

• WEDNESDAY EVENING SCRIPTURE STUDY:

Fr. James will complete his online Zoom study of the *Book of Isaiah* this coming week (although an extra session might be needed). Following up on that will be sessions on the *Old Testament Prophecies about the Coming of the Messiah*. Look for info coming up.

• THANKSGIVING FAMILY DINNER PROJECT:

It's that time year again for our Thanksgiving Food Box Project! This is our 8th year providing families a full Thanksgiving meal box. \$50.00 supports a full meal box. This year our goal will be to supply **200 families**. This partnership between St. Seraphim Orthodox Church and Catholic Charities has become a staple in our community for families in need. Thank you for your continued support! Please reach out to Amy Margitich or Serge Anderson with any questions (such as when the box assembly and distribution will take place). Donations can be made directly to the Church via Check, Cash or [Paypal LINK HERE](#).

• OUR NEIGHBOR:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection . . . Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them . . . No, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink . . . Owe one another nothing, but to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet," and any other commandment are summed up in this sentence, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom 12.9–10, 14–20; 13.8–10; cf. Mt 25.31–46). Genuine love is expressed in deeds, and not in words alone. It is expressed through what one actually does in one's life. It is manifested in concern for others through kindly speech and generosity with one's earthly possessions given by God. It is revealed in one's works of faith in keeping all of God's commandments. The love of neighbor "as oneself" is sometimes misunderstood. One should, of course, love oneself in the sense that one is faithful to God and grateful for his life. And certainly one should love oneself in the sense that he sees himself as uniquely important in the eyes of God and the object of God's own unfailing love and mercy. [See more here at this link](#).

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



November 15, 2020

Beginning of the Christmas Fast / St. Paisius of Moldavia



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Six:

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hades, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: Glory to Thee.

• TROPARION OF ST. PAISIUS OF MOLDAVIA, Tone Four:

[O Paisius the joy of Russia](#), the boast of Athos, and the wonder of Moldavia, by thy divinely inspired teaching, thou dost direct us to the fount of wisdom and salvation. And now, enjoying in heaven, the vision of Christ God, entreat Him that He may grant us His great mercy, and save our souls.

• KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Six:

When Christ God the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed Resurrection on the human race. He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life and the God of all.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Indicates Streaming Services*

- Saturday, Nov. 14: 3:30 PM, Catechism, On the Holy Spirit
5 PM, Great Vespers* and Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 15: 8:30 AM, Resurrectional Matins
10 AM, Divine Liturgy* – Women’s Quartet
Agape Box Lunch
1:30 PM, Prayers for the Beginning of the Fast*
1:30 PM, High School Class via Zoom
- Wednesday, Nov. 18: 5 PM, Vespers*
7 PM, Online study of Isaiah with Fr. James
- Friday, Nov. 20: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6:15 PM, Vigil for the *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**
- Saturday, Nov. 21: 9:30 AM, *Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Entrance**
3:30 PM, Catechism, *On the Church*
5 PM, Great Vespers* and Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 22: 8:30 AM, Resurrectional Matins
10 AM, Divine Liturgy*
Agape Box Lunch??
1:30 PM, High School Class via Zoom

- NATIVITY FAST:

Once again, as we do each November 14, forty days before Christ, we enter into a fast to prepare us for the feast day of the birth of Christ. Let’s discover together the great blessings of the Christmas Fast. We will discover nothing at all if we consider that the Fast is optional. On the other hand, fasting is a tool, so we shouldn’t get legalistic about it either. By fasting we pray more attentively (after getting over ourselves and acclimated to abstinence); by fasting we have something to share with those who are in need, thus showing that we do love our neighbor, even as we love ourselves; by fasting we adhere to God’s will, rather than our own, which is always running errands for our ego; by fasting we place obedience to the life in Christ above our own plans; by fasting we strengthen the inner person to rely on God; by

fasting we humble our flesh (the *flesh*, according to St. Paul, is the sinful impulse in us, that which is opposed to God. The *body* is to be sanctified and blessed). We fast from meat (chicken, lamb, beef, pork), eggs, dairy products, as well as wine and olive oil (except for feast days when we do have fish, wine and olive oil). The fast begins this year with the Gospel parable of the Good Samaritan. Let this story remind us to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and our neighbor (which is absolutely everyone else) as we love ourselves. The only way to accomplish that is by prayer and fasting.

- LITURGY OUTSIDE AND INSIDE:

We began serving outdoors out of necessity, so as not to limit attendance at the Sunday morning Divine Liturgy because of covid restrictions on indoor attendance. Other than the few Sundays with smoke and intense heat, we have served outdoors since August. As I mentioned on Sunday after the Liturgy, I have great admiration for the members of our congregation who have come each week, standing outside on concrete or gravel, hearing traffic, and without the aid of the frescoes, the icons, the smell of incense and the lovely swirling angelic singing of a choir. Our singers are also to be commended, for they have sung splendidly at each and every service, glorifying God and leading us in Divine worship. We also thank our tech guys for making sure we always have adequate amplification and streaming.

The weather is now changing with cold and rain coming—outside Liturgies will no longer be practical—although if there is a warm spell, we can move the Liturgy back outside to the porch. As one of our parish members said, we will decide on “game day.” Will we have an outdoor Liturgy this Sunday? Hard to know right now. We may have one more, or may return the Altar to the Altar, and the singers to the Cleros.

This of course presents a quandary for all of us: while we do have our own rule of 15 or so allowed in Church for services, the county has not yet opened up restaurants, bars, movie theaters or churches for indoor worship. We will continue to livestream, and now we have an FM transmitter as well, so that those sitting in their cars might listen to the Liturgy on the radio. Tune your FM dial to 87.7, KDOX. I am also proposing to serve a Liturgy each Friday and Saturday, and of course Sunday, so that as many as possible can sign up to attend. More on this after Thanksgiving. —*Fr Lawrence*