

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, August 29, 2021

Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist



- 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 THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN, Tone Two:

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. For thou wast shown to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since thou wast granted to baptize in the waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the glad tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

- KONTAKION OF THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN, Tone Five:

The glorious beheading of the Forerunner became an act of divine dispensation, for he preached to those in hades the coming of the Savior. Let Herodias lament, for she entreated lawless murder, loving not the Law of God, nor eternal life, but that which is false and temporal.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 28: 8:30 AM, *Liturgy, Parish Feast of Dormition Parish, Rose Ave*  
9 AM, Church cleaning team work party, all invited  
5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, August 29: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
Noon, *Agape Lunch*  
12:30 PM, Church School Teacher Meeting (*Sunday School room*)
- Wednesday, Sept. 1: 5 PM, Vespers with Akathist *Glory to God for All Things* for Church New Year
- Thursday, Sept. 2: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (Liturgies, with exceptions, each Thursday morning)
- Friday, Sept. 3: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- WORK PARTY INSIDE ST. SERAPHIM SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 9 AM–NOON:  
The **Church Cleaning Team** is hosting a work party inside St. Seraphim Cathedral to take care of some tasks

that aren't included in the weekly cleaning rotation. We will begin at 9 AM on Saturday, August 28. If you have been curious about what is involved in the weekly cleanings, this is a great opportunity to learn more. The cleaning team is always looking for help! Bring a lunch and we can eat together when we finish. Questions—*call Bonnie Alexander 707-338-4962.*

- DEACON JEREMIAH AND KATHERINE:

Next week our Deacon Jeremiah and Diakonissa Katherine will be traveling to Florida, and then, God willing, to the Republic of Georgia for an extended visit to family there. There will be a travel blessing for them at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy this Sunday. The Crawfords have been vital members of this parish since 1984, and any time they are away we feel the loss of their presence. They will stay in touch with us with occasional posts on our GROUPS forum, as we look forward to their return in six or eight months.

- CHURCH-SCHOOL:

Hi Parents: Thank you for signing your children up for Sunday School. I have been listening to your concerns regarding COVID and the recent spike of the Delta variant. The teachers and I are meeting with Fr. Lawrence this Sunday (8/29) to discuss whether or not to have a September opening of Sunday School. The safety of all children and teachers is paramount. Our classroom settings (indoor/outdoor) will be carefully planned in light of this. It is possible we may delay the opening of Sunday School classes until this year's back-to-school adjustments for families are more established, and the stress-level of re-opening schools receded. I will keep you posted. —*Sincerely, John Gilluly, Church School Principal*

- BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST / A FAST DAY:

This particular feast day is observed with abstinence from meat and dairy products. It is, or perhaps was, customary in the Carpatho-Russian custom to eat without using a plate on this day, in remembrance of how the precious head of St. John was brought to Herod and the revelers.

- SERMON ON ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST:

Today we glorify the great feast of the first among the Prophets of the New Testament. He announced to men that the Lord Jesus Christ had appeared to the world not only as the Savior, but as the Enlightener and as the Judge of the world. In his hands were both the hatchet and the spade: on the day of the Dread Judgement, the Lord would clean off the earth's threshing-floor, and would separate the wheat from the chaff, the righteous from the sinners. All of this the great and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer of the Lord had foreseen. Therefore, today we also praise him as the holy New Testament Prophet, killed by the impious, criminal, King Herod.

...The Holy Forerunner also received the Lord's witness to the fact that he was the greatest of those born of woman, because he had become the first of all of the Holy Martyrs of the New Testament. See how he suffered for God's truth in this world! He suffered joyously! In today's principal hymn and prayer to him it is said that he went to his death rejoicing, and that he suffered rejoicing. Thus, he became the first example and inspiration to all of the Holy Martyrs of the New Testament, beginning with St. Stephen the Protomartyr and through today...The Forerunner had to become the Forerunner in Hades as well, in death's kingdom, so that he might preach there as well to the souls of all human beings: Lo, the One whom you have been awaiting, Whom all you Righteous Ones: Moses, Abraham, David, all of the Holy Prophets and Righteous Ones, have been thirsting to see, has come to earth. ...Truly the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ has come to earth. And lo, I go before Him to preach to you as well this best of news: He will come down here to us as well. In a little while He will come down, and you will see Him. You will be able to see what kind of human soul He has, One filled with

