

• TRUST AND FAITH IN GOD GUIDING THE CHURCH:

I have to listen to complaints about the fact that we are now going through difficult times, that now free rein is given to all kinds of heretical and godless teachings, that the Church is being subjected to the attacks of enemies from all sides and that it will become terrible for Her; that these murky waves of unbelief and heresy are overcoming Her. I always answer, “Don’t worry! Don’t be afraid for the Church! She will not perish: the gates of hell will not prevail against Her, right to the Dread Judgment itself. Do not fear for Her but for yourself—that’s what you have to fear for, and it’s true that our times are very difficult. Why? Because *now* it is especially easy to fall away from Christ, and then—perish.” —*St. Barsanuphius of Optina (1845-1913)*

• STAYING IN TOUCH WITH CHRIST:

Once again I invite those who are “health-consciously-hesitant” about coming to the Divine Liturgy to arrange a time with me, during the week, to receive Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament on the Altar. Alternately, I will be happy to bring the Holy Mysteries to your home so that you can commune. A third option is for you and yours to come for a “family Liturgy” on a day of your choosing. At the moment we have 100 people attending the outdoor Liturgies. At this time last year we had an average of about 180 attending. So, there are quite a few of you who have not had the Holy Mysteries in a very long time. This is not good. We hear, as never before in history, about health issues. There are articles and warnings aplenty about physical, emotional and psychological health being stressed during Covid-19. But spiritual health is very rarely mentioned. As a pastor, with some rather rudimentary understanding of spiritual health, I can confidently state that if you have been deprived of Holy Communion for a long time (unless you are someone like St Mary of Egypt), your spiritual health is severely stressed and perhaps you don’t even realize it. So I plead with you, please contact me. Also, I am still hearing confessions by phone—don’t let the sins pile up like a hoarders garage, in which you don’t even remember what is there. Be watchful—wisdom, stand aright! —*Fr Lawrence*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



October 18, 2020

Holy Apostle Luke



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life-Immortal, Thou didst slay hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead; and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

• TROPARION OF ST. LUKE, TONE THREE:

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.

• KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

Hades became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb. The dead arose, creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced with Thee; and the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

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- KONTAKION OF ST. LUKE, TONE FOUR:

Thou with Paul didst shine thy light upon the whole world, since thou wast a genuine disciple of the Word of God. And thou didst drive out the gloom far hence when thou didst write the divine Gospel of Christ God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Oct. 17: 3:30 PM, Catechism: *On Sin*
5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions
- Sunday, Oct. 18: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Coffee and Donuts outside
1 PM, Church School via Zoom
- Wednesday, Oct. 21: 5 PM, Vespers
7 PM, Study of the [Prophecy of Isaiah](#) via Zoom
- Thursday, Oct. 22: 7 PM, Parish Council via Zoom
- Friday, Oct. 23: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for feast of St. James
11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
5 PM, Panikhida for Daria Jorgenson
- Saturday, Oct. 24: 9 AM, Memorial Liturgy
3:30 PM, Catechism: *Jesus the Son of God*
5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, Oct. 25: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Outdoor Agape Meal (boxed lunch)

- TRIAL RUN:

This weekend we will have a trial run Coffee Hour with donuts, coffee and juice. The charge will be \$3 per person for one donut and coffee or juice; \$5 for two donuts and one coffee or juice. If folks are concerned about staying on the property and getting too much “exposure” we encourage you to help support the parish and pick up a “to go box.” We hope to provide a hot meal “to go Box Lunch” next weekend, if the trial run passes. The “Box Lunch” will be one size only, with wrapped utensils/napkin, and prepared

under the direction of our professional caterer. Tables, chairs, and picnic tables are available or you can bring your own blankets and sit on the lawn area. One major consideration is that EVERYONE must be responsible for clean up of their area. Trash cans are always available and we do not want to leave a mess for Fr. Lawrence and Matushka Ann after everyone is gone. Please come and participate this Sunday. If donuts are not your thing, please stop by the cashiers table and let us know if you are interested in participating in future weeks. Help support our parish.

—*Barbara Owens and the Box Lunch Committee*

- MEMORIAL LITURGY NEXT SATURDAY:

Saturday, October 24 is a Memorial Saturday, so there will be a 9 AM Divine Liturgy at which we commemorate those who have departed this life in blessed memory. Please send in your names for commemoration. —*Fr L*

- REPENTANCE AND SIN:

...To some extent all Christian preaching and teaching is a call to repentance, to the [metanoia](#), the change of mind, the reevaluation of all values in the light of Christ. There is no need to preach constantly on “sin,” to judge and to condemn. It is when a man is challenged with the real “contents” of the Gospel, with its Divine depth and wisdom, beauty and all embracing meaning, that he becomes “capable of repentance,” for the true repentance is precisely the discovery by the man of the abyss that separates him from God and from His real offer to man. It is when the man sees the bridal chamber adorned that he realizes that he has no garment for entering it. ...Christians must always fight idols—and there are plenty of them today: “success,” “materialism,” “security,” “money-centeredness,” etc. For here again, only within such broad and truly Christian judgment of this world the notion of sin recovers its true meaning, as deviation of love and interest, as worshipping values and norms that are not truly “valuable.” ...Both preaching and teaching must have a prophetic element in them, i.e., an element of Divine judgement, an invitation to consider everything in this world with the eyes of Christ. —*Father Alexander Schmemmann*

- CLEANING THE CHURCH:

Those who would like to help keep the Church clean—by taking on a small individual task—are asked to speak with Father Lawrence or Lucy-Harriette. Help is needed so that one person is not over-burdened.