

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. —1 Corinthians 11:23-26, read on Holy Thursday Morning

ON HOLY THURSDAY, we commemorate the Institution of the Eucharist. The Lord took two very ordinary things, bread and wine, and "consecrated" them to be His Body and Blood. And then He gave these two ordinary things, now "extra-ordinary," to His Disciples to partake of them.

In our church, we celebrate the Eucharist often. We bring the same "ordinary" gifts, bread and wine, and offer them in the service. There is nothing extraordinary about bread and wine. They can be purchased in any store. They can be made in any home. They are rather ordinary substances. But when they are brought into the church, prayed over and "consecrated," these ordinary substances become "extraordinary" because they are touched by THE Holy Spirit, they become "extraordinary," they become "holy." Holy means "set apart." So they become "Holy," in the sense that they are no longer mere bread and wine, but they are THE Body and THE Blood of Jesus Christ. When we receive these "extraordinary" Gifts, we become "extraordinary" by association. Just like when you are dirty and take a shower and use a cleaning agent, soap, you become clean. So, when we touch what is extraordinary and Holy, we become extraordinary and holy. The challenge comes after we receive what is "extraordinary." Do we leave church and act "extraordinary" and "holy" or do we revert back to being "ordinary."

We receive Communion for many reasons. First, it is a commandment—"Take eat." "Drink of this all of you." "Do this in remembrance of Me." Second, it allows God to come into us, and it affords us the opportunity to touch

the Divine God. Here is a third reason which we often forget. We receive Communion in order to REMEMBER what Christ did for us. In celebrating the Liturgy, we not only partake of Christ, but we get a refresher course in what it means to be a Christian. We remember that Christ died for our sins. We remember that He was Resurrected from the dead. We remember His teachings. We remember that He came from God and returned to God, and that we can follow the same path.

In bringing ordinary gifts and making them extraordinary, we remember that WE can become extraordinary through partaking of Holy Communion. We remember that we cannot be content being ordinary because we have witnessed and partaken of the extraordinary. In receiving Communion, we remember that the Gifts are Holy, they are set apart, and in receiving the Gifts, we are to become Holy and set apart, set apart for God and His purposes for our lives.

In receiving Communion we are sustained in our lives until we meet the Lord, because we have Him in our minds, our hearts and our lives, with regularity. This is why Saint Paul intentionally chooses the word "often", to encourage us to receive Communion on a frequent basis, so that there isn't sufficient time to forget Christ and what He did for us.

We tell our spouses and our children often that we love them. Is that because if they don't hear it every day that they might doubt that we love them? I suppose if they only heard it once a year, they might. But we tell people we love them often because hearing that you are loved is a great source of encouragement. It is always a positive thing.

In the Eucharist, we are reminded that God loves us, so much that He died for us. He loves us so much that He is preparing a heavenly kingdom for us. He loves us so much that He has given us a pathway to follow to get us from here to there.

In receiving the Eucharist, we tell God that we love Him. We tell Him that we want to be extraordinary and holy. So the Eucharist is not just some ritual where we bring ordinary gifts and a "show" is performed over them.

Continued on next page

The Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil is celebrated on Holy Thursday, this year, April 13, at 11:30 AM.

Parish of the Protection of the Holy Virgin
St. Seraphim of Sarov Church
90 Mountain View Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Parish office phone: 707-584-9491
website: www.saintseraphim.com

The Rector, Fr. Lawrence Margitich, may be reached at the Parish office phone, or at Lmargitich@sbcglobal.net. He is available Tuesday-Saturday, from noon onwards each day.