God and shining with infinite light. ...The Holy Forerunner appeared in death's kingdom as the first Evangelist, in order to preach the Good News of Christ to all of the souls in the kingdom of death. He appeared as well to all of them as the first Martyr, to show that people will joyously go to their deaths for True God, the Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, until death is defeated and destroyed. They will not fear death, for they will be more powerful than death. Through his bodily Resurrection, the Lord grants the body victory over death. ... Brothers and sisters, whenever you are in great sorrow, turn to that first Apostle of Christ, and he will help you with all of your burdens. And should some kind of misfortune happen, turn to that first Evangelist. No matter what bitterness might fill your soul, he will sweeten it with Christ's grace, which he will mystically send down to your tortured soul from the World on High. And when you find yourself in temptations and horrors of this earthly life, run to him, to the Holy Confessor; tell him what is in your heart, pour out your sorrows and spiritual needs and rest assured that in a mystical, divine manner, he will come down into your soul and will save you, and will deliver you from all temptations and woes. —*excerpt from a sermon by Saint Justin of Serbia +1979*

• THURSDAYS:

For the next two months, God willing, we will serve the Divine Liturgy every Thursday morning—with a couple of exceptions which the calendar will indicate. It is quite typical for a parish to have a mid-week Liturgy, and I felt that now is the time to begin this. We will have Liturgies on Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23 but not the 30th, since the Parish Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos is the next day, October 1.

• SEPTEMBER 1, CHURCH NEWYEAR AND...:

The careless and self-indulgent use of material creation by humanity, with the help of technological progress, has already started to cause irreparable damage to the environment [eradication of certain animals and habitats being just one aspect]. Unable to remain passive in the face of such destruction, the Orthodox Church, through us, invites all the Orthodox to dedicate the First Day of September of each year, the day of the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, to the offering of prayers and supplication for the preservation of God's creation. — *Joint Statement of the Orthodox Bishops, Constantinople, March 15, 1992*

**BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER JAMES**

*God is real and is incarnate in Jesus Christ; He is the Key to the Scriptures*

—Archbishop Michael of New York



***Thursday Evenings, September 9, 16, 23 at 7 PM  
both in-person and via Zoom***

*Illumine our hearts, O Master, with the  
pure light of Thy divine knowledge...*

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 29	30	31	September 1 <b>Church New Year</b>  • 5 PM, Vespers and Akathist <i>Glory to God for All Things</i>	2 – Anthony & Theodosy • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy	3 • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions	4  • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
5 – Sts. Eliz and Zachariah • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal	6	7  • 6:15 PM, Vigil for the <i>Nativity of the Theotokos</i>	8 – Nativity of the Theotokos • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy  • 4 PM, Food Bank • 5 PM, Vespers	9 – Joachim and Anna • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy  • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, <i>Themes in the Psalms</i>	10 • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions	11  • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
12 – Simeon of Verkhoturye • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal	13  • 6:15 PM, Vigil for the <i>Exaltation of the Cross</i>	14 – Exaltation of Cross • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy  <b>Strict Fast Day</b>	15  • 5 PM, Vespers	16 – St. Euphemia • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy  • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, <i>Psalms</i>	17 • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions	18  • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
19 – St. Theodore of Smolensk • 9 AM, Baptism of Mark Stanley • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 2–7 PM, <i>Glendi &amp; BBQ</i>	20	21	22  • 4 PM, Food Bank • 5 PM, Vespers	23 – St John the Baptist • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, <i>Feast of the Conception of St. John</i> • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, <i>Psalms</i>	24 • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions	25  • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
26 – St. John the Theologian • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal	27	28	29  • 5 PM, Vespers	30  • 6:15 PM, Vigil, <i>Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos</i>	October 1 • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy, <i>Feast of the Protection of the Holy Virgin</i>	2  • 3:30 PM, Catechism #1: <i>On the True God</i>  • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions