

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, August 16, 2020, Post-feast of Dormition

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

- TROPARION OF DORMITION, Tone One

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity, in falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos; thou wast translated unto life, O Mother of Life; and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

TROPARION OF THE ICON "[NOT MADE BY HANDS](#)," Tone Two:

We venerate Thy Holy Icon, O Loving Lord, asking Thee, O Christ our God, to pardon our transgressions. For of Thine own will wast Thou well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver from the bondage of the enemy, those whom Thou hadst fashioned. Therefore, in thanksgiving we cry aloud to Thee: Thou hast filled all with joy, O Savior, when Thou camest to save the world.

- KONTAKION OF DORMITION, Tone Two

The grave and death could not hold the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her intercessions, and an unfading hope in her mediations. For as the Mother of Life, she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, August 14: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions
5 PM, Vigil for [Dormition](#) of the Theotokos (abbreviated)
- Saturday, August 15: 9 AM, Reception of Catechumens & Baptisms
10 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, August 16: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
- Monday, August 17: 7 PM, Men's Group at the Fire Pit
- Wednesday, August 19: 5 PM, Vespers
7 PM, Study of the book [Way of the Ascetics](#) via Zoom
- Thursday, August 20: 7 PM, **Parish Council Meeting** via Zoom
- Friday, August 21: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, August 22: 5 PM, Great Vespers

- DORMITION:

The Church has believed and ever taught that the All-Holy Lady died—fell asleep in the Lord (*Dormition* means *falling asleep*), being subject to death, which is the separation of the soul from the body. However, the Church teaches us that she was assumed into heaven—her body and soul were brought back into unity in the resurrection that God intends for all of us. A hymn tells us that: “the Mother of God was bodily ‘translated’ to heaven, since the Lord did not allow the most pure temple of the Word to experience corruption: The Lord and God of all gave thee as thy portion the things that are above nature. For just as He kept thee virgin in thy childbirth so did He preserve thy body incorrupt in the tomb; and He glorified thee by a divine Translation, showing thee honor as a Son to His Mother.”

What is this saying? The hymn is celebrating the great mystery in Christ that she—as we will be too in God’s time—was raised from the dead and was taken up into heaven, in soul *and body* (humans have and *are* both). She has passed beyond death and judgment, and lives wholly in the Age to Come, the Eighth Day, the Kingdom of God—as we will too. The Resurrection of the Body, which all Christians await, has in her case been anticipated and is already an accomplished fact. In this fact, her life and death are not a great exception: what we are celebrating is that we all hope to share one day in that same glory of the Resurrection of the Body which she enjoys even now. The feast of Dormition shows us a glorious passing from a holy and unique life, through death toward resurrection—even beyond what we think of heaven, since she dwells in the coming age of the resurrection, at her Son’s side. The triumph of the Theotokos is our triumph; her assumption is our hope of glory; we struggle even now to overcome the bounds of nature, to be in Communion with the Lord, to overcome sin, and prepare ourselves daily for a blessed death. But it will take some planning and some attention for us. Hopefully we will learn from our Most Holy Lady Theotokos how to do that. Come to the Feast to learn. —Fr. Lawrence

- RECEPTION OF NEW CATECHUMENS AND BAPTISMS:

By the mercy and grace of God we will have the joy of receiving Andrew and Amanda Merriss and their children Zephyr and Anya as catechumens (*see inset photo*) on Saturday morning, the Feast of the Dormition, as we prepare to baptize Randy Joseph Pelfrey, Daniel Durrant and Sonya Elm. The catechumen prayers and exorcisms will begin at 9 AM, and the Baptisms directly after that, about 9:15 AM, followed by the Divine Liturgy for the Feast at 10 AM.

- ST. KASSIANI WOMEN'S QUARTET:

Our Choir Master Nicolas will direct the Women’s Quartet for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Dormition.

- CHURCH SERVICES:

A reminder: All Church Services are now taking place, until further notice, outside on the front porch. The County has indicated it would fine those organizations, restaurants, bars and churches that have indoor gatherings. Because of the wind blowing things around on the Altar (particularly in the afternoons and evenings) sometimes the Altar will be moved into the Narthex. On Sunday mornings Justin will sing outside on the porch. Other times,



singers will be stationed inside the church. In all cases, the sound will be amplified. Let's express our thanks for the work of our tech crew: Timothy Danford, Seraphim David Fitzpatrick, Andrew Travis Koehler (all recently baptized and participating) and Preston Booker. Thank you, gentlemen. If there are others who would like to learn some of the tech skills, please see any of the crew.

- ORDINATION:

For the last three years the Inlow family, Deacon Ambrose, Meghan, Honor, Emiliana Genevieve and Blaise have been at St. Tikhon's Seminary in PA. Deacon Ambrose was ordained deacon last year, and will be ordained to the sacred priesthood on Saturday, August 15, the feast of Dormition. We will receive a link to view the recording of the service. *Axios*, Many Years! The newly-ordained priest will be assigned to a parish in upstate NY, until the trip to Greece for further theological studies can be re-arranged.

