

in a line of Church servants, subdeacons, deacons, choir directors, matushki, readers, teachers and priests, monastics and hierarchs from our parish. The remainder of the Practicum schedule is as follows:

TUESDAY: Divine Liturgy at 8:30 AM in the Protection Church AND in St. Seraphim; breakfast and sessions, lunch and dinner to follow

WEDNESDAY: Divine Liturgy at 8:30 AM in the Protection Church AND in St. Seraphim; breakfast and sessions, lunch; **VIGIL** for the Feast of St. Jacob of Alaska (moved from 7/26) at 5 PM, dinner at a local restaurant

THURSDAY: Greetings of Hierarchs at 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy with ordination. Banquet to follow

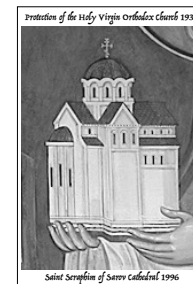
Thanks for your attention and participation in these events. Daphne Russell has a crew of people providing hospitality (food, snacks, welcome, etc). No doubt she will be happy for many of us to step up to assist her. — *Fr Lawrence*

- A SHORT SERMON:

...throughout all the centuries of Christianity there have been in the Church heroic members, young people of both sexes, who by the grace of God have kept their souls pure and intact, and have dedicated to the honor of God the noblest attribute of their human life, namely, an untarnished purity of soul and body. Such persons have had the courage and such unbounded confidence in God's assistance that, although living in the world and its dangers, though threatened by the cravings of their own individual passions and by the temptations of the devil, yet they have succeeded bravely in preserving this treasure even in a frail earthen vessel, have carried it uninjured through life's long journey here below, and have finally presented it to their Lord... May Christ fill your heart and more than compensate you for the fleeting, transient, worldly love that you have laid down at His feet. The eternal Judge will find you waiting like the wise and prudent virgins who all through life carry in their hands the pure oblation of love and the burning light of good example. Therefore, faithful to the end, He will invite you to the eternal wedding feast in heaven. — *St. Sebastian of Jackson and SF (+1940)*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



July 4, 2021

Sunday of All Saints of Russia and America



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

- TROPARION OF ALL SAINTS of RUSSIA & AMERICA, Tone Eight:

As a beautiful fruit of the sowing of Thy salvation, our land doth offer Thee, O Lord, all the saints that have shone in it. By their prayers keep the Church and our land in peace, through the Theotokos, O Most Merciful One.

- KONTAKION OF ALL SAINTS, Tone Three:

Today the choir of saints who pleased God in the lands of Russia and America stands forth in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. With

them the angels glorify Him, and all the saints of the Church of Christ keep festival, and together they pray to the Eternal God for us.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, July 3: 5 PM, Great Vespers
- Sunday, July 4: 9:40 AM, Hours
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, July 5: 10:30 AM, FORT ROSS PILGRIMAGE
LITURGY
- Wednesday, July 7: 5 PM, Daily Vespers
- Thursday, July 8: 5 PM, Akathist of the Protection
- Friday, July 9: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, July 10: 5 PM, Resurrectional Vigil

• LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR LEADS TO CONFESSION:

As we see the immense love that God has for His whole creation, we may notice the lack of that love in ourselves, a lack which leads to condemning others, egotism, failure to be charitable, laziness in prayer and reading scriptures and a host of other not-so-little sins. The Holy Mystery of Confession is meant to be an encounter with God, an honest appraisal of our love for Him and others. “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.

• SANCTITY:

The most important thing in the spiritual life is to strive to receive the grace of the Holy Spirit. It changes our lives (above all inwardly, not outwardly). We will live in the same house, in the same circumstances, and with the same people, but our life will already be different. But this is possible only under certain conditions: if we find the time to pray fervently, with tears in our eyes, to ask for God’s blessing, that a prayerful attitude may define our entire day.

—*Elder and Saint Sophrony reposed on July 11, 1993*

• JULY 5th PILGRIMAGE at FORT ROSS:

There will be a Divine Liturgy at the Fort Ross chapel on July 5, 10:30 AM. Bring a hat, umbrella and a folding chair. Pack a picnic to enjoy after the Divine Liturgy.

• FEASTS:

We have two liturgical events coming up. The first, the *Feast of St. Seraphim*, with a 5 PM Vigil on Sunday, July 18, and the Divine Liturgy on Monday, July 19 at 9:30 AM. I doubt we will have visiting clergy. I have not asked anyone to prepare an Agape Meal for after the Divine Liturgy, since we have a rather big event coming up. If someone wanted to prepare a meal, of course that would be great. 2021 is the **twenty-fifth anniversary** of the founding of the Cathedral of St. Seraphim. Perhaps we move that celebration to October 1??? We will have no bishops here for July 18/19, since both His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin and His Grace, Bishop Daniel, plan to be here only for the Diaconal Practicum July 26–29. That Practicum is the “big event” coming up which I mentioned above. Two years ago we hosted this church-wide event, at which OCA and ROCOR deacons and subdeacons from across the country attended. Once again we expect about 30–40 participants. The participants will arrive on Monday, July 26 for a BBQ dinner and orientation (accommodations are at local hotels). The Practicum runs until Thursday, and culminates in the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with the ordination to the Holy Diaconate of our own Justin Margitich. Not to digress, but allow me to mention that while we’ve had a number of people from the parish who have become monastics, or have been ordained to the diaconate or priesthood, Justin will be the first person to have been raised in the parish (he was 6 months old when we came to the parish in 1985) to be ordained. 1936 to 2021 is a long time to wait. May he be the first