

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

If you have children, grandchildren or godchildren you'll want to enroll them in our *St. Seraphim Week for Kids* program. This annual "Church School" will take place June 14–18 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Volunteers will be needed to help out each morning for a couple of hours. We have opportunities to help with crafts, story telling, playing games, snack prep and, of course, clean up. Please contact Gloria Collins at (707) 849-6135.

- MEN'S GROUP:

We're going disc golfing! On June 13th (not this Sunday, but the next) the Men's Group will be going to the *Disc Golf Course* at Crane Creek. We will meet at 2 PM in the church parking lot and carpool over to the course. This will save money on regional park fees. If you have any discs please bring them. Fr. Nicholas and I have a few extras to cover anyone that doesn't have any. While disc golf is an extremely fun "sport" it's also just a great excuse to walk around and chat in a beautiful setting. Please come hang out! If you have any questions text me at (707) 799-4117. —*Michael Dovey*

- PENTECOST:

The fulfillment of the Paschal Season is the Feast of Pentecost (*pente=50*), at which we celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, those with them, and upon each of us who have died and risen with Christ in baptism. Pentecost services as follows:

- June 19: **5 PM Vigil**

- June 20: **9 AM Baptism** of Daryl Charalambous

10 AM Liturgy

Followed immediately by the **Kneeling Vespers**

- VACATION

I will be away on vacation from June 21 until July 2. Father Nicholas will be here for all the services and for any other pastoral needs. You can reach Father Nicholas at (707) 318-5391. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- CONGRATUATIONS:

We congratulate our graduates and ask God's blessing upon them. Many Years. If you have a graduate in your family, please send me the names so I can pray for them at the Liturgy. —*Fr. Lawrence*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



June 6, 2021

Sunday of the Blind Man (John 9:1–38)



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:

Let us the faithful praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

- KONTAKION OF THE BLIND MAN, Tone Four:

Being blinded in the eyes of my soul, O Savior, I come unto Thee, O Christ, as did the man who was born blind. And in repentance I cry to Thee: of those in darkness art Thou the most radiant Light.

- KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:

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

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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 5: 5 PM, Vigil / Confessions
- Sunday, June 6: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
- Tues., June 8: 6 PM, Matins for Leave-taking of Pascha
- Wed., June 9: 9 AM, Paschal Divine Liturgy for Leave-taking
6 PM, Vigil for the Ascension of our Lord
- Thurs., June 10: 9 AM, Ascension Day Divine Liturgy
- Friday, June 11: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions

• LEAVE-TAKING OF PASCHA:

After Wednesday we will no longer use the greeting “Christ is risen” or sing the hymn of Pascha. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is, of course, a constant reality for us, and something we confess and affirm when we recite the Creed in our daily prayers. On Wednesday, which is the eve of the Ascension of the Lord (which we also confess when we recite the Creed) until the following Friday, we sing this hymn: *Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. And they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.*

• FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Orthodox Christians the world over will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Christ with **Vigil on Wednesday, June 9**, and the **Divine Liturgy on Thursday, June 10**. The Feast is always on a Thursday—Forty Days after the Resurrection (see Acts 1). Christ did not *go away* by flying into the sky. We are such materialists that it’s hard for us to conceive or understand this event. The Ascension is the validation, affirmation, and vindication of the crucified, buried and risen Lord Jesus, the initiation of His reign—inauguration day—over all creation, and His power made present in us. “Lo, I am with you, even to the end of the ages. Amen,” says the Lord as He ascends—that is, as He comes into His glory and sits upon the Throne at the Right Hand of the Father. He is with us—we are with Him too—because now, the One Who Is God AND man is in Heaven. As St. Leo the Great, the Pope of Rome (+461) taught: ‘With all due

solemnity we are commemorating that day on which our poor human nature was carried up, in Christ, above all the hosts of Heaven, above all the ranks of angels, beyond the highest Heavenly powers to the very throne of God the Father.’ This is simultaneously *our ascension and our glorification*, since we are united to Christ through holy Baptism as members of His Body. Therefore, St. Paul can further write: ‘For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.’ (Col. 3:3) Out of our physical sight, we now ‘see’ the glorified Christ through the eyes of faith. St. Leo further explains how important this spiritual insight is: ‘For such is the power of great minds, such the light of truly believing souls, that they put unhesitating faith in what is not seen with the bodily eyes; they fix their desires on what is beyond sight. Such fidelity could never be born in our hearts, nor could anyone be justified by faith, if our salvation lay only in what is visible.’ The Feast of the Ascension is not a decline from the glory of Pascha. It is, rather, the increase of Pascha, and a movement upward toward the Kingdom of Heaven for those who are in Christ. It is the joyful revelation of our destiny in Christ. —*Fr Lawrence*

• MEMORY ETERNAL:

“I lament and weep whenever I see death, and look upon our beauty, formed according to God’s image, lying in the grave...” sings St. John of Damascus in one of his funeral hymns. And so we grieve, hearing of the



falling asleep in the Lord of our brother Paul Trimble this week. St. John also sings, addressing the departed one: “may Christ give thee rest in the land of the living, and open unto thee the gates of Paradise.” Our grief is always illumined by our trust that the faithful will dwell with the Lord and be raised bodily from the dead at the Glorious

Appearing of the Lord. Christ is risen. Paul’s funeral will be held at Nativity of Christ Orthodox Church in Novato, Tuesday, June 8 at 11 AM.

• ORDINATION TO THE HOLY DIACONATE:

Our parish will host the OCA Diaconal Practicum, July 26–29. The Practicum will conclude with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on July 29 at 9:30 AM, at which Justin Margitich will be ordained a Deacon to serve our community. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he prepares for this sacred event.