

• THE GREAT FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE:

As we celebrate the *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*, on November 21, the Church vividly shows us that the goal of the Christmas Advent season—indeed, of our entire life—is to become a living temple of the glory of God. This is what it means that the Kingdom of God is within. To know that our destiny—body and soul—is to be a bearer of the Holy Trinity, transfigured son or daughter of the Most High God, is part of the Good News of salvation. On **Friday evening, Nov. 20**, during Matins, the hymns will call us to prepare for Christmas: “Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ is from heaven, receive Him. Christ is on earth, be exalted...” One pastor wrote that “with these words something changes in our life, in the very air we breathe, in the entire mood of the Church’s life. It is as if we perceive far, far away, the first light of the greatest possible joy—the coming of God into His world! Thus the Church announces the coming of Christ, the Incarnation of God, His entrance into the world for its salvation.” On this *Feast of the Entrance*, we hear how the three year old Virgin was led into the Temple by young maidens, who joyfully carried their lamps before her, who is the Noetic Torch; in a “noble manner they take her into the Holy of Holies, going before and foretelling the ineffable Ray [Christ] which shall shine forth from her, lighting in the spirit those who sit in the darkness of folly.” (*Vespers Hymn*). The Church ranks this feast as a “great feast day” and calls all the faithful to partake of the joy and grace of this day. **The Vigil will be served on Friday, November 20 at 6:15 PM. The Divine Liturgy will be served at 9 AM** (note the time change from the calendar) on Saturday, November 21. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• THE COMING WEEK:

This is a busy, bright and joyful liturgical season—just what we need to pull us out of the *Covid-19 holiday doldrums*: We have Vespers and Liturgy for the Feast of St Catherine the Great Martyr on Tuesday and Wednesday. Vespers on Wednesday evening, and a Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day on Thursday, Nov. 26, and Divine Liturgy for St. Stephen the New, the Defender of the Holy Icons on Saturday, Nov. 28. Participate and reap the benefits.

• WEDNESDAY EVENING SCRIPTURE STUDY:

Beginning on Wednesday, December 2, 7 PM, Fr James will offer a study on the *Old Testament Prophecies about the Coming of the Messiah*.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



November 22

Post-Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy Disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF THE ENTRANCE, Tone Four:

Today is the prelude of God’s good will and the heralding of the salvation of mankind. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and she proclaimeth Christ unto all. To her, then, with a great voice let us cry aloud: Rejoice, O thou fulfilment of the Creator’s dispensation.

• KONTAKION OF THE ENTRANCE, Tone Four:

The all-pure Temple of the Savior, the precious Bridal Chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is led today into the house of the Lord, and with her she brings the grace of the divine Spirit. Of her God’s angels sing in praise: “She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle.”

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Indicates Streaming and FM transmission on 87.7, KDOX*

- Saturday, Nov. 21: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast*
3:30 PM, Catechism: *On the Church*
5 PM, Great Vespers* and Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 22: 8:30 AM, Matins of the Resurrection
10 AM, Divine Liturgy*
- Tuesday, Nov. 24: 5 PM, Vespers for the Feast of St. Catherine*
- Wednesday, Nov. 25: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Catherine*
4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
5 PM, Vespers*
- Thursday, Nov. 26: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day*
- Friday, Nov. 27: 11:30–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, Nov. 28: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Stephen the New, Defender of the Icons
3:30 PM, Catechism: *On the Theotokos*
5 PM, Great Vespers* and Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 29: 8:30 AM, Matins of the Resurrection
10 AM, Divine Liturgy*
1:30 PM, Vespers for the Holy Apostle Andrew and St. Sebastian of Jackson*

• SATURDAY MORNING DIVINE LITURGY:

For the next month, at least until the Feast of St. Seraphim on January 2, a Divine Liturgy will be served **every Saturday morning at 9 AM** (N.B., this Saturday, Nov. 21, the *Liturgy is at 9 AM not 9:30 AM*) in the Cathedral. In Greece, Russia, Serbia, Romania, etc., a cathedral such as ours serves a Saturday Liturgy, year in and year out. The primary reason is that Saturday is the Sabbath, the day of rest, the day in which we pray for those who have fallen-asleep-in-the-Lord, who rest in Him, and dwell with Him and await the general resurrection, the “day of the Lord” (of which Sunday is a little Pascha and an anticipation of the resurrection). Considering that we have extremely limited indoor attendance at the Divine Liturgy, having one in addition to Sunday provides more opportunity for the faithful to commune.

At this moment in time, the importance of preparation for, and participation in, Holy Communion cannot be exaggerated. We are joined to the Savior in the Eucharist, and in Him all the faithful are united. Now more than ever we need this powerful medicine to heal our fragmentation and wash away our sins. St. Cyprian of Cathage wrote that “in this very Sacrament, our people are shown to be one. Just as many grains, collected and ground and mixed together, make one bread, so in Christ, who is heavenly bread, we may know that there is one body, with which our number is joined and united.” What a beautiful picture of unity—unity from Christ—given here by St. Cyprian.

• BOX LUNCH AGAPE—ON HOLD:

The *Sunday Box Lunch Agape* meals have been a welcome time of fellowship and breaking bread together after the Sunday Liturgy on the Hall porch. We are grateful to those who prepared and served the box lunches. May the Lord reward them for their loving labors to bring us all together. After some discussion, we are going to put the outdoor Agape meals on hold, reluctantly, at least until after Christmas.

• THANKSGIVING DINNERS BOXES:

Many thanks to all those who contributed to the Thanksgiving Dinner project. We are grateful for your generosity. Catholic Charities has also sent us a donation which enables our parish to assemble and distribute not just 100 dinners, but 200 dinners. A total of \$11,758 was given for this worthy effort! That amount will cover everything needed for the dinner boxes: a turkey, stuffing, vegetables, dessert, whipped cream, and so on.

• FM RADIO:

We have a very limited-range FM transmitter now, which broadcasts the service to 87.7 on the FM Dial. Preston Booker came up with the call letters KDOX. Please be aware that the coverage is limited and does not extend past the parish property.

• CONDOLENCES:

We offer our condolences to the Duquette family on the sudden and tragic repose of Alan on Friday, Nov. 13. Alan is survived by this wife Christina and his children Anka and Adrian. Memorial prayers were offered for Alan on Thursday, November 19 at Daniels’ Chapel of the Roses. May his memory be eternal. *Vesnica pomenire.*