Parish Contacts

Bobbi Griovski, Parish Secretary	584-9491
Fr. Michael Margitich, Pastor Emeritus	473-0314
Fr. John Schettig, Second Priest	318-1559
Fr. Theodor Svane, Intern Priest	(914) 282-0867
Serge Anderson, Parish Council Warden	291-7452
Martin Thong, Treasurer	888-7888
Bonnie Alexander, Recording Secretary	338-4962
Kira Staykow, Sisterhood President	(415) 279-0353
Eleni Rose, Agape Meal Coordinator	480-6106
Debbie Buse, Hall Event Manager	696-4986

The Eucharist is an opportunity to partake of the extraordinary to remind us that we are extraordinary. It is the opportunity to stand in the presence of the Divine God in this life in preparation for living with Him in the next. It is an opportunity to partake of what is holy to remind us to be holy. And it is an opportunity to remember all that God did and still does for us, so that we can go forth and live for Him. Allow the Eucharist to transform you from ordinary to extraordinary each time you receive! —Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis



A SUGGESTION FOR HOLY WEEK

Attend as many services as you can. We have two each day. Plan ahead. If you cannot attend every service, set aside time to read prayerfully through those you cannot attend. It is through worship that we return and unite ourselves to Christ. The services of Holy Week are not just memory exercises reviewing sacred history. Holy Week is a single unbroken Liturgy that over ten days invites us to participate in the saving love of Jesus Christ in the here and now. The love which Jesus shows is real, it is now, and we are invited through worship to receive it. Does it seem unreasonable to attend Church so much in a single week? It is absolutely extravagant and outrageous! But Christ's love for us is extreme and intense. And so we return that love during Holy Week in a way that is beyond reason!

HOLY UNCTION

The Holy Mystery of Unction for the Sick (in this case a General Unction for all who desired it) was served Monday evening, March 27, at Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church on Stony Point Rd. The many friendly faces from our parish, the ladies in black from both sides of the hill (Holy Assumption and Kazan Skete) and parishioners at Sts. Peter and Paul made it a pan-Orthodox experience. As Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco (ROCOR) and his Protodeacon Peter read and chanted in Church Slavonic, we could sense God's presence—and became aware of the historical progression of our faith. Ideally, Unction is served with seven priests. On Monday we had five clergy, among them four priests—Fathers Alexander Krassovsky, rector, Paul Volmensky from Sacramento, Lawrence Margitich and Theodor Svane; each read a Gospel and Prayer (there are seven of each at Unction) and, along with the Archbishop, anointed each person present. The holy oil warmed our skin, our hearts and our souls and imparted a healing of body and soul for our salvation, as God Himself directed. The Holy Unction service, normally for only the physically ill, is the Church's Lenten gift to us at which we, the spiritually suffering, may also be healed. We are grateful to Father Alexander for his hospitality.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MANY COMPLIMENTS** and words of congratulations were heard after the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Annunciation, at which our Children's Choir sang the responses. Many years to the teachers, Maestro Nicolas, Genevieve, Jeanie, Ellen and Carmen, and to the children who sang. We will again have the joy of their singing at the Divine Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, April 8.
