

• OUR INFIRMITY AND GOD'S PROVIDENCE:

A terrible accident [or a pandemic?] has a power to awaken us to the realization of the existence of various calamities and dangers surrounding us, from which the Providence of God preserves us. At the same time it convincingly persuades us to acknowledge our own infirmity and weakness and to seek the Father's protection and His most powerful defense, which affirms us in the Wisdom and the Word of God, which came down from above by the will of the Heavenly Father under a curtain of flesh like ours, woven by the Divine Might from the Immaculate Virgin, for our salvation. He became man and taught us to pray that we be not led into temptation. This reminds us from what Father we have our existence, and this in turn should make us seek our heavenly Fatherland and our eternal inheritance. —*St. Herman of Alaska*

• AUGUST 15:

The Feast Day of the Dormition, August 15, directs our attention to final things: our death, the Lord's promise to raise us from death to life-eternal, and of course, the great example of the fulfillment of that promise in the death and *translation* of the Holy Virgin Mary. The feast celebrates her death and her being raised to the *life of the age to come*—which is why we call it a *translation*. This feast is a *Pascha of the Theotokos*, her “translation” from her death to the resurrection, from earth to heaven. The Vigil will be on Friday, August 14 at 5 PM. The Divine Liturgy will be served at 10 AM on Saturday after the baptisms.

• BAPTISMS, AUGUST 15:

It is an appropriate time, at the end of the two-week Dormition Fast, and just before the celebration of the Divine Liturgy for the Feast day, to receive by Holy Baptism three of our catechumens. At 9 AM on August 15, Daniel Durrant, Sonya Elm and Randy Joseph Pelfrey will receive the holy illumination of Baptism. Please keep them in your prayers:

• MONASTERY FEAST DAY:

We send our greetings to Abbess Melania and the Sisters, congratulating them on the Monastery feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. May the Lord grant them every spiritual and material blessing that is for their salvation. We love and value the Monastery and the Sisters who live there, recognizing how much we benefit from their constant prayers. —*Fr. Lawrence*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



August 9, 2020

Glorification of St. Herman of Alaska



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

• TROPARION OF TRANSFIGURATION, Tone Seven:

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, O Christ our God, showing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. By the prayers of the Theotokos, let Thine everlasting light shine forth upon us sinners. O Giver of Light, glory to Thee.

• TROPARION OF ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA, Tone Seven:

O joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, guiding all men to the Heavenly Kingdom, teacher and apostle of the True Faith, intercessor and defender of the oppressed, adornment of the Orthodox Church in America: Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, pray to our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our souls!

KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

• KONTAKION OF ST. HERMAN, Tone Three:

The eternal light of Christ our Savior guided thee, O blessed father Herman, on thine evangelical journey to America to proclaim the Gospel of peace. Now thou standest before the throne of glory: intercede for thy land and its people, asking peace for the world and salvation for our souls.

• KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, Tone Seven:

On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 8: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy
3:30 PM, Catechism
5 PM, Great Vespers (* indicates *Live-Stream*)
- Sunday, August 9: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, *on the porch**
1:30 PM, Vespers /St. Lawrence
- Monday, August 10: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Lawrence
- Tuesday, August 11: 5 PM, Supplicatory Canon
- Wednesday, August 12: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
5 PM, Vespers*
7 PM, Online Discussion: *Way of the Ascetics*
- Thursday, August 13: 5 PM, Supplicatory Canon
- Friday, August, 14: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
5 PM, Vigil for Dormition*
- Saturday, August 15: 9 AM, Baptisms
10 AM, Divine Liturgy for Dormition*
5 PM, Vespers*
- Sunday, August 16: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, *on the porch**

• YOUR HELP IS NEEDED:

Dear Parish family: So that we can maintain our proper Liturgical order and decorum during the on-going restrictions due to the virus, I am going to ask two things of you:

- I. By next week we will have an online sign-up in place, but until then, please let me know if you are coming to a non-Sunday Vespers/Vigil or Divine Liturgy (for example, Dormition). I need this info in order to prepare Communion, and secondly, so that we can keep to our indoor attendance quota (for the moment) of 25. Yesterday's Liturgy for Transfiguration, while festive and wonderful, saw attendance well over the 25 that our sign indicates for indoor attendance (A priest complaining about high attendance? Obviously, things are not right). We are apparently unable to self-regulate, or perhaps the congregation was fine with the attendance (we do have fifty 6' markers on the floor for when we *are able* to gather in higher numbers). Nevertheless, *at the moment*, we need to maintain a low key and follow our own *current guidelines* (they will change eventually). A Parish Council member will monitor the indoor attendance. Those outside will be invited in to receive Holy Communion.
- II. While a service is being live streamed, please do NOT venerate the icons. Veneration should take place before or after a service, certainly not during a live stream when it's very distracting, and our home viewers can comment on "so and so" being in church, which is awkward.

I ask your good will and help in all of this, and your forgiveness for offending. —Fr. L

• PRAYING TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT:

As members of the Body of Christ, we have the same Gift of the Holy Spirit, so whether we are praying at home or together, we are united by the Holy Spirit. To keep us mindful of this great gift, let us each and every day at Noon pray the **Lord's Prayer** and one **Jesus Prayer** for this world: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us, and upon Thy world." When Noon comes, excuse yourself for the 30 seconds it will take, and know that many others will be praying at the same time. My thanks to Catherine Ostling for this beautiful suggestion. —Fr. Lawrence

• COMMUNION AT HOME:

Holy Communion can be brought to the homes of those who are sheltering in place. Please do not hesitate to ask Fr. Nicholas or Fr. Lawrence.