

ENTRY OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

The feast of the *Entry of the Holy Theotokos into the Temple* each November 21 is a marvelous model of our entry into the Heavenly Kingdom. The church itself symbolizes the Kingdom of God on earth. In church we see the altar table, which is like a throne on which the Lord God sits, just as He does on His heavenly throne. In church, through the partaking of holy communion, we become united with the Lord Himself. In church, as in heaven, we are surrounded by hosts of angels and saints. In church, by means of the divine services we glorify God, as do the angels and saints in heaven.

When the righteous Joachim and Anna brought the Holy Virgin to the temple, they offered to the Lord a gift that was most pure.

So should we, in order to enter the Heavenly Realm, be absolutely pure, because the Lord Himself said that nothing unclean can enter the Kingdom of God. But we can cleanse ourselves of our sins and all manner of spiritual impurity only through the sacrament of penitence, through confession and communion.

As the righteous parents of the Holy Virgin prepared to take Her to the temple, they first dressed Her in royal garments, adorned Her, and provided Her with an escort of maidens carrying lighted candles. So should we, in order to enter the Heavenly Realm, first clothe our souls in the garment of obedience to the Lord's commandments, adorn our souls with virtues, and accompany them with the lighted candles of prayer and charity.

Upon arriving at the temple, the three-year-old Infant Mary had to make an effort to ascend fifteen high steps in order to enter the temple. So should we, in order to enter the Heavenly Realm, make the effort to ascend the ladder of virtues, to labor at fasting and prayer. The Holy Virgin went up the steps by Herself, without any help from others, but with the miraculous help of God. So should we, in our attempt to attain the Heavenly Realm, make the effort ourselves, but constantly asking God for help along the way.

Such is the lesson we receive from this wondrous holiday! The Holy Mother of God, by entering the temple, clearly shows us the Way, and through the earthly temple lies the way into the heavenly temple, the Kingdom of God. Let us follow the Holy Theotokos into the temple, into the church. Now is the time of the Nativity

fast, a time for preparing oneself to greet the Savior on earth, a time for purifying oneself through fasting, prayer and repentance, a time of increased church attendance. Let us not pass by this important period of time, for from this holiday, and throughout the entire Nativity fast, we will hear in church the joyous tidings of our coming salvation, we will hear the joyous appeal: "Christ is born: glorify Him!"

The Entry of the Holy Theotokos into the Temple is one of the twelve major church feasts and is numbered among those that affect our salvation. What takes place on this day? The three-year-old Child, the Most-holy Virgin Mary, is brought by Her parents to the temple of Jerusalem. She is placed on the temple steps and, moved by Divine revelation, the high priest Zacharias comes out to Her and leads Her into the Holy of Holies – the place where God Himself was mysteriously present, the place which no man could ever enter except the high priest, who, moreover, went in only once a year and not without sacrificial blood. And it is precisely this place, the Holy of Holies, which the Virgin Mary enters, invisibly carrying within Herself a new, living sacrifice—the forthcoming Christ, Savior of the world, Who will sacrifice Himself in order to deliver all men from sin and death. This holiday is "wondrous," as sings the Church, not finding words to express the inexpressible joy, hope and expectation which commence with today's event.

...[the pure young virgin maiden Mary] will be brought up in God's temple—a place of holiness, purity and the power of God. She will be nourished by Divine grace, in order to become capable of containing Divinity Itself, so that the mystery of God's incarnation could take place through Her. She must become used to conversing with the angels, in order to harken to the Archangel Gabriel's glad tidings. She must encompass God within Her heart, in order to truly become a new temple of God.

We are all familiar with the words of the Apostle Paul: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." This mystery is revealed to us because we are called upon to become the temples of God, and this is the reason for today's celebration.

INFORMATION

Protection of the Holy Virgin & St. Seraphim of Sarov Church
90 Mountain View Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Parish office phone: 707-584-9491 / fax: 585-9445
website: www.saintseraphim.com

Our Parish Secretary—Bobbi Griovski—may be reached at the Church office Mon., Tues. and Wed., 9 AM to Noon, at 584-9491. 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

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Fr. John Schettig, Second Priest	318-1559
Serge Anderson, Parish Council Warden	291-7452
David Winterton, Treasurer	331-9085
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...Remember that our salvation has actually come to pass already, and it is not only a remembrance. Over and over again we are given the Nativity Fast and the approach to the Nativity of Christ in order for our life to become truly more profound, truly deepen with the knowledge of the one unique mystery—that God has become man, that He is present in the life and destiny of each one of us. He always hears our every prayer, because there is no longer that curse which used to hang over every person, there is no longer that inescapable and ineffaceable stamp of evil which tainted mankind before Christ's incarnation. The way to heaven is open to every person. We must only desire and want genuine truth, genuine beauty, and the light which had once shone for us, the light which the Lord sometimes gives back to us, and without which everything becomes extinguished.

What can we bring to the Lord on this feast day? The parents of the Most-holy maiden Mary—Joachim and Anna—brought Him their own child, but what shall we give the Lord? Does the One to Whom belongs the entire earth and before Whom all the stars in heaven shine need the candles and the vigil lights which we offer to God? They are needed only to testify to the meaningfulness of our prayers and our standing before God. There are no other sacrifices which we can offer Him except one, of which He says: “Son, give Me thy heart,” because our heart is the only thing which does not yet fully belong to Him. He has given us His own heart and wishes us to give Him ours. He, Who loves us and gives all of Himself for us, is waiting for our love in return.

Let us pray to God that we may learn this love. Every person understands what reciprocal love is, and how terrible is unrequited love. It is precisely love which each person needs, every human soul needs. And the Lord Himself needs us to love Him with all our heart, all our thoughts, all our strength, our entire life. And to love God means to keep His commandments, as He Himself has said. Only when we keep His commandments can we learn what this all means and of what kind of love Christ is speaking. Only then can we learn this love and be worthy of the Lord, be able to stand up for Christ's honor in this world where childhood, purity, and sanctity are being defiled. And this we can accomplish only when we go to church and receive God's grace there, which is always given as long as we are turned towards the Lord. Let us entreat the Lord for this incorruptible wealth, which He bountifully grants to all of us by the prayers and intercession of the Holy Theotokos. Let us also entreat Him for the ability to respond to His immeasurable gifts with our love, our entire life, the offering of our children to Him. And most precious of all – the unity which we achieve through Him. Amen. —*Archpriest Alexander Shargunov*

BISHOP ELECT DANIEL

During the Holy Synod meeting in Syosset, NY last week, the bishops elected Father Daniel (Brum), to be Bishop of Santa Rosa. The consecration is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 24, in San Francisco at Holy Trinity Cathedral. The newly-consecrated Bishop Daniel will come to Saint Seraphim to serve on Sunday, January 25. Father Daniel (formerly David) is the rector of Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Phoenix. He is a convert to Orthodoxy, received by Bishop Tikhon in 1997, and has served in the Diocese of the West and at the OCA central administrative offices. He was tonsured a monk in July at the Monastery of St. John in Manton. Bishop-elect Daniel will be the Auxiliary Bishop for Archbishop Benjamin, helping him serve the faithful in our geographically large diocese. Historically—for the last forty years—Auxiliary Bishops in the Diocese have been given the title “Bishop of Berkeley” as was the case with Bishop Benjamin when he was consecrated. We are honored that the Holy Synod has chosen Santa Rosa to be a cathedral city and Protection of the Holy Virgin/St. Seraphim to be its parish. Bishop-elect Daniel will spend his time at his home parish in Phoenix, visiting throughout the Diocese and, one hopes, now and then visiting us.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO Suha and Basil Scott** who will be united in Holy Matrimony Sunday afternoon, 3 PM. All are welcome to attend and congratulate the new couple at the champagne and cake reception which follows the wedding.
- **ON NOVEMBER 7 AND 8** we will celebrate, as we do annually, the feast of the Holy Archangel Michael and all the angels. Vespers on Friday, November 7 at 6 PM, and the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, November 8 at 9 AM. We congratulate Archpriest Michael and all those named after the angels on their name day.
- **THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX Church** in San Anselmo will be coming here for a late afternoon BBQ on Sunday, November 9, from 5–7 PM. All our parish youth are invited to attend. Besides some fun activities, the youth from St. Nicholas have asked us to give them a little show-and-tell on the new frescos in the Church.
- **THE REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK** distribution (to low income and needy families) is set for Wednesday, November 12 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Volunteers, please arrive just before 5 PM to set up. See Denise Pellizzer if you would like to volunteer to help the poor.
- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, SISTERHOOD GET-TOGETHER:** There will be a brief fundraising meeting followed by a potluck dinner with sloppy-joes, and mostly just socializing and playing Mexican Train (a dominoes game). The get-together will be at the home of Barbara and Craig Owens, 1709 Walnut Creek Drive. Call Barb at 544-1948, RSVP. Begins at 5 PM. Guys are invited too.
- **CATECHISM:** Next class, October 25, on the Holy Eucharist; November 1, on Holy Confession; November 8, on the Holy Priesthood; November 15, on the Mystery of Marriage; November 22, on Holy Unction; December 13, on death and the funeral. Please note that there are no classes on October 11 and December 6. We meet in the Protection Church.
- **CATECHISM REVISITED:** Father Lawrence would like to teach a “catechism for veterans” class, “Catechism Revisited,” on Thursdays from 11 AM to Noon. It is hoped that our retired, seniors and stay-at-home moms might like to attend. If there is sufficient interest, we may be able to arrange for child care. Nothing has yet been scheduled. If you are interested, please let Father Lawrence know. Perhaps there’s a better day than Thursdays; please make a suggestion. Topics to be discussed: prayer, the order and structure of Church services, Orthodox teaching on human nature, God, sin, repentance, the Holy Spirit, the Church, with time for questions and discussion on current issues.
- **REPRESENTATIVES FROM Pleasant Hill Cemetery** will be visiting us on Sunday, November 16, following the Divine Liturgy. They will have information about the Orthodox section of the cemetery.
- **TALKS ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** Father Deacon James Hughes, former headmaster of St. Michael’s Orthodox School in Santa Rosa, will be giving two presentations here. November 19 and 26 following the 6 PM Vespers and the Lenten food potluck. This lecture, followed by a brief question and answer period, will address aspects of education of children in the Orthodox Church.
- **THANKSGIVING DAY LITURGY:** As always, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Thanksgiving Day in the Protection Church. Following the Liturgy we will sing together a portion of the Akathist “Glory to God for all things.” Liturgy begins at 9 AM.
- **FATHER STEPHAN MEHOLICK** of St. Nicholas in San Anselmo, will give a retreat at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga on Saturday, November 15, 9 AM–3 PM, entitled “The Divine Liturgy: Communing both vertically and horizontally. When we partake of the Holy Eucharist worthily and in faith, we are united to Christ and through Him to one another.” The Retreat begins at 9 AM. Please call the monastery at (707) 942-6244 to let them know you will attend.
- **FATHER JOHN BEHR**, Chancellor of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Seminary and professor of Patristics, will give a retreat at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco on Saturday, November 22. 9 AM–3 PM. Call Holy Trinity for more info at 415-673-8565.

WE WELCOME Hieromonk Seraphim (Aldea), a Romanian Orthodox priest monk visiting the US from Scotland, where he lives at the Monastery of All Celtic Saints on the island of Mull. He has a PhD in Theology from Durham University with studies also at Oxford, and has been a monk for about ten years. I have asked him to preach on Sunday, and after the Divine Liturgy, to tell us something about his work and monastery. Please take a moment to welcome him to our parish. We also hope to have him speak to us about our common spiritual struggles, perhaps on Wednesday, October 29 after Vespers (provided there is no game seven!)

Letter from Archbishop Benjamin to the Parish October 24, 2014

As I am sure most of you have heard, the Holy Synod blessed my request for an Auxiliary Bishop at our recent fall session. We gave some consideration as to what his title should be. The traditional title of Auxiliary Bishops in our Diocese has been “Bishop of Berkeley.” I, myself, was Bishop of Berkeley for four years. As Archimandrite Daniel does not serve in Slavonic, it seemed pointless to make the mostly slavonic parish of St. John the Baptist in Berkeley his episcopal cathedra. Several other options presented themselves, but it seemed to me Santa Rosa made the most sense.

The Protection of the Holy Virgin and Saint Seraphim Parish represents the vision and reality of our Diocese in so many ways. It began as a small parish that served the Russian immigrants who came to Sonoma County. But, like so many of our parishes, it has grown and matured into a much larger parish that reflects the diversity of the community in which it exists. In addition to that, through your hard work and with the vision of your pastor, God has blessed you with a beautiful temple that projects the beauty of the Kingdom into this world. You have a very special ministry of “beauty” which is so evident in the Divine Services in the St. Seraphim Church. So for these, and other reasons, I asked the Holy Synod to make Archimandrite Daniel Bishop of Santa Rosa. May God continue to bless you by His abiding presence. *+Benjamin*

NOVEMBER SENIOR LUNCH FELLOWSHIP

Our thanks to Petar and Bobbi for the lovely Senior Lunch on Oct 16th. Many thanks as well to Dauphne Russell for the “Christmas shoe box” presentation (along with all the supplies), and Kathy Franotovich for her photography talents (can't wait to see our picture). We had a great turn out and it was fun to visit with everyone. Don't forget, there is still time to decorate a shoe box and/or bring some quality children's items to fill the boxes during our next luncheon.

Our next luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, November 13th. George Barsi will prepare his super-duper turkey and dressing, so the rest of us need to bring our Thanksgiving specialties to “compliment” the turkey. We'll need such things as mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberries, fruit salad, pie and more pie, drinks, etc.—you know the drill. Please let me know what you are bringing so we can coordinate things and fill in where items are missing. We always seem to put together great potlucks. Hope to see even more folks on November 13th.

One last item: last weekend we commemorated the Prophet Joel. Hopefully you all know that the dome fresco of the Prophet Joel was commissioned and sponsored by our Seniors at a lunch some months back. If you made a pledge towards this fresco, please don't forget to complete your pledge as scheduled. Your donations are greatly appreciated. With Love and Thanks to All! —*Barbara Owens*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FAMILY SHELTER UPDATE

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Here's an update on the room that we support at the Catholic Charities Shelter. The family of four were moved to a larger room and we have a new family. Our new family members are: Mom, Desiree; fifteen year-old Alessia; and four year old George. A welcome basket has been prepared for them. If you would like to contribute items to the basket that are age-appropriate for the kids, please let me know. I will deliver a basket to the shelter this week. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. —*Denise Pellizzer*

The Abundant Harvest: Giving, Pledging, Tithing

ONLY BY GIVING/SOWING will we ever be able to reap a harvest, only by planting the seed will the seed grow and produce even more fruit. If we hold on to our seeds – to the blessings we have received and harvested – they can never grow and produce more. It is only in sowing the seed – giving it away, that it produces a harvest. In sowing seed, you get back more than you ever give. If you hold on to the seed, it will not produce a harvest, and will in fact die/become worthless. When we sow/plant our seed, only then can it produce fruit. In fact good is perpetuated through the abundant harvest in future generations.

In the 2nd century both St. Justin the Martyr and Tertullian state the church is to collect tithes to carry on in its mission. God promises to bless those who joyfully give the tithe (Malachi 3:8-10). God states that only those who generously give the tithe will be blessed by Him (Proverbs; 2 Corinth. 9:6-11). Tithing was the accepted method of giving in the Old and New Testaments and in the Orthodox Church starting back in the 2nd Century.

So, we can understand that proportionate giving and tithing are not something new in our Church, but have been part of Orthodoxy from the time of the apostles until now. Hundreds of saints in our church taught and practiced proportionate giving. It is a very small portion of our blessings that we are asked to offer to God. We are taught to offer a percentage of our income as a thanksgiving offering to God. While everything we have comes to us as a gift from God, we are only offering a small percentage back to God. All of the blessings we receive rightly belong to God, we offer Him only a percentage of what is rightfully his...Pray about your giving...As it says in Deuteronomy 16:17, “Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.” Our ancestors responded to the Lord’s command by tithing. Throughout my entire adult life I have given the tithe to the church. I have never lacked any good thing, and indeed God has richly and abundantly blessed us and provided for our every need. As we are taught in Proverbs (3:9-10): Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. —*Father Theodore Bobosh*

Proclaiming the Bible of Nature in the Liturgy of the Cosmos

The Orthodox Ecological Vision of Creation as Divine Revelation by Reader Vincent Rossi, St. Seraphim Orthodox Church (OCA), 2002

CREATION, according to the Orthodox Christian Tradition, is a theophany. Everything that exists reveals the presence of God. All creation proclaims the wisdom, power and infinite providence of the Creator (Ps. 104:24). The astronomical depths and sidereal splendor of the heavens declare the Glory of God and reveal the work of His hands (Ps. 19:1). The earth itself, its riches, beauty and abundant life are the property of the Lord, the King of Glory (Ps. 24:1, 10). The unimaginable immensity, infinitely delicate harmony and inexhaustible fecundity of the forces of nature reveal the omnipotence, majesty and mercy of the Divine Three in One (Job 38-41).

The Fathers of the Church, following the Gospel of John and the Epistles of Paul, ground Orthodox cosmology (the Church’s teaching on creation) on, or better, within the reality of the Logos: “All things were made by Him and without him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life and the life was the light of men” (John 1: 3-4).