- **WE WISH** a very happy first birthday to Milania, daughter of Kristina and Safwan Daya. Many Years.
- **WORK PARTY**, Lazarus Saturday, April 8, from Noon to 3 PM: chores in St. Seraphim include polishing the candle stands and lamps; dusting ledges, washing windows inside and out. Outside chores include sweeping the walkway, pulling out the weeds in the concrete, resetting railroad ties for parking, pulling parking posts out of the ditches, etc. Please see Fr. Lawrence if you'd like to help.
- **REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK**: Wednesday, April 12, 5 PM. Help is needed in setting up and distributing the food. See Tom or Denise Pellizzer to volunteer.
- **CONFESSIONS DURING HOLY WEEK**: By appointment or come at the times indicated on the Calendar. Confessions will not be heard after Holy Wednesday. All those age seven and older will want to make a confession in the week or two before Holy Week.
- **BRIGHT MONDAY**: We expect His Eminence, Vladyka Benjamin to join us for the Bright Monday Paschal Matins and Liturgy (9 AM), April 17.
- **SENIOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP**: Bright Monday, after the Liturgy. We will be hosting Archbishop Benjamin that day.
- **PASCHA CANDLE DECORATING**: Vicky Basch and Shannon Winterton are planning to decorate Pascha candles on Holy Friday and would like to invite all the children to participate (actually, anyone or any age that would like to decorate a candle for Pascha is welcome). The project will begin at noon on Holy Friday, and go until about 2:30-3 PM, which allows us to get ready for the Great Friday Vespers at 3 PM. A light sandwich lunch will be provided for the children (of course, adults are fasting that day) and then we will decorate candles. The kids can take their candle home and then bring it back for Pascha. After Pascha, you can use the candle on your home prayer altar. Younger children will need an adult with them to assist them. Please let Vicky or Shannon know if you are coming so we can provide sufficient decorations and candles. If you have something special to put on your candle, please feel free to bring it.
- **BRIGHT FRIDAY, April 21**: Parish Music and Poetry evening. Your performances and potluck meal. Sign up with Vladimir
- **ARCHDEACON KIRILL Sokolov**, who is a frequent guest in our parish, will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Bright Saturday, April 22, at Holy Trinity Cathedral. The Divine Liturgy begins at 10 AM.
- **BLESSING OF GRAVES**: Tuesday, April 25. I invite you to join with me in the blessing of the graves of our beloved parishioners and family members. I begin the blessing at Pleasant Hills Cemetery in Sebastopol at 10 AM, move on to Forestville, Healdsburg and end up at Santa Rosa Memorial Park. What's this all about? During Holy Week and Bright Week the Church instructs us to not have memorial services. However, we begin those Memorial Prayers once again on the Tuesday after Bright Week, traditionally visiting the cemeteries to sing Christ is Risen at the grave sides of those departed this life. Perhaps we can have a caravan and a picnic too?? —Fr. Lawrence
- **A UNIQUE SUMMER discipleship program** for young men and women from 18-30 years will be held at the Monastery of St John in Manton from June 11-17. This event, called the LIFE school is being planned by Fr. Theodor, working with Fr. Innocent from Manton, Caty Golitsyn and others. LIFE stands for Liturgy-Inspiration-Faithfulness-Experience). See the flyer for more info.
- **THE ST. EUGENE'S SUMMER CAMP** for kids has been scheduled for July 2-8. Please see Father Lawrence for more details.
- **MANY THANKS** to the parish gentlemen who cleared the ditch of tree stakes and other items.

