

- PG&E WORK:

PG&E will be doing work along Mountain View Ave for the next three months or so. A rep told me about this the other day, and I suggested that it might be good for traffic if the trucks were not parked on the road; perhaps they might want to park equipment in our lot, by the substation side. An agreement was made to that effect. Equipment will be on our lot *only during weekdays*, never on weekends. PG&E has sent us a contract, in which they will give the parish \$3500 for use of the grounds, and afterwards pay to repair any damage done while here. Work starts Monday, August 23. —*Fr L*

- PERSPECTIVE ON THE PARISH:

I always have believed...that if my parish closes, and the only people that notice are the parishioners, then you have a club, not a parish. We open our facilities to all and sundry in our community without charge (we do ask for an insurance rider and accept donations, which may or may not be given). ...You may ask: has anyone become Orthodox through this? My answer is “I don’t care.” My job as a *parish priest* is to model a community of love and support and get out of the way of the Holy Spirit. I’m just a field hand, our Boss does the harvesting. —*Father David Garretson, from an email*

- WORK PARTY:

Many thanks to those who helped out at the August 14 work party. A great deal was accomplished. Our parish has many buildings and a large piece of property, so the maintenance is intense and on-going.

- UPDATE ON THE HOME OF MERCY

The *Home of Mercy* is an organization within the Diocese of the West, with the mission of providing housing for retired clergy and clergy wives. By God’s providence, the *Home of Mercy* (of which I am a board member) purchased the 2.5 acre farm next door to the Church with its own savings funds and a grant from the Diocese. Next steps: A property manager will be hired to arrange for a short-term renter. In the meantime the Board members will work on a master plan for the property, preparing it for retired clergy to come and live there sometime by next year. We also hope to establish a local committee of parish members who might assist in various ways. Those who have questions or would like to get involved, please see me. —*Fr Lawrence*

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



**August 22, 2021**

**Post-Feast of the Dormition**



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF DORMITION, Tone One

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity, in thy dormition thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos; thou wast translated unto life, since thou art the Mother of Life; and by thine intercessions thou dost redeem our souls from death.

- KONTAKION OF DORMITION, Tone Two

The grave and death, could not hold the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her intercessions, and an unfading hope in her mediations. For as the Mother of Life, she was translated to Life by the One Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 21: 5 PM, Vigil for the Lord's Day / Confessions
- Sunday, August 22: 9:30 AM, Reception into the Catechumenate of Bibiana Vissoh  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
*BYO Picnic Lunch outside*  
3 PM, Wedding (couple from San Anselmo)
- Wednesday, August 25: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank  
5 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, August 26: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy in the Protection Church
- Friday, August 27: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions

### • WELCOME:

Just after Pentecost we had plans to receive Bibiana Vissoh as a catechumen, but there were various schedule conflicts. We have the joy of making her a catechumen on Sunday, at 9:30 AM. Please pray for our catechumens: Bibiana and Mark, and ask the Lord sends to us those seeking salvation and true worship who desire to join the Church of God.

### • CHURCH LIFE GOES ON:

Yes, we are back to wearing masks indoors, hopefully for a brief time only. His Eminence has asked us to follow the local guidelines. He is painfully aware that the masks are a problem for a great many church-goers—and sympathizes—and he has clearly stated that there are exceptions for those with legitimate breathing problems. He also believes that they have their place and that many church-goers are willing to wear the darn things, despite the discomfort. Perhaps you have noticed that *in church* we have our masks on, then we go to the Parish Hall for lunch, and like any restaurant, *we take off the masks* so we can eat and drink. This appears to be a contradiction and is confusing. However, from another point of view we might say this: We *all* want to be inside the Church for the Services. (*Slight digression:* Some folks are more comfortable standing outside, and a number of our elderly parishioners and others with chronic conditions and immunity issues are especially vulnerable to contagious disease. All of them that I have heard from long to be back for Vespers and Divine Liturgy but stay outside, or away, because of sensible medical advice. We sympathize with them and

offer our prayers for strength during their absence).

Those who understand that masks provide some level of protection appreciate that everyone in the congregation is following our bishop's guidelines. **We are all on the same page, so to say, inside the temple.** But then, once the Divine Liturgy is over, everyone can decide for themselves whether “to wear or not to wear,” and whether to eat lunch outside or to be inside the Hall. This is not really a contradiction in practice, but simply a matter of consