

Timeless Words of Elder Paisios For Christians in America Today



Fr Peter Alban Heers—former member of our Parish—will give an introduction to the life, spiritual personality and teaching of one of the greatest elders of the 20th century, Father Paisios of Mount Athos.

Saturday, May 12, 2012
Great Vespers at 5 PM
Talk by Fr. Peter at 7 PM

St. Seraphim Orthodox Church
90 Mtn. View Ave. Santa Rosa, CA.
saintseraphim.com • 707-584-9491

The Elder taught on many topics that touch our daily lives:

- The Church in the modern world
- Encountering other world religions
- Standing for Truth in society
- Human justice vs. Divine justice
- Spiritual heroism, and more

Fr. Peter Alban Heers is the founder and first editor of "Divine Ascent, A Journal of Orthodox Faith," and the founder and current head of Uncut Mountain Press. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Thessalonica, where he earned an undergraduate degree as well as a Masters in Dogmatic Theology. He is rector of the parish of the Holy Prophet Elias in Petrokerasa, a village outside of Thessalonica, Greece. He is co-translator of the new book on the life of Elder Paisios. Fr Peter's talk coincides with the long anticipated publication of the book **Elder Paisios of Mount Athos**, by Hieromonk Isaac. Copies will be available for purchase.



• POT LUCK, SATURDAY, MAY 12:

Following Vespers and prior to the talk on Elder Paisios by Fr. Peter Heers, we will share a potluck meal in the Parish Hall.

• FROM THE ELDER PAISIOS:

Until we uproot our defects, we should mirror ourselves in the defects of others and examine where we stand. For other people are a mirror in which we see ourselves. For example, if we see a certain failing in another person, we should immediately say, "Let me see, could I possibly have this same defect also?" And when we see that we have it, then we can struggle to cast it out. —*Spiritual Struggle, III*, pg. 159

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 6, 2012 ~ Sunday of the Paralytic

• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath shown strength with His arm; He hath trampled down death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, and hath granted the world great mercy.

• KONTAKION OF THE PARALYTIC, Special Melody "On this day":

As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, O Lord God, by Thy God-like care and might, raise up my soul which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions and by unseemly deeds and acts, that, being saved, I may also cry out: O Compassionate Redeemer, O Christ God, glory to Thy dominion and might.

• KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades. And didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the Myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice; and giving peace unto Thine apostles, O Thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

Epistle: Acts 9:32–42. **Gospel:** John 5:1–15

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 5: **9 AM, Work Party**
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, May 6: 9–10 AM, Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
12:45 PM, Sisterhood Meeting
- Tues., May 8: 7:30 AM, Matins for the Holy Apostle John

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- Wed., May 9: 9 AM Liturgy and Blessing of Water
6 PM, Supplicatory Canon and anointing
7 PM, Slide Presentation on the *Origins of Iconography*, by Catherine Ostling. **Please bring a plate of cookies or snack to share.**
- Thurs., May 10: 12 Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship
6 PM, Vespers for Sts. Cyril and Methodius

• SISTERHOOD MEETING TODAY:

Women and men (yes, men are most welcome) of the Parish are invited to participate in the Sisterhood meeting on Sunday, May 6, starting right after the Agape Meal.

• MID-PENTECOST:

The Feast marking the half way point from Pascha to Pentecost (a 50 day period) is called Mid-Pentecost, or Mid-Feast. Liturgy begins at 9 AM followed by the Blessing of Water. “At Mid-feast give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety; for Thou, O Savior didst cry out to all: whosoever is thirsty let him come to me and drink. Wherefore, O Well-spring of Life, Christ our God, glory be to Thee” (*Troparion of the Feast*). Whereas the mid-point of Great Lent reminds us to bear up the Cross of Christ bravely so that we may daily die with Christ in order to experience the Resurrection of our Lord, so also the mid-point of the Pascha season enlightens us regarding the theme of the fifty days following Pascha—which is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit poured out as a gift upon all the faithful who partake of the living water which is Christ Himself. The central theme woven throughout the period of the 50 days from Pascha until Pentecost therefore, is water...During this festive period we hear concerning the “living water” which if one partakes of “he will never thirst.” We are taught that it is our Savior Himself who is this living water, and we partake of Him through the baptismal waters and the Cup of Life which issued forth from His side at His crucifixion unto remission of sins and life everlasting. —*adapted*

• THE ORIGINS OF ICONOGRAPHY:

Art historian and our fellow parishioner Catherine Ostling will present two

slide presentations in the Parish Hall on the *Origins of Iconography*. Part One will be on Wednesday, May 9 at 7 PM, and Part Two on Wednesday, June 6, at 7 PM.

• LUNCH FELLOWSHIP (МЕЖДУСОБОЙЧИК)

Our retired and senior parishioners are invited to the inaugural **Senior Lunch Fellowship** on Thursday, May 10 at Noon, in the Parish Hall. Lunch and beverages will be provided at no charge. Please call the Church Office to reserve a spot. Luncheons are also planned for May 31 and June 14.

• PIROSHKI ~ May 14–19:

Order forms for piroshki are at the Candle Stand and in the Parish Hall. Bobbi Griovski asks for your help with making the delectable morsels during the week of May 14th. Final production and frying will be on May 19th. Please let Bobbi know that she can count on your participation: bgriovski@sbcglobal.net.

• PARISH RIDE MINISTRY:

Volunteer drivers are needed. A number of parish members need rides in order to attend Saturday evening Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy services. There was much enthusiasm for this project at the Annual Meeting, but we are still in need of drivers. Please call Karen Prisca Roselle at (707) 431-8021 or (510) 735-1306 to learn how YOU can help.

• FRESCO PAINTING:

Fathers Patrick and Moses, our fresco painters, will return this week and will work the next three weeks to complete the Optina Elders fresco. We will be deciding on what might be the next frescoes to be done this summer.

• BBQ & MOVIE NIGHT, FRIDAY, MAY 18

Parish kids, ages 9 up to High School, are invited (with or without their parents) to come to a BBQ (non-meat, of course) and Movie (age appropriate, of course) on Friday, May 18, starting at 6 PM. There's no charge, all food and goodies provided (donations and help with prep and clean up are gratefully accepted). Please let Fr. Lawrence know if you plan to bring your kids, so he can provide sufficient food.