

- A SEASON OF CHANGE:

After much discussion and prayer, the church school teachers have decided to put church school classes for grades **First–Eighth** on temporary hold until next year. There are a number of factors that led to this decision: The kids and their parents are already struggling with the heavy schedule of on-line classes during the week, and our Sunday classes were only adding to the burden, and attendance was understandably low. At this moment in time, it seems more important to reconnect with the rest of the parish family during the revived and regulated Agape meal than to have families run home to get to their computers for another zoom class. When things are more settled and back to normal, and in-person classes are possible, our Church School will resume. In any case, we know that parents are already teaching their children about the faith in Jesus Christ, prayer, the saints and the teachings of the Church. Without doubt, the faith is taught most effectively when it is authentically lived at home, that is, when God is present there.

The **High Schoolers** will continue to meet on Sundays on Zoom, at 1:30 PM rather than 1 PM. The **Pre/K** will continue to meet after Liturgy on the porch by the playground. If you have any questions please feel free to contact either of us or the teachers. —*Gloria Collins and Fr. Lawrence*

- OUR BELOVED CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

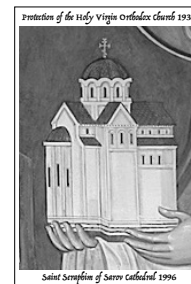
Gloria Collins will be stepping down from her position of Church School Coordinator this week. She has faithfully, lovingly and effectively served in this ministry for eight years. The Parish is grateful to God for her excellent and consistent work. She has worked diligently and with incredible energy for the good of our parish children. She understands that children are not some “future members” of the Church, but full members of the Body of Christ, and our sacred task is to introduce them to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Gloria and I would speak weekly about lessons, plans, events, issues and how best to serve, and her desire to make everything *just right* was always first. She is the longest serving Church School Coordinator we have ever had, and perhaps we have taken for granted the great gift she has given to God and the Church for these eight years. It’s been a joy for the teachers, the parents, the students and for me to have worked with her. May the Lord grant her many blessed years!

- WEDNESDAY EVENING SCRIPTURE — ISAIAH:

The study of the Prophecy of Isaiah continues on Wednesday evening at 7 PM, via Zoom. Fr. James will be leading the discussions.

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



**October 25, 2020**

Saint Tabitha, raised from the dead by the Apostle Peter



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath shown strength with His arm; He hath trampled down death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hell, and hath granted the world great mercy.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

### ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, Oct 23:
  - 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. James
  - 11:30–1 PM, Confessions
  - 5 PM, Panikhida for Daria Jorgenson

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707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

- Saturday, Oct 24: 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy  
3:30 PM, Catechism, on *Jesus the Son of God*  
5 PM, Great Vespers\* and Confessions
- Sunday, Oct 25: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy\*  
11:45 AM, Agape Meal outside  
*11:45 AM, Pre/K Church School*  
*1:30 PM, High School via Zoom*  
1:30 PM, Vespers with Lity\* for the Feast of St. Demetrios
- Monday, Oct 26: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy\* for the Feast of St. Demetrios
- Wednesday, Oct. 28: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank  
5 PM, Vespers\*  
7 PM, Online study of the Prophecy of Isaiah
- Thursday, Oct 29: 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Friday, Oct. 30: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions

*\* indicates Services that will be streamed on Facebook Live*

#### • THANKSGIVING FAMILY DINNERS:

This is our 8th year organizing the Thanksgiving Food Box Project!! Each year we have provided 100 Sonoma County families with a full thanksgiving meal. Many of you have been donating since the beginning, so thank you! A \$50 donation provides a family size full thanksgiving meal including coffee and pie! Look for the flyer with more information in next week's bulletin.

#### • SUNDAY AGAPE BOX LUNCH:

We want to thank all those who stayed after Liturgy on Sunday and participated in our "donut shop." It was a great opportunity for our church community to come together once again socially. We were careful and considerate with our physical distancing and wearing of masks. Each week we can make improvements so we can continue with this much-needed opportunity to gather. This coming weekend, Sunday, October 25, we will have some signs posted as reminders that masks are mandatory when not eating or drinking, and 6' apart is considered safe distancing (especially while standing in line waiting for food). There will be a full, hot, boxed meal on Sunday with recyclable utensils and napkins provided. You are welcome to stay and

eat here or pick up your boxed-lunch to take home. The charge will be \$6 per person (adult or child) and one size only. With this new arrangement we are not able to take special orders or different size boxes/servings. Hopefully you can consider splitting one meal for the younger children. So far these meals are donated, and we thank the donors for their generosity and community spirit. However, we will have hall expenses as usual—janitors to clean, as well as supplies and at times food and drink expenses. Our cooks during this time will have to be limited to those who are COVID trained and professionally qualified. If you would like to make special donations for folks that maybe cannot afford to contribute, or if you would like to sponsor a meal (maybe for a special occasion, e.g. a birthday, anniversary, memorial, etc.) this is always greatly appreciated. Your donations go directly for the support of our parish. Thank you again for all your considerations during this difficult time; we hope to see you again this Sunday. —*Your Box Lunch Committee*

#### • FEAST OF ST. DEMETRIOS OF THESSALONIKA:

Last year at this time I was in Thessalonika, Greece, preparing to go to Mount Athos. My *airbnb* apartment was right across the street from the great and ancient (early 5th to 6th century) [basilica of St. Demetrios](#). Since the Great Martyr and Myrrh-streamer St. Demetrios is considered the patron of the city, that particular cathedral holds All-Night Vigils, Liturgies and Supplicatory Services on the days/evenings prior to the [Feast of St. Demetrios](#), on October 26. The church bells would ring about 9 PM to announce the beginning of an All-Night Vigil, and then again about midnight to announce the beginning of the Divine Liturgy, and again at the conclusion of the Service, sometime in the early AM. Father Andrew Cuneo, my traveling companion, being younger than I am and more pious as well, would attend some of these night-time Services, as I attempted (as bells were ringing) to overcome jet lag from the ten hour flight from SF. My point is that St. Demetrios is so beloved by the faithful there, that they do all they can to commemorate his feast day with splendor. To cap off the festivities, there is a parade through the city each year. A portion of a video of the [parade can be seen here](#). Our own festivities are much more humble, yet we sing the same hymns, and ask the same intercessions. I invite you, following the Agape, to attend the Sunday Vespers with a Lity for the Saint at 1:30 PM (and to be anointed with holy oil). On Monday we will serve the Divine Liturgy at 9 AM.