

• MOVING AWAY:

The parish will be losing a number of beloved friends very soon. The following are moving out of state: Alexander and Elena Alexey, Ani, Brian Justin, Matthew and Luke Rademacher; Shannon and David Winterton.

• THE HOLY MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN:

This Sunday we remember the Holy Myrrhbearing Women and the Theotokos. We contemplate their courage and love for the Lord, as they faithfully stood by Him as He was crucified. We remember how they, with Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, cared for and buried His broken body. At the Cross on Golgotha on Great and Holy Friday, it was those Holy Women who constituted the Church—ministering to Christ—as an example to us, despite the profound danger and opposition they faced. They went to the tomb of the Lord “very early in the morning...when the sun had not risen...” writes St. Mark, to finish anointing the Body of Christ. They saw a young man all in white (an appearance of an angel, a “messenger” of God) who told them that Jesus was risen, and that they were to tell the Disciples the Good News: “death is overthrown, Christ God is risen.” Great is their reward for their struggle, their patience, their perseverance, their anguish, and toil. But the good news *also came even* to those who abandoned Him, when the myrrh-bearing women were sent to the Apostles to tell them what they saw. From the faithful to the fearful, the resurrection was proclaimed. Good News! The News remains radically and powerfully new. And yet...

Fr. Alexander Elchaninov (reposed 1934 in France), wrote that “...as Orthodox, we have a great treasure of things and yet we vegetate in mediocrity.” And that is, spiritual mediocrity. A listlessness. Discomfort. Coldness of heart. Blinding egoism. Boredom. Even at times we may be afraid to witness and express ourselves openly as Christ’s disciples. Perhaps a remedy for this state of weakness is to contemplate the Myrrhbearers: St. Mary Magdalene, out of whom Jesus cast out the demons (she was NOT a prostitute); Joanna the wife of Chouza (who was the steward-administrator of King Herod Antipas!! — imagine the social interactions); Mary the wife of Cleopas; Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee; Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph’s sons James and Josés. Today we also also remember Saint Joseph of Arimathea, who was a secret disciple (John 19:38), and Saint Nikodemus, who was a disciple by night (John 3:3; 19:38). The holy right-believing Queen Tamara of Georgia is also honored on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women. —*Fr Lawrence*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



May 16, 2021

Holy Myrrh-bearers & St. Brendan the Navigator



• TROPARION OF THE NOBLE JOSEPH, Tone Two:

The Noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices and placed it in a new tomb; but Thou didst rise on the third day, O Lord, granting the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS, Tone Two:

The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said: Myrrh is meet for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself to be a stranger to corruption, so, proclaim: the Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.

• KONTAKION OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS, Tone Two:

Thou didst command the myrrh-bearers to rejoice, O Christ. By Thy resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, O God. Thou didst command Thine apostles to preach: the Savior is risen.

• KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst

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

Thou destroy the power of Hades. And didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice; and giving peace unto Thine apostles, O Thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 15: 5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, May 16: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
- Wed., May 19: 5 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., May 20: 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting/Parish Hall
- Friday, May 21: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen

• RADONITSA 2021:

The “Day of Rejoicing” called *Radonitsa* in Slavonic, is always celebrated on the Tuesday after Bright Week. On this day clergy and faithful visit cemeteries to sing memorial hymns and bless the graves. Standing before the graves (usually a place of sorrow and loss), we joyfully announce the Good News that *Christ is risen*, and that by His death He destroyed the finality of death—for now death—because of Christ’s rising—is the Passover to eternal life and the well-marked way to resurrection of our bodies, which will take place when Christ comes again in glory, as we confess in the Creed. This is a day for rejoicing, not for grief. We began our festive county-wide procession at *Pleasant Hill Cemetery* at 10 AM, where we were met by three families who joined us in singing “Christ is risen” and the memorial hymns. Our next stop was Forestville’s venerable cemetery, with its many three-bar crosses marking the graves of reposed Orthodox Christians. Completing a procession around the cemetery, we pressed on toward *Oak Mound Cemetery* in Healdsburg, and were met there at Noon by Abbess Susanna and a number of Sisters. The graves were blessed with Holy Water, as we commemorated a long list of names of those buried there. Following the service, Matushka Esther set up a table for a picnic. Being refreshed by prayer, fellowship and a festive lunch on what was a gloriously beautiful day, we drove to Shiloh Cemetery in Windsor. The visit to *Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery* was postponed until Memorial Day. Prayers for the departed are a crucial aspect of our life in Christ. A parish that actively and frequently prays for the

departed is one that is filled with love for those who have gone before, and accordingly, consciously and attentively anticipates the “resurrection from the dead, and the life of the Age to come.” Fr. John Breck wrote that “prayer transcends both time and space. As the work of the Holy Spirit within us, prayer unites us in a transcendent, eternal communion with the Holy Trinity and with all the faithful who have preceded us through death and into life beyond. We can and we must pray for them, for their salvation and for our own. We pray for them and request their intercession for the same reason the Church has always offered that prayer: because even now we are united with them in the eternal bond we know as ‘the communion of saints.’” Perhaps next year more of our faithful will join us at the cemeteries on *Radonitsa*. Mark your calendars now for that blessed day: **May 1, 2022.**

—Fr. Lawrence

• AGAPE MEALS:

The Parish Council decided at its last meeting to bring back the post-liturgy Agape Meals after June 15. This gives sufficient time for the parish members to organize cooks and assistants. If you would like to sign up to prepare a meal, or help out with the prep, please speak with Eleni and/or Debbie.

• CATECHUMEN:

Please continue to pray for our remaining Catechumen, Daryl Charalambous, who will be baptized, God willing, on Pentecost morning before the Divine Liturgy (June 20). Please pray also that the Lord sends seekers of salvation, who will become catechumens in due time.

• FRIDAY CONFESSIONS RESUME NEXT WEEK:

Since Sunday mornings do not provide time for Confession before the Liturgy, please consider coming on Fridays at 11:30–1:30 (resuming May 28), or on Saturday evening at the Vigil. Of course, confessions can be heard anytime during the week, Tuesday–Friday.

• REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK:

The monthly calendar should have included the Food Bank on Wednesday, May 26, 4 PM.

• CONDOLENCES:

Laurel Counts’ mother, Grace, reposed after a long illness, on Mother’s Day. We offer our condolences and assurance of prayers for Grace’s repose. May her memory be eternal. Christ is risen.