- SOME INSPIRATION:

Our difficulties become opportunities for the expression of love and spiritual growth. [Fr. Dimitru Staniloae](#), the renowned Romanian confessor and theologian (reposed 1993) makes the following comments: "The road to Christian perfection doesn't exclude work. It requires that it contribute to the winning of the virtues. No one should imagine that the work he does is an end in itself; it has the role of beautifying his nature, with the virtues of patience, self-control, of love for his neighbor, of faith in God, and in turn of opening his eyes to the wise principles placed by God in all things... The ultimate purpose of work and the taking part in life of this world isn't so much the development of nature as it is the normal development of the dormant possibilities in man and in his neighbors."

- PARISH NEEDS:

Yellow Jacket traps need to be collected and set out with bait. Weeds and grass clumps growing in the blacktop of the front parking lot need to be scraped away. Light fixtures in St Seraphim Cathedral, inside and out need cleaning. The playground equipment needs maintenance and the ropes and canopy need to be replaced. There is always work to do in the garden.

- CHURCH CLEANING AND CARE:

Hello, Dear Church Family. Way back in February we had hoped to create a list for church cleaning. I abandoned that effort as soon as shelter in place started. Since that time our dear Elsie Avalon and Harriette Lucy Acorne have been continuing to come and clean the Church faithfully. Of course, we are grateful for the deep cleaning and polishing that happened just before St. Seraphim Day, with Elsie, Lucy and Mary-Photini. Elsie wants you to know that you are welcome to come and offer your services to help clean and care for our Sanctuary. Since it is not reasonable to try to schedule people now, instead we will need to depend on you contacting Elsie and letting her know you plan to come vacuum, dust, and clean icons, etc., before she gets there on a Saturday, so that she knows what has already been done. With so few people inside, it seems unnecessary to try to create a schedule at this point, but dust and dirt are never gone completely (and continue to waft in from the highway, Santa Rosa Ave and our own dusty parking lot. Once services return to normal, we will be going back to trying to schedule everyone on to get a turn caring for our beautiful spiritual home. **To recap:** If you are called to clean the church, call Elsie to let her know when you can come in. 310-702-0503. Thank you so much, and please forgive my six month lapse in communication. —*Adriel Scarborough*

- READING THE BIBLE:

For our reading of Scripture to be fruitful, to help save our souls, we must ourselves be leading a spiritual life in accordance with the Gospel. The Scriptures are addressed precisely to those who are trying to lead a spiritual life. Others will usually read them in vain, and will not even understand much. St. Paul teaches: “The natural [i.e., unspiritual] man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (I Cor. 2: 14). The more one is leading a spiritual life, the more one is capable of understanding the Scripture. A second point. Because we are weak and can only boast of our infirmities, we must pray to God to open the eyes of our understanding by His grace. Even Christ’s disciples on the road to Emmaus did not understand the Scripture; they did not understand that it was Christ in front of them interpreting the Scripture, until Christ Himself opened their minds (cf Luke 24:45). So unless we have our minds opened—which comes from the grace of God—we will read Scripture and not understand it; hearing we will not understand, seeing we will not see. —*Fr. Seraphim (Rose)*

- FAMILY AND CHURCH SCHOOL

Our Parish Church School classes will begin this year on Sunday afternoon, September 13. Our church school directors, Gloria Collins and Anastasia Brodeur, are making phone calls now to parents to determine how to proceed with classes: in person and/or online learning? While we have realized that “on-line learning” doesn’t totally work, we will unavoidably need to use *Zoom* in some situations. In any case, please remember that the key ingredient to learning about the faith is parental teaching at home. Spiritual knowledge is gained and reinforced by what happens at home, and certainly, a functional prayer life can only be learned at home. We cannot out-source religious education. A living knowledge and internalization of the Orthodox Christian faith cannot happen in a Sunday church class. Historically, church school is a rather recent development (and a good one too!), and yet Church history is full of families—parents and children—who were so devoted to loving Jesus and knew the faith so well, that they were willing to be martyred, to bear witness with their life for the Cross and Resurrection (read the life of the early second-century martyrs Sophia and her three children...if you dare). Parents, make your home a little church, a place where God comes first, a place of prayer, of love for one another, of peace and of learning about God and His saving providence.

- HELPING OUT HERE AND THERE:

It came to my attention that the faithful of the *Orthodox Church in Zimbabwe*, under Metropolitan Seraphim, have been experiencing tremendous hardship—along with the rest of their country—due to the covid-19 pandemic and related economic and social problems, as well as severe water and food shortages. The political situation is not good. Our parish made an offering to the Church of Zimbabwe of \$500.

Catholic Charities needs volunteers to help with dinner drop offs at 5 PM on Thursdays this month. HOW DOES IT WORK? When the Catholic Charities truck arrives we unload and drop the pre-bagged food in front of the apartment door, ring the bell or knock, then move away before tenant opens the door. We normally hang out at a distance when the tenant opens the door to smile and make sure they receive their meals. There is always a return smile and thank you. The delivery takes 30 minutes or so after the food truck arrives. Wear your mask. Gloves are provided. WHERE: Ortiz Plaza Family Apartments, 5360 Old Redwood Hwy, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Please contact me if you would like to help with food delivery on any Thursday this month. —*Lydia Nicholson, 707-322-8537*