

• PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HELP:

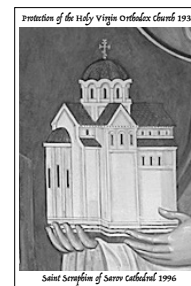
*On Thursday, January 7, 2021, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon offered the following statement: "In the aftermath of the troubling events in Washington, DC, yesterday, may we all keep this country and one another in prayer asking the Lord to grant peace, unity, and hope to all the people of the United States of America. As the Apostle Paul exhorts us to do, "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor" (Rom 12:9-10). O Lord Jesus Christ, who have descended the waters of Jordan sanctifying the whole creation and offering us a new life, protect and keep this country and grant it peace, tranquility, and reconciliation!"*

• CLING TO GOD:

The faithful are often scandalized by the prosperity of sinners. And it is true that if we look at things from a purely human perspective it can seem as if God has distributed His blessings unjustly. Here, where He should have given a measure of happiness, He has given only misfortune. And there, where He should have dispensed riches, He gave only poverty. And where poverty was in order, he lavished wealth. When we wait for a blessing, He often deals us a hard blow, while at the same time He maintains smiles on the faces of those around us. In a way that echoes modern social concerns, we might say that God discriminates, and this is something that scandalizes us. Why does this scandalize us? The answer is simple. It is because our hearts are still attached to earthly things, still clinging to false "goods" that we continue to covet and crave. Thus the solution to our dilemma must be sought elsewhere, and this means that we should not be hasty in abolishing whatever strikes us as discrimination or injustice. We live in a time of rapid change, when every innovation is presented to us as "progress," but before real change, real progress, can take place, something must first change within us. And for this to happen we must become completely estranged to all things earthly and human, to all human logic, to all human ways of thinking, and to every so-called material good. We must be indifferent in the face of all things. And only then, when we have become strangers to all, can God become all things to us, as if there existed nothing else in the world for us except God. It is this alone that can grant us true and lasting tranquility. Otherwise, if our heart is attached to anything earthly, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem to be, we can be sure that it will make us suffer. —*Elder Aimilianos of Athos*

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



**January 10, 2021**



• 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 THEOPHANY, Tone One:

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His Word. O Christ, our God, Who hast revealed Thyself, and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

• KONTAKION OF THEOPHANY, Tone Four:

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise: and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light Unapproachable.

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Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa  
707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, January 9: 4:30 PM, Panikhida for Brigid Sturgeon  
5 PM, Great Vespers & Matins
- Sunday, January 10: 9 AM, Baptism of Ania and Matthew  
Rademacher, reception of Bob Kulze as  
Catechumen  
10 AM, Liturgy/Great Blessing of Water to  
follow (outside)
- Wednesday, January 13: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank  
5 PM, Vespers, Online Scripture Study
- Friday, January 15: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, January 16: 5 PM, Great Vespers & Matins
- Sunday, January 17: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy

### • CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS:

Many Years and blessings to Ania and Matthew Rademacher, to be baptized on Sunday at 9 AM. We congratulate their sponsors, Matushka Ann—Godmother to Ania; Anastasia Brodeur—Godmother to Matthew and Michael Dovey, his Godfather. We also congratulate and ask God’s blessing and guidance for Bob Kulze, joining the ranks of catechumens. Bob has been attending since the summer. With our outside congregation, and lack of fellowship time, many of you probably have not yet met Bob. Please take a moment to congratulate these wonderful folks.

### • GREAT BLESSING OF WATER TODAY:

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy this Sunday, right after “Blessed be the Name of the Lord...” the clergy will proceed outside to the font and bless the water. Normally we all gather ’round the fonts to fill our jars with Holy Water. This year we will have someone fill up jars for you. We will have seventy-five 16 oz. mason jars to distribute.

### • HOUSE BLESSINGS:

I have not posted a list for house blessings this year, but instead have been calling, emailing and texting many of you to schedule the blessings. If you have not been contacted, please let me know ASAP, and we can find a date and time that works for you. This year, and hopefully only this year, the blessing will be rather quick. All of you show me the greatest hospitality

when I visit (goodies, coffee, tea, wine, meals, etc!), and I appreciate your care and love. However this year I will simply dash in and out, for obvious reasons. I will be out of the office and off-campus for much of January and part of February blessing homes, so please be patient with my return correspondence. Certainly, do not hesitate to call me if a need arises. I always have my phone with me. —*Fr Lawrence*

### • TRUTHFULNESS OF HIS WORD:

The *Troparion* of the Feast of Theophany tells us that “...the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His Word.” This phrase is not about affirming that God is speaking the truth (which He does). Sometimes we hear people sing “...the truthfulness of His words.” But “Word” is singular, not plural: this phrase tells us that the Holy Spirit—Who proceeds from the Father, rests upon the Son as a sign to us that Jesus Christ is indeed the Word of God.

### • FUNERAL FOR BRIGID STURGEON:

Due to delays at the county and funeral home this year, and especially during the last two weeks, the funeral for Brigid has been scheduled for Friday, January 15 at 2 PM, at the Healdsburg Oak Mound Cemetery. We will serve a Panikhida for her repose on Saturday, January 9, at 4:30 PM.

### • VESPERS AND MATINS:

On Saturdays at 5 PM for the foreseeable future, with some exceptions, we will be celebrating Vespers followed by Matins. Normally, those two services are combined, usually on the eve of a feast, and called a *Vigil*. At a Vigil we sing the opening Psalm 103 with refrains—which requires more singers. Since our chanting during covid is being done by only one singer and two readers, we have simplified both services, with the blessing of our Archbishop, and joined Matins to the end of Vespers. There will be the usual opportunity for Confession during the Services, and afterwards.

### • COMMEMORATION BOOKS:

Please update your commemoration books for the year at the candle desk. While we do not distribute *prosphora* to everyone according the Russian Orthodox tradition, we do pray for those listed in the booklets before each Sunday Liturgy (this is how it’s done in the Greek Orthodox practice).