

• WELCOMING HOME:

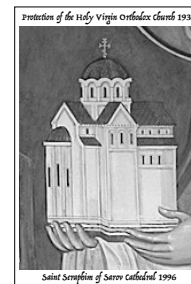
Lydia Margitich is organizing a charitable event here for Saturday, January 30, with the organization “[Welcoming Home](#).” The link takes you to the post made on Groups a few days back. The goal for the day will be to collect and sort through furniture and other household items dropped off/picked up that morning (the pick ups will be done by a moving company). You are invited to donate one or more of the listed household items shown on the link provided. [Click here for more info](#). I am particularly happy that we are continuing with various charitable activities during these trying times, especially those that let us partner with other organizations (we don’t have to do all the organizing). These activities are a part of our parish ministry to do works of mercy and to keep a positive presence in the community that Glendi used to provide. —*Fr Lawrence*

• NEW MARTYRS OF RUSSIA:

Click [HERE for a photo montage](#) of many of the men, women and children martyred in Russia by the Bolsheviks. These are family photos, church event photos, and prisoner photos. The wave of repressions started soon after the revolution. On January 25th, 1918, Vladimir, Metropolitan of Kiev, the oldest archbishop of the Church, was killed. In the same year, the *Cheka* executed over 3,000 Orthodox clergymen. Many of them were drowned in ice-holes or covered with cold water until they froze to death. Thousands of Orthodox Christians were sent to the concentration camp Solovki, a former monastery on the islands in the White Sea. Eight Metropolitans, twenty Archbishops and forty-seven Bishops died there. One of the places of mass killings was *KGB Butovo Field* near Moscow, when in 1938 alone, over 20,000 Orthodox people met their death. Thousands of churches were destroyed; monasteries and seminaries were closed. In the period between 1927 and 1940, the number of the churches fell from around 60,000 to less than 500. Many icons and sacred church objects were lost, destroyed or stolen. The government did not allow construction of new churches. Countless numbers of innocent believers died in prison, concentration camps and mental hospitals. We know that pain, fear, rejection, oppression, ridicule, suffering and death are weapons of the evil one used by the powerful of this world against Christians. Since the resurrection of Jesus Christ those things have never been effective against those who share in that victory over threats and death. I recommend this [2016 sermon](#) from the Monastery of the Holy Cross in West Virginia.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



January 24, 2021 New Martyrs of Russia



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

• TROPARION OF THE NEW MARTYRS, Tone Four:

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passions-bearers and pastors, monastics, men, women and children, ye [countless new-martyrs](#), confessors, blossoms of the spiritual meadow of Russia, who have borne fruit for Christ in your endurance: Entreat Him, as the One that planted you, that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, and that the Church of Russia be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, unto the salvation of our souls.

• KONTAKION OF THE NEW MARTYRS, Tone Two:

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, who have with your confession finished the course of this earth, receiving boldness through your sufferings: Beseech Christ Who suffered for you, that they who pray to you in the hour of the testing of their faith may receive the gift of courage. For ye are witnesses to

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us who kiss your feet, that neither tribulation, prison nor death can separate us from the love of God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, January 23: 5 PM, Vigil (abbreviated) / Confessions
- Sunday, January 24: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Trisagion for the anniversaries of the repose of George Barsi and Miropi Germanou
- Tuesday, January 26: 7 PM, Men's Fellowship Fire Pit (if no rain)
- Wednesday, January 27: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
5 PM, Vespers
7 PM, On-line Scripture Study with Fr. James
- Friday, January 29: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, January 30: *Welcoming Home* event (see below)
5 PM, Vigil (abbreviated) / Confessions
- Sunday, January 31: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy

[Home "Typika" Prayer Service for Sunday morning](#)

[Link for Scripture Readings for this Sunday](#)

[Hymns for Saturday evening Vespers](#)

• CONGRATULATIONS:

Eis Polla Eti Dhespota (Many Years, Master). We remember the consecration to the Episcopacy of our own Bishop Daniel, January 24, 2015, and the wonderful celebration here the following day. [Here is a link](#) to photos from that day, and a link to [Bishop Daniel's sermon](#) that day.

We also rejoice with Ania and Matthew Rademacher, baptized last Sunday morning prior to the Divine Liturgy. May the Lord grant them many years.

• SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY:

The Holy Synod of the OCA [designated this Sunday](#) as a day of prayer for the unborn, for aborted children and for the forgiveness and repentance of those who participate in abortions. Sanctity of Life Sunday serves to mark the anniversary of the *Roe v Wade* decision that legalized abortion in the United States. Orthodox Christians from across

the country will proclaim the sanctity of God's precious gift of life and remember the millions of victims abortion has claimed and continues to claim. We will offer the following prayers:

O Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-Begotten Son, Who art in the bosom of the Father, True God, source of life and immortality, Light of Light, Who came into the world to enlighten it: Thou wast pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of the All-Holy Spirit. O Master, Who camest that we might have life more abundantly, we ask, beg and supplicate Thee to enlighten the minds and hearts of those blinded to the truth that life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with Thine image and likeness; enable us to guard, cherish, and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For Thou art the Giver of Life, bringing each person from non-existence into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness, affront Thy divine goodness and providence through the evil of abortion.

Again we pray that Thou wilt ...enkindle in our hearts the desire to protect the unborn, to care for the needy, to show kindness to the poor, and to aid the homeless and help the helpless, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

• FROM FR. THOMAS HOPKO'S [55 MAXIMS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE](#):

- Be an ordinary person, one of the human race.
- Be polite with everyone, first of all, family members.
- Be faithful in little things.
- Do your work, then forget it.
- Be simple, hidden, quiet, and small.
- Think and talk about things no more than necessary.
- Flee imagination, fantasy, analysis, figuring things out.
- Don't try to convince anyone of anything.
- Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath.

• CONDOLENCES:

We offer condolences to Dorothy Erickson on the repose of her husband Paul and assure her of our prayers to the Lord for him. May the Lord grant rest eternal. Please keep Dorothy in your prayers as she recovers from illness.