

- HYMN FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT:

Now that we have come, my Christ, to the middle of the time of abstinence, and have reached the veneration of Thy life-giving Cross, falling down before it we call upon Thee: Mighty art Thou, who lovest mankind, and mighty are Thy works, for Thou hast made manifest Thy precious Cross. In fear we venerate it as we cry: Glory to Thy boundless compassion.

- A SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE—AN ADMONITION:

Now and then — lately more “now” than “then” — your priest sticks his head out of a Deacon Door, or breaks in the middle of a confession, to ask those in the congregation to stop talking. When I was in elementary school, and report cards were sent home, there was almost always the note from the teacher at the bottom: “your son talks too much in class.” You’ll have to ask my mother the nature of my chastening. Yes, we talk too much in Church. We enter the Church to commune with God. Once the Service begins, we are all focused, as a congregation, on our corporate worship. ***Before a Service***, we come to pray, to sit quietly, to confess in the presence of the Lord. Too many of us come into the Church, not like the Publican, and we begin to chat with our friends, discuss this and that. Metropolitan Anthony Bloom of London preached the following, with some frustration, one Sunday:

“...I not only make an appeal—I tell you with all the conviction and all the authority vested in me, that this is inadmissible. ...people who come to church must come to meet the Lord God; and the moment you are within these walls, you are in the place where two or three are gathered in His Name and He is in their midst. Unless you learn silence, unless you do not treat the church as a place where you can move about looking at icons in a distracted way, you never enter into communion with God...Take my words seriously. It is only if we learn to be deeply silent in the presence of God, worshipfully silent, silent before the greatness of the One who has died for us but Who has risen to give us His life, that we can take part in the Liturgy, in the prayers, and also in Communion. May God guide all of us, not only lay people, but priests, servers, all of us, into that deep silence of the soul where we can commune with one another because we are all in communion with the living God. Amen.” There will be no report cards to the Bishop that we “talk too much in Church.” But now and then I will remind you.

—Fr. Lawrence

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



April 4, 2021

Veneration of the Precious Cross



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life-Immortal, Thou didst slay hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead; and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF THE CROSS, Tone One:

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.

- KONTAKION OF THE CROSS, Tone Seven:

The fiery sword no longer guards the gate of Eden, for in a strange and glorious way the wood of the Cross has quenched its flames. The sting of death and the victory of hades are now destroyed, for Thou art come, my Savior, crying unto those in hades: “Return again to Paradise.”

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, April 3: 3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Marriage*
5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, April 4: 9:30 AM, *Catechumen ceremony*
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
- Tues., April 6: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
- Wed., April 7: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
6:15 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified
- Thurs., April 8: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
7 PM, *Study of the Lord's Prayer*, online with Fr James
- Friday, April 9: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified
- Saturday, April 10: Baptism
3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Holy Unction*
5 PM, Vigil and Confession

• NEW CATECHUMEN:

On Sunday morning at 9:30 AM we will receive Deborah Brayton as a catechumen. Deborah has been faithfully attending church at the Monastery in Calistoga for a while, and is coming to our catechumen classes here. Please extend your congratulations to her on Sunday.

• FIFTH THURSDAY OF GREAT LENT:

On Thursday April 15 we will sing “Matins with the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete” and hear the Life of St. Mary of Egypt, interspersed. We begin at 9 AM, and finish about 11:30 AM.

• DECORATING, CLEANING AND POLISHING:

On Lazarus Saturday, 2 PM April 24, there will be a work party to clean and prep the Church for Holy Week. See Denise Pellizzer to sign up to assist her and the others with flowers and palms. We will polish the brass candle stands and lampadas, as well as wash the window, etc.

• TWO PROJECTS:

1) The flat screen TVs that were kindly donated to the parish by the Bodega Bay Inn (the TVs are in the Parish Hall by the piano) need to find a home. Recycle? 2) The six candle chandeliers in St. Seraphim need to be cleaned —this involves unclipping each chandelier from its chain to take it down (two people needed), removing the wax and thick layer of dust, and re-hanging. Please see Fr. Lawrence if you can help.

• PLEASE PLAN AHEAD:

Confessions will not be heard after Holy Wednesday. “Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of repentance” (2 Cor. 6:2) — Holy Week is the time of the Lord’s passion and many Services, and to enter into that great mystery, we confess first, then place our attention on the Lord, not ourselves.

• RED EGGS FOR PASCHA:

Shannon Winterton will be dyeing eggs for Pascha, using a yellow onion-skin method this year. Please start collecting skins for them. Time: Holy Tuesday, April 27, after the morning Presanctified (10–11:30 AM). Please call Shannon at (707) 331-3228 to let her know you are available to help.

• EASTER EGG DECORATIONS:

John Gilluly is organizing an Easter egg decoration get-together for the parish kids on Holy Friday, April 30 at Noon (we have the Great Vespers of Holy Friday at 3 PM). See John and the flyer for more information.

• SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN.

See the following: <https://www.steugenecamp.org> Camp will take place from July 11–17 at Camp Arroyo in the hills above Livermore. Scholarships are available—see Fr Lawrence, who will be attending camp.

• PHOTO-DIRECTORY:

Please send your address and phone updates to our Parish Secretary Bobbi Griovski. She needs your help to keep the directory up to date.

• PAPER TOWELS AND PROSPHORA:

It’s clear to me and the Subdeacon that holding a paper towel under your chin when you receive Holy Communion isn’t necessary, not with the red cloth held below. Beginning this weekend, no more paper towels. Next week we will return to having individual prosphora breads (pre-wrapped and bagged for you) for those who have commemoration books. —Fr Lawrence