

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 13, 2012 Samaritan Woman

Everything in the Church leads to deification (*theosis*). The Holy Liturgy, the Mysteries, divine Worship, the Gospel sermon, the fasting; they all lead to this one thing. The Church is the sole place of deification. The Church is not a social, cultural, or historical institution, and it does not resemble any other institution in the world. It is not like the different establishments of the world. Perhaps the world has fine establishments, fine organizations, fine institutions and other fine things. But our Orthodox Church is the inimitable, the sole place for the communication of God with man; of man's deification. Only within the Church can man become a god, and nowhere else. Neither in universities, nor in social service foundations, nor in any of the fine and good things that the world has. All these, however good they may be, they are not able to offer what the Church offers.

<<[www.greekorthodoxchurch.org/theosis\\_place.html](http://www.greekorthodoxchurch.org/theosis_place.html)>>

## • SENIOR GET TOGETHER — МЕЖДУСОБОЙЧИК

Thirty-five joyful celebrants were present for the first Senior Parishioner Lunch and Gab Fest, otherwise known as МЕЖДУСОБОЙЧИК (Mejdusaboysheek), a Russian idiom for a “get together.” A few who had reservations were forced to cancel out of concern for the very hot weather predicted. Too bad; the weather was warm, but comfortably so, and breezes wafted through the Parish Hall as did the murmur of conversation and the tinkle of laughter. The no-cost meal was tasty and filling. A crew of young uns (under 60s)—including Fr. Lawrence—were there to help with the less glamorous labors. For their assistance and love, we are grateful. Fr. Michael rose during the meal to express his pleasure at being present at the first gathering of many that will strengthen bonds within our community. John Andronico made the *ex tempore* keynote address when he told of how the expressions of love, friendship, generosity and togetherness that he has witnessed here at Saint Seraphim make our Parish unlike any other he has known. To those of you who were guests or workers on Thursday, May 10: Thank you for taking part and making it a memorable occasion. More МЕЖДУСОБОЙЧИКИ are scheduled for the months to come. Please plan on joining in the fun at the next one, Thursday, May 31. —Vladimir Baer

## • TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is over-thrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

## • TROPARION OF MID-FEAST, Tone Eight:

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.

## • KONTAKION OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN, Tone Eight:

The Samaritan woman came to the well in faith; she saw Thee, the Water of Wisdom and drank abundantly; she inherited the Kingdom on high and is ever glorified.

## • KONTAKION OF MID-FEAST, Tone Four:

O Sovereign Master and Creator of all things, O Christ our God, Thou didst cry unto those present at the Judaic Mid-Feast: come and draw the water of immortality freely; wherefore, we fall down before Thee and faithfully cry aloud: grant Thy compassions unto us, O Lord, for Thou art truly the Well-spring of life for all.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 12: 5 PM, Vespers / Confessions  
*Potluck dinner & Talk on Elder Paisios by Fr. Peter Heers, in the Parish Hall*
- Sunday, May 13: 9–10 AM, Confessions  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy / Church School to follow  
Noon, *Agape* - further remarks by Fr. Peter on Elder Paisios

- Wed., May 16: 9:30 AM, *Liturgy at Kazan Skete*  
6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., May 17: 6 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim
- Friday, May 18: 6 PM, BBQ & Movie for Middle and High School

- WELCOME:

We welcome and are honored to have visiting with us this weekend Father Peter Heers and his family. Father Peter has come to speak to us about the great and recent Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain after Vespers and again after Liturgy. Some of you will remember that about fifteen years ago Fr. Peter was a layman and member of our parish. He is now a priest in northern Greece, and the editor of Uncut Mountain Press, having published *The Truth of our Faith, Concerning Frequent Communion, Confession of Faith* and others—all teachings on the Church by the Holy Fathers. Fr. Peter was involved in the translation work of the new book, now at our bookstore, *Elder Paisios of Mount Athos*. We thank the Eliades family for providing accommodations for the Heers family.

- AXIOS:

Our Chancellor, Fr. Ian Mackinnon has informed us that the Holy Synod has conferred upon our Diocesan Hierarchy the title of The Most Reverend Benjamin, Archbishop of San Francisco and the West. We rejoice in this news and heartily extend our congratulations to His Eminence!

- MARIN GREEK FESTIVAL:

The annual Greek Festival at our sister Parish, Nativity of Christ in Novato, will be held on May 25, 26, 27. Check out their website at [www.nativityofchrist.org/festival/index.htm](http://www.nativityofchrist.org/festival/index.htm) or call at 415-883-1998. Tasty food, dancing and crafts.

- CELTIC FESTIVAL AT HOLY DORMITION:

The St. Michael's Celtic Festival will be held on **Saturday, May 26**, Noon to 8:30 PM—a full day of traditional music, dance, food, crafts, games and more! The Festival is put on by the parents, teachers and students of St. Michael's Orthodox School as a fundraiser for the school

and a celebration of our life together. Neighbors friends and celtic music lovers are invited to the festival that features many fun activities: Scottish games, Celtic music, Scottish dancing, great BBQ, an Irish “Pub,” crafts and more music. For more info see: <http://holydormitionchurch.org/celtic12.shtml>

- PASCHAL MATINS / LEAVE-TAKING & ASCENSION:

On May 23, at 7 PM, we will sing and serve the last Paschal Matins Service of the year. For the last time this year we will hear and sing “Christ is Risen” and all of the hymns of the Great Feast of the Resurrection. If you were unable to attend the Paschal Matins and Liturgy, or just want more, then plan to come to this and rejoice in this bright Service. The Vigil for Ascension Day will be served the following evening at 6 PM. Liturgy for Ascension, May 24, at 9 AM. More on Ascension and it's importance next week.

- THE PLACE OF MAN'S DEIFICATION—Fr. George of Mt. Athos: ...because we are members of Christ's body, Christ's life is offered to us and it becomes our life. And thus we are enlivened, saved, and deified [*meaning, that we share in the divine life by communion with God*]. We could not be deified, had Christ not made us members of His Holy body. We could not be saved if the Holy Mysteries of the Church did not exist, which make us one body with Christ, and by which, according to the Church Fathers, we share the same flesh and the same blood as Christ, in other words, to become one body and one blood with Christ. What a great blessing that we partake of the immaculate Mysteries [*sacraments*]. Christ becomes ours; Christ's life becomes ours; His blood becomes our blood. This is why St. John Chrysostom says that God has nothing more to give man than what he gives him in Holy Communion. Neither can man ask for anything beyond what he receives from Christ in Holy Communion. This way then, having been baptised, chrismated, and having confessed, we commune through the Body and Blood of the Lord, and we too become gods by Grace; we unite with God; we are no longer strangers, but His intimates. Inside the Church in which we unite with God, we live this new reality which Christ brought to the world: the new creation. This is the life of the Church, of Christ, which becomes ours as a gift from the Holy Spirit.