St. Paul preached to the Greeks and to all mankind for all time that in Him, all things live and move and have

their being (Acts. 17:28). To the Colossians, and through them to the contemporary world, the great Apostle preached the first and everlasting principles of the Orthodox doctrine of creation through the Logos, the Image of God: “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by him were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. And he is before all things, and by him all things consist” (Col. 1: 17).

Above all, St. Paul links the creation with the Incarnation and redemptive mission of Christ: “For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell. And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself: by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” (Col.1:19-20).

The ethos of the Orthodox Church is sacramental, and so in the teaching of the Fathers of the Church, the world is a sacrament.

NEWS FROM THE RECTOR & COUNCIL

THE PARISH COUNCIL discussed a number of important issues at its meeting on Thursday, October 24. When there are items of great interest, we usually post the Minutes of the meeting in the monthly bulletin; however, I feel that it is better to share the information now rather than wait until the minutes are approved next month. So, here's a brief report about some of the items that were on the agenda.

- 1. Thanksgiving Dinner Basket:** Serge Anderson and Amy Ramirez Margitich are organizing the collection of foods that make up a Thanksgiving dinner: potatoes, gravy, various vegetables, stuffing and of course, a turkey, etc.. A list of items will be provided, and our task is to provide thirty (30) of each item. Canned and dried good items will be brought to the Hall during the next few weeks, turkeys on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, and Catholic Charities will deliver the food boxes to the thirty families in need. Serge and Amy will be making a short presentation on the project, and signing up participants.
- 2. Nomadic Shelter / Redwood Gospel Mission:** “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2) In the last few weeks many of our parish members have spoken with Ambrose Inlow about a charity project that the Redwood Gospel Mission (RGM) is organizing in partnership with local churches. The project is called Nomadic Shelter and is based on the long and successful experience of churches in Fairfield, CA. and other places. The idea is that homeless men, women and children that are not able to be housed at the Mission due to overflow, can be taken to Santa Rosa church fellowship halls by a Mission bus. Thirty local churches are asked to host from 6 PM–6:30 AM, each church hosting only one night a month, from November to March. The guests will be accompanied by Mission employees, and will be pre-screened by the RGM, i.e., no drug addicts, drunks, sexual predators, or psychologically ill persons will participate in the program. The RGM is very experienced in all of this, is covered by a \$2 million insurance policy, and has the blessing of the City of Santa Rosa. This is an amazing opportunity for the Body of Christ to work together to serve the least, the last, and the lost. Again, this program would be a rotating location (host church) each night throughout the month that would house the overflow of homeless individuals that would otherwise be turned away from shelter due to a lack of beds. The project gives us the opportunity to feed the hungry (they will assist, serve and clean up), to lead the group in Orthodox Christian prayer and hymns, and to give some mercy to those who are very needy. The Prophet Isaiah says this: “When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.” The Church acts as the voice, hands, feet, and love of God in this broken world. “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with action and in truth” says the Apostle John (1 John 3:17–18). I completely support the program, due to the expertise of the RGM and the sense that I have that we need a structured way to welcome the stranger and the homeless. The RGM provides that with Nomadic Shelter. I am grateful to the Parish Council, and laud their courage and commitment, in supporting this program. To view an interesting video, see the following webpage: www.srmission.org/nomadic_shelter.html
- 3. Internship:** The Council also passed a resolution that the parish support an intern for a year, beginning in May. Vladyka Benjamin and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in NY have each expressed the highest regard for the Seminarian Deacon Theodor Svane and his wife Hanne, and their four year-old boy Simon, from Norway, and encourage our parish to create an internship program for Deacon Theodor. He is the Seminary Student Council President, and will graduate in May. Before coming to Seminary, he worked as a civil engineer in a major consulting firm in Norway. His wife Hanne is a cultural anthropologist and taught intercultural communications at a college. Deacon Theodor served for a few weeks with Fr. Andrew Cuneo at his parish, and sent him up back in July to meet me. I ask God to bless our endeavor to provide an internship for this family. Of course, funding is key—we hope that between parish funds and personal offerings, we can raise \$24,000. Another \$24,000 will have to come from other church sources, and we are working on that now.
- 4. Picket Fence:** We are very grateful to the “anonymous” parishioner who is repairing the old pickets, and painting the new fence. Not only does the fence prevent children from walking into the path of cars entering or leaving, but it restores what the parish founders intended for the area in front of the Protection Church. Many thanks.

