

focused front and center in worshipping God. It may seem polite and proper to “shadow” the one censuring, it is not necessary. He has already incensed you before he starts the circuit of the Church, so I urge you to keep your focus on the altar and your prayers to God. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- MOVIE NIGHT / BBQ:

Our thanks to Michael Dovey and Garrett Hamner for organizing a BBQ and movie on Friday, April 20 for the middle and high school parishioners. We enjoyed burgers and hotdogs, and the movie *The adventures of Tintin*. The next BBQ/movie night will be on Friday, May 18, starting at 5:30 PM. A flyer will be posted ahead of time.

- BEING HIS DISCIPLES:

“As the Father sent me, even so, send I you” said the Lord to the Apostles. Although we are not Apostles we are the disciples of the Risen Lord. We may humanly fear and dread death, and the judgment, but truly, we are to have no ultimate fear of death, since the Savior rose, and we are joined to Him in the Church by baptism, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the Liturgy, and share His risen life. We ought then to pray daily, giving thanks, and allow the Lord to enter into the locked door of our heart. If we are inwardly quiet for a while, we may spiritually sense the peace that comes when we hear the priest say, “peace be to you.” We know from the Gospel about St. Thomas that not even doubt can overcome the Lord’s desire to be with us. And because we have been given the gift of peace, we must also then give of ourself to those that are locked away in their own “upper room” of sadness, or fear, loneliness, poverty, doubt or grief. If we happen to visit such people, then say to them “peace be to you” and “Christ is risen.”
adapted

- MARRIAGE:

Marriage is not a state of nature, but is rather a state of grace, and married life is a special vocation (no less than the special calling of monasticism), requiring a gift or charism from the Holy Spirit—this gift being conferred in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. A man and a woman offer themselves to Christ, and He brings about the union of soul and body “and the two shall become one flesh.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 22, 2012 ~ St. Thomas Sunday

- TROPARION OF THOMAS SUNDAY, Tone Seven:

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

- KONTAKION OF THOMAS SUNDAY, Tone Eight:

With his searching right hand, Thomas did probe Thy life-bestowing side, O Christ God; for when Thou didst enter whilst the doors were shut, he cried out unto Thee with the rest of the Apostles: Thou art my Lord and my God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, April 21: 9 AM, Paschal Liturgy
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, April 22: 9 AM, Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy / No Church School
Noon, Agape luncheon in Hall
2 PM, Wedding of Franchesca and Panteleimon
- Tues. April 24: *Radomitsa*: Memorial Prayers & Blessing of graves:
Forestville/10 AM; Healdsburg/11:30 AM–Noon;
Santa Rosa Memorial/1:30 PM
- Wed. April 25: 6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs. April 26: *Fr. Lawrence in SF all day for Diocesan Council Meeting*
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting

- RÁDONITSA — DAY OF REJOICING:

The Tuesday after Bright Week is dedicated to the blessing of graves and prayers for the repose of the departed, all those who are waiting in the Lord,

for the General Resurrection. Starting at 10 AM, on Tuesday, April 13, I will bless graves in Forestville, and then at 11:30 AM in Healdsburg Cemetery, and at 1:30, more or less, at Santa Rosa Memorial cemetery. All are welcome to attend these joyful Paschal prayers for the departed. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- UPCOMING TALK ON ELDER PAISIOS of Mount Athos:

One of the most popular and well-known of the modern Elders of the Orthodox Church of modern times is Father Paisios of Mount Athos (reposed in the Lord in 1994). There are a number of excellent books which record his sayings and teachings (*Spiritual Counsels* in three volumes, *The Guru, the Young Man...* for example). A new biography of the Elder will be available very soon, and in anticipation of this, one of the translators of the book—who is a former member of our Parish (1997–2001)—will present two talks on the Elder in the Parish Hall. Father Peter Heers, now a married Orthodox priest serving a parish in northern Greece, will be here on **Saturday, May 12**, for a talk after Great Vespers. He will offer additional comments on **Sunday, May 13** after the Divine Liturgy. More info to follow. Mark your calendars for this important event and book release.

- LETTERS FROM PRISON:

Below are two letters sent from prison by the twenty-five year old **New Martyr Saint Alexander Schmorell**, a faithful Orthodox Christian and member of the *White Rose* group of German dissident students during WWII. St. Alexander was beheaded by the Gestapo on July 13, 1943, for distributing leaflets condemning Nazi atrocities in Poland, in the death camps and elsewhere. St. Alexander was glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church in Munich on Feb. 3, 2012.

My dear parents! I can't report anything new to you. Myself, I am healthy and in a good frame of mind. I've recently read something in a very good and meaningful book, that seems to be very fitting for you all: "The greater the tragedy of life, the stronger one's faith must be; the more it seems that we are forsaken, the more confidently we must command our souls into the hands of God the Father." And the Abbot Theodore of Byzantium writes: "Therefore, I have thanked God for my misfortunes, and

bowed myself completely to the unfathomable judgements of His Providence, that in His beneficial manner, He has already known, from the time in which the foundations of the world were laid, the time and place of death of every person." This is pretty much the same as what I have already written you. It would make me very happy, if you would think the same way, it would take away a lot of sadness and pain for you. But I'm not dead yet—and so pray and don't give up hope. *My most heartfelt greetings, Shurik*

My dear father and mother, Now it shall be none other than this, and by the will of God, today I shall have my earthly life come to a close in order to go into another, which will never end and in which all of us will again meet. Let this future meeting be your comfort and your hope. Unfortunately, this blow will be harder for you than for me, because I go in the certainty, that in my deep conviction, I have served the truth. All of this leaves me with a calm conscience, despite how near the hour of death is. Think of the millions of young men who have lost their lives outside in the fields. Their lot is mine as well. Greet all my dear friends from my heart... In just a few hours I will be in a better life...and I will not forget you; I will ask God to grant you solace and peace. And I will wait for you! One thing, above all, let me leave this on your hearts: Never forget God!!! *Your Schurik*. PS: With me goes Professor Huber, who also sends you his most heartfelt greetings! (*written July 13, 1943, Munich, Germany*). For more information, see: <http://jimandnancyonpilgrimage.blogspot.com/2012/02/by-jim-forest-saints-come-in-many-sizes.html>

- FROM THE SAINTS:

"Someone who bears a grudge while he prays is like a person who sows in the sea and expects to reap a harvest." — *St. Isaac The Syrian*

"If we have true love with sympathy and patient labor, we shall not go about scrutinizing our neighbor's shortcomings." — *St. Dorotheos of Gaza*

- RUBRICAL NOTE:

As the deacon or priest walks around incensing the Church, it is the polite thing, in some parishes, to turn as he walks by and follow him around. Some years ago, Bishop Tikhon, our former diocesan bishop, taught us that we ought not to do this, but that we should rather keep our attention