ATTENTION PARENTS!

Parents or adult guardians are responsible for the safety and supervision of their children before, during and after Services, while playing in the Hall, the playground or the property. Young children may not roam the property without *parental supervision*. In addition, children are not allowed to play in the vineyard, behind the Church School or Hall, or in the parking lots. —Fr. Lawrence and the Parish Council

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	27	28	29	30	31	APRIL 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM, Choir Rehearsal for Holy Week • 3:30 PM, Catechism: <i>Mystery of death/funeral</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers
2 - St. Mary of Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 5 PM, Cantiamo Concert 	3	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Lenten Matins 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Lenten Matins • 6:15 PM, Presanct. Liturgy/Meal to follow 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Lenten Matins 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 9 AM, Talk on the <i>Ladder of Divine Ascent</i> • 6 :30 PM, Matins for Lazarus Saturday 	8 - Lazarus Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy with Children's Choir • 2 PM, <i>Church Clean up</i> • 5 PM, Vigil for Palm Sunday
9 - Entry into Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM Liturgy & Procession • Noon, Agape Meal 	10 - Holy Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins • 5 PM: Confessions • 6:15 PM, Presanctified 	11 - Holy Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins • Noon: <i>Fr Lawrence bearing Confessions all afternoon</i> • 6:15 PM, Presanctified 	12- Holy Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins • Noon: <i>Fr Lawrence bearing Confessions all afternoon</i> • 6:15 PM, Presanctified • 5 PM, <i>Redwood Empire Food Bank distribution</i> 	13 - Holy Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM, Vesperal Liturgy for the Mystical Supper • 7 PM, Matins of Holy Friday (Gospel readings) 	14 - Holy Friday <p>STRICT FAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Royal Hours • 3 PM, Great Vespers • 7 PM, Matins of Holy Saturday with Lamentations 	15 - Holy Saturday <p>STRICT FAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 PM, Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil (15 Old Testament readings) • 11:30 PM, Nocturn and beginning of Pascha
16 - RESURRECTION OF CHRIST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 AM, Paschal Matins and Liturgy, Agape to follow • 11 AM, Church Clean-up • 1 PM, Paschal Vespers and BBQ 	17 - Bright Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Paschal Matins and Liturgy (Vladyka Benjamin to serve) 	18 - Bright Tuesday <p><i>No Liturgy today</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Paschal Vespers 	19 - Bright Wednesday <p><i>Paschal Liturgy in SF at Holy Trinity Cathedral, 10 AM</i></p>	20 - Bright Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Paschal Vespers 	21 - Bright Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM Paschal Vespers • 6 PM, Music and Poetry Night 	22 - Bright Saturday <p><i>Holy Trinity Cathedral, SF, 10 AM Liturgy and ordination of Archdeacon Kyril Sokolov to the Holy Priesthood</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers
23 - Thomas Sunday / St. George <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	24	25 - Radonitsa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Sebastopol, begin blessing graves • 11 AM, Forestville • Noon, Healdsburg • 2 PM, Santa Rosa 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers • 7 PM, Talk by Fr James Jorgenson (see flyer) 	27	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers and Matins
30 - Myrrh-bearing Women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	May 1	2 <p><i>Fr Lawrence in Alhambra May 2-4, for Clergy Retreat</i></p>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	4	5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers and Matins

Lutheran-Orthodox Ecumenical Dialogue



Fr. James Jorgenson

Talk held at:
St Seraphim Orthodox Church
90 Mountain view Ave
Santa Rosa 95407 CA

Wednesday April 26th 7:00p

email: t.svane@icloud.com

Join us on Wednesday April 26th at 7:00pm!

This year marks the 500 year anniversary of the beginning of the reformation in 1517. In recognition of this important event we want to invite you to a talk on the ecumenical dialogue between Lutherans and the Orthodox Church with a special emphasis on exchanges in the years shortly following the Reformation.

The talk will be given by The Very Reverend Dr. James Jorgenson (picture) who wrote his PhD thesis on this subject. He has taught theology and church history for several decades. Fr. James has also been involved in Ecumenical Dialogue as a representative to the World Council of Churches, to the National Council of Churches, and as a member of the Lutheran-Orthodox Bilateral Dialogue in the United States.

Kind Regards

Fr. Theodor Svane
Priest



Are you ready for an adventure of a lifetime?

Join us this summer at the Orthodox LIFE School.

June 11-17- 2017

The Monastery of
St. John of San Francisco

Ages: 18 – 30 (men & women)

Cost: \$ 195

Application due by: May 15th

www.monasteryofstjohn.org

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.” (John 14:6) Today Christ calls you to take up your cross and follow Him who is the way, the truth and the life. This is an exciting and demanding journey through the beauty and chaos of this transient and fleeting world, full of life and light, sacrifice and suffering and deep and everlasting joy. Saints and martyrs beyond numbers have followed Christ. Are you ready to join them?

It is our prayer that during this week you will:

- Be inspired to live for Christ and follow Him
- Grow as a Christian and get a deeper sense of purpose
- Get a deeper knowledge of yourself and the world we live in
- Experience the joy of fellowship

- Have a great time!

You will also:

- Participate in classes taught by competent teachers
- Experience life in a monastery from the inside
- Discuss and reflect on the big questions in life
- Work and worship together with new friends and monastics
- Get help to establish a personal prayer life
- Establish new and lasting relationships with people who desire to go deeper

School Leader:

Superior Fr. Innocent Green

Inquiries can be directed to

Fr. Theodor Svane

t.svane@icloud.com

ORTHODOX
Liturgy
Inspiration
Faithfulness
Experience
SCHOOL