RETREATS

AT ST. JOHN'S MONASTERY



OPEN RETREAT

"Everyday Saints: My Personal Encounters with Holy People"

Fr. Basil Rhodes of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Saratoga, CA

November 14-16, 2014

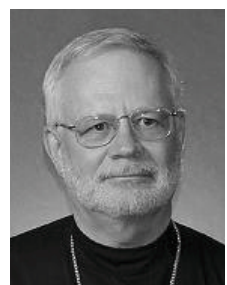


LADIES RETREAT

"The Virtues, the Passions, and the Healing of the Soul"

Mother Melania of Holy Assumption Monastery, Calistoga, CA

December 12-14, 2014



OPEN RETREAT

"The Emergence of the Liturgical Cycle and the Development of Lent and Holy Week"

Fr. James Jorgenson of St. Seraphim Orthodox Church, Santa Rosa, CA

February 6-8, 2015



OPEN RETREAT

"The Way to Union with Christ Through Watchfulness and Prayer"

Fr. Damascene of St. Herman of Alaska Monastery, Platina, CA

March 27-29, 2015



GARDENING RETREAT

"Journey to Eden: The Image of Christ in Creation"

Fr. Innocent of the Monastery of St. John, Manton, CA

April 17-19, 2015



OPEN RETREAT

"Building an Orthodox Christian Family in 21st Century America"

Fr. Josiah Trenham of St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Riverside, CA

May 15-17, 2015

Individuals: \$125 Couples: \$200 Please contact us to make your reservation.

Monastery of St. John
of San Francisco, OCA

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Manton, CA 96059

530-474-5964
monasteryofstjohn.org

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 26 – St. Demetrios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 3 PM, Wedding of Suha and Basil 	27	28	29 • 6 PM, Vespers	30 <i>At Kazan Skeete, 9:30 Divine Liturgy</i> • 5 PM, Sisterhood Get-together at Owens' home	31	1 • 3:30 PM, Catechism, <i>On Confession</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers
2 – Unmercenary Healers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 12:45 PM, Glendi Staff Meeting 	3	4	5 [Fr. Lawrence in Calistoga all day for confessions] • 6 PM, Vespers	6	7 • 6 PM, Vespers for St. Michael and the Angels	8 - Holy Archangels • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 3:30 PM, Catechism, <i>On the Priesthood</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers
9 – St. Nectarios of Aegina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 5 PM, <i>BBQ and Bonfire: St Seraphim and San Anselmo Youth</i> 	10 <div>Fr. Lawrence at Pan-Orthodox Clergy Retreat in Dunlap, CA.</div>	11	12 • 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank distribution • 6 PM, Vespers	13 • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for St. John Chrysostom • Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship (Turkey and fixins) • 5 PM, Sisterhood Mtg.*	14	15 - Nativity Fast begins** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, <i>Retreat in Calistoga on the Liturgy, Fr. Stephan Meholick</i> • 3:30 PM, Catechism, <i>On Marriage</i> • 5 PM Great Vespers
16 – Holy Evangelist Matthew <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • Reps from Pleasant Hill Cemetery visiting 	17	18 • 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting	19 • 6 PM, <i>Vespers, Potluck and lecture #1 on Christian Education by Deacon James Hughes</i>	20 • 6:15 PM, Great Vespers for the Entrance of the Theotokos	21 - Entrance • 8:30 AM, Matins and Divine Liturgy for the Feast	22 • 9 AM, <i>Retreat in SF with Fr. John Behr</i> • 3:30 PM, Catechism, <i>On Holy Unction</i> • 5 PM Vespers
23 – St. Alexander Nevsky <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9–10 AM, Confessions • 10 AM Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	24	25	26 • 6 PM, <i>Vespers, Potluck and lecture #2 on Christian Education by Deacon James Hughes</i>	27 - Thanksgiving Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy and Akathist “Glory to God for all things” 	28	29 <i>no catechism today or next week</i> • 5 PM Great Vespers

* The Sisterhood will meet on Thursday, November 13 to discuss plans for a proposed retreat

** The Nativity Fast begins on November 15. This fast initiates the season of preparation for Nativity. We abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil (except on weekends and feasts) and turn our attention to spiritual pursuits of prayer, reading, abstinence, worship and good works, just as the world turns towards its “holiday season celebrations.”