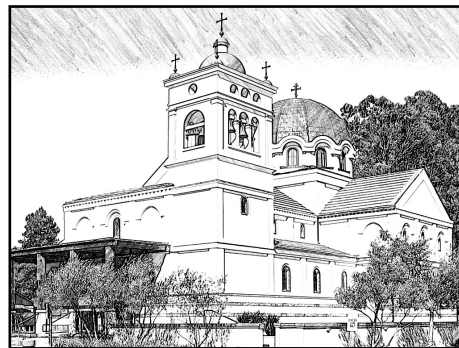


ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, June 20, 2021

Feast of Pentecost



- TROPARION OF PENTECOST, Tone Eight:

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net; O Lover of man, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION, Tone Eight:

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity; therefore with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

Epistle: The Acts of the Apostles 2: 1–11 **Gospel:** John 7:37–52; 8:12

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 19: 10 AM, Panikhida for Memorial Saturday, in the Protection Church
 5 PM, Vespers for Pentecost
- Sunday, June 20: 9 AM, Baptism of Daryl Charalambous
 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, *Vespers with Kneeling Prayers* to follow immediately
 Agape Meal
- Wednesday, June 23: FAST FREE WEEK
 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
 5 PM, Great Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist
 7 PM, Study of Resurrection Appearances of Jesus, online with Fr. James
- Thursday, June 24: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- Friday, June 25: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions in the Protection Church

- VIGIL IN SAN FRANCISCO

Archbishop Benjamin and the faithful of [Holy Trinity Cathedral](#) in San Francisco will celebrate their patronal feast day on Pentecost. Father Kirill, the Cathedral Dean, invites the Bay Area clergy and faithful to join them at the Pentecost Vigil, Saturday, June 19 at 6 PM. There will be a reception following. I will have the blessing of representing our Cathedral at this celebration in SF. Many of our singers are on vacation this week (no doubt attending Vespers/Liturgy somewhere) so rather than having a Vigil here, Father Nicholas Carr will stay here and serve **Vespers only**. —Fr Lawrence

- AGAPE MEAL:

This Sunday we will have a Sunday Agape Meal for the first time since March 2020 (not counting the gathering after the Paschal Matins and Liturgy at 3 AM), celebrating the baptism of Daryl Charalambous on Pentecost morning and the Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

- JUNE 15 Re-opening:

Various covid restrictions were officially lifted on June 15 in California. With the blessing of the Archbishop, we will no longer limit indoor attendance, nor will we monitor any of the restrictions currently or previously in place. For the time being, there will be many who continue to wear masks inside the church for health reasons (out of caution or because the incense causes breathing problems for some). Obviously, in the temple, we want to be busy with prayer and worship, and not examine our neighbor. We will continue to live-stream services for the benefit of our shut-ins, and to use the outdoor speaker system. I am grateful to God for each and every one of you for your prayers and kindness during these trying times. —*Fr Lawrence*

- WONDERFUL NEWS:

At the May Parish Council Meeting our Treasurer, Martin Thong, advised us that the mortgage for the parish hall and storage building (\$3000 per month) had to be renegotiated. Martin proposed that instead of paying interest to the bank, we organize loans by asking parish members to jointly cover the \$100,000 left on the mortgage. A few days after the meeting, a family (anonymously) gave a gift to the parish of the *entire amount*, with the stipulation that the Parish Council set aside \$3000 each month, saving for parish infrastructure repair and upkeep. Let us all offer our thanks to God for sending us this wonderful gift from the heart for the benefit of the Church. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK:

A very enthusiastic “THANK YOU” to Gloria Collins for coordinating and organizing this year’s camp for the parish children. It’s been wonderful seeing our children have quality time with each other in organized church activities. There has also been the opportunity during the week for parents and teachers to socialize in unstructured time afterwards. Over thirty children have come each day, and we are looking forward to the grand finale on Friday, with water-play and slip-n-slides. Each day’s schedule began with a prayer and lesson from Fr. Lawrence, Fr. Nicholas or Fr. James, followed by some vigorous play-activities led by Emma Anderson, and then a music lesson (Anastasia Brodeur and Aaron Wilkerson, Jr). This activity was followed by snack, another craft activity taught by one of our teachers (Jeanie Carl, Nikki Myles, John Gilluly, and Fr. Nicholas), and finally, at day’s end, a smorgasbord of craft activities for all children to choose from. It’s truly been a hands-on experience. A final big thank-you to Amanda Merriss (snacks) and to the *volun-‘teers’* Pela Anderson, Linda Kennedy, Larissa and Sophia Basch, Natasha Collins, and Christopher Gilluly, all who helped-out wherever needed, and were a great support. To see some photos, click [St. Seraphim Week - Photos](#)

- PENTECOSTAL GRACE—Abbot George of Mount Athos:

At every Divine Liturgy of our Church we have Pentecost. How does the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ? Don’t they become through the descent of the Holy Spirit? There is Pentecost! Every Holy Altar of the Orthodox Church is the Upper Room of Pentecost. At every Baptism we have Pentecost. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, a person becomes a Christian and becomes one with the Body of Christ. Every ordination of a Deacon, Priest and, of course, a Bishop, is a new

Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descends and makes a person a co-worker with God. Every Confession of a Christian is again Pentecost. The moment the Christian kneels to his Confessor and with humility tells him his sins with repentance and the Confessor reads him the blessing of forgiveness, he is forgiven by the grace of the Holy Spirit. At every gathering and at every Mystery of the Church it is a continuation of Pentecost, because they are performed in the presence of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, all activities, prayers and the Mysteries of the Church begin with a prayer: “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth...come and abide in us...” We ask the Comforter to come, the *Paraclete*, the Holy Spirit. And He comes. Wherever the Orthodox Church—the true Church of Christ—meets, there also is the grace of the Holy Spirit. Every Saint of our Church is a Spirit-bearing man or woman, full of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, a person of Pentecost.

- Pentecost Vespers to follow liturgy:

The *Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost Day* is unique in that it has three lengthy prayers during which we kneel (this will be the first time since Holy Week that we kneel during prayer). These supplications are rich in meaning and inspiration. May the Lord to give us all strength, understanding and gratitude as we offer these prayers—letting the words enter into our hearts. “Grant the Spirit of thy wisdom to my reasoning; give the Spirit of understanding to my folly. Overshadow my deeds with the Spirit of thy fear, and renew an upright Spirit in my inmost parts. With thy ruling Spirit make steadfast my fickle mind, so that each day, being led by thy good Spirit toward whatever is profitable, I may be counted worthy to accomplish thy commandments and to keep always in remembrance thy Glorious Coming, which searches out our deeds.” —*from the second Kneeling Prayer*

- TREES AT PENTECOST—The OAK TREE:

“The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.” (*Genesis 18:1*) Salvation is the work of the Holy Trinity—prefigured by the three angels at the “hospitality of Abraham” and portrayed in [Rublev’s famous icon](#)—the mystery of the Trinity is fully revealed at Pentecost.

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.” (*Isaiah 61:1-3*)



- NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST:

The Holy Church can be described in many ways (perhaps hundreds): She is called the “family of God in heaven and on earth” as [St. Paul says in Ephesians 3:15](#). It’s a tightly-knit family—we are united in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ in Baptism, by the power of the Holy Spirit; we are adopted sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father. One of THE MOST prominent of the family members of the Church is the holy, glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptizer of Christ. “The greatest of all those born of women” says the Lord Jesus. Thus, in the [Deisis Icons](#), the Theotokos is on the Right Hand of the Son of God (as the Queen always stood in the royal court) and St John on the left. We do well to celebrate and honor this glorious intercessor on his birthday, June 24! What a blessing to join with heaven and earth in celebrating St. John’s birthday. “Today the great Forerunner comes from the barren womb of Elizabeth; the great Prophet of Prophets, whom none surpass in greatness. The radiant candlestick of the Light; the voice of the Word, the friend of the Bridegroom, preparing the Lord’s chosen people by purifying them with water before the coming of the Spirit.”

- FORT ROSS

Since 1925, the faithful from Bay Area parishes have made a pilgrimage to [Fort Ross](#) on the observed Independence Day Holiday. His Eminence will lead us in a Divine Liturgy at the Fort Ross chapel on Monday, July 5, at 10:30 am. Pack a picnic to enjoy after the Divine Liturgy.

- SAINT SERAPHIM DAY

Fr. Kirill Sokolov wrote that “...in the consciousness of the Orthodox Church, the parish (‘altar’) feast day carries a significance second only to Pascha.” The *Feast of the Glorification (canonization) of St. Seraphim* approaches. Let us enjoy this feast, making up for the lack of festivities last year! On Sunday, July 18 at 5 PM, we will celebrate Vespers for this feast. The Divine Liturgy will be served on Monday, July 19 at 9:30 AM. Our celebration will be bright, but without Hierarchical ceremony, as neither Archbishop Benjamin nor Bishop Daniel will be present. They both intend to be here for the Diaconal Practicum, 9:30 AM Liturgy and ordination to the Diaconate on JULY 29.

- WATCHFULNESS LEADS TO CONFESSION:

The Holy Mystery of Confession is meant to be an encounter with God. “Behold, Christ stands here invisibly before us and hears your confession...” says the priest. What a great gift the Lord gives to us sinners!



Do you remember the last time you made Confession before God in Church? Perhaps, too much time has gone by since your last Confession? Come, receive absolution, cleansing of your heart and soul, and God’s grace. St. Theophan the Recluse says “if you have sinned, acknowledge the sin and repent. God will forgive the sin and once again give you *a new heart...and a new Spirit* (Ez. 36:26). There is no other way: Either do not sin, or repent.” Confessions are heard on Saturdays just before and during Vespers or Vigil, on Fridays from 11:30 AM until 1 PM, or by appointment. Confessions are **not heard** on Sunday mornings.