Holy Mysteries from his hand. I encourage all of you to come on April 4, especially all the Catechumens. We will ask His Grace to speak to us after the Liturgy as we have our meal.
- **IT IS TRULY INSPIRING AND WONDERFUL** that our parish members take the Holy Mystery of Confession so seriously—I bring to witness the serious, sincere and contrite Confessions, the number of faithful who come to make Confession, and the frequency of those who come. Confession—like all Holy Sacraments—is a meeting with the Lord, the revelation of God’s love in a broken and hurting world, and a therapy of spiritual healing. Those who frequently confess know this, and understand that in preparing for and making Confession they see themselves in the light of God’s love, and are grateful for a new beginning, acceptance, the spiritual healing and purification that comes from the uncreated Grace of God pouring into the sinner, as the priest says the Prayer of Forgiveness and Absolution. All this—you cannot get on your own. There are some that have forgotten how good it is have their burdens lifted at Confession, and so they procrastinate in coming. I encourage you to come to confession here, or at another Orthodox church—anywhere, as soon as possible. There are plenty of priests in town who will stand as witness to your confession and give you the Apostolic Prayer of forgiveness (yes, that’s how old it is).
- **CONSIDERING THE ABOVE,** please remember that no Confessions will be heard after Holy Wednesday. There are those who like to wait until Holy Saturday. However, this year you are advised not to wait, as Fr. John will be serving at the Skete from Holy Thursday through Pascha. Brothers and Sisters: “Now is the acceptable time,” now is the day of repentance—Holy Week is the time of the Lord’s passion and many Services, and there is no time for confession.
- **ON LAZARUS SATURDAY, APRIL 7,** Jean Elizabeth Share will be baptized in the Protection Church, 9 AM. Her Godmother is Debi Mary Shrimplin. The Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Raising of Lazarus will immediately follow (beginning about 9:45 AM).
- **DECORATING AND CLEAN UP ON LAZARUS SATURDAY:** Our parish tradition for Lazarus Saturday (April 7) is to spend the afternoon decorating the Church with Palms, and to clean and polish the brass, windex all the windows inside and out, vacuum the floor cracks, and in general, prepare the church for Holy Week. The work party will begin at 1 PM. Please see Father Lawrence if you can help.
- **HOLY SATURDAY BAPTISMS:** the names of those being baptized, and their sponsors, as follows:
Kathleen Franotovich (confirming); George Barsi (John Panages); Edwin Fauble (James Hood); Sean Esbjörn-Hargens (Vincent Rossi); Vipasana Esbjörn-Hargens (Matushka Ann); Athena and Tatiana Esbjörn-Hargens (Sarah Hamner); Elizabeth Kelly (Alexandra Harrison); Prisca Roselle (Catherine Veenis); Karen Katherine Hubbard (Catherine Ostling and Gregory Sanford); Geoffrey John Lake (George Artemoff); Rosalyn Thekla Andronico (confirming); Molly Theodora Hamner (Tamara Crawford). Total of thirteen.
- **PALM SUNDAY:** Palms are blessed at the Vigil for Palm Sunday—April 8. Palms will be given to you as you enter the Church. During the Prayer for the Blessing of the Palms (after the Gospel), hold your branches high in honor of the Lord, and the priest will walk around the church and sprinkle them with Holy Water. Palm Sunday follows Lazarus Saturday—we are summoned to behold our humble King, the vanquisher of death and the giver of life, Who raised Lazarus from the dead. “With our souls cleansed, and carrying branches, with faith let us sing Christ’s praises like the children, crying with a loud voice to the Master: Blessed art Thou, O Savior, who hast come into the world to save Adam from the ancient curse...” (Hymn of the feast)
- **MATINS OF HOLY FRIDAY,** served on Thursday evening, April 12, at 7 PM. We gather to hear twelve selections from the Gospel about the Passion of our Lord: “Today, He Who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon a Tree...” The depths of mankind’s evils and the height of God’s love are revealed to us as we stand by our Lord, holding candles to lighten the heavy and crushing sorrow of the day and to remind us that “in him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” (John 1) In past years this Service has not been well-attended. Is there anything more important than these holy days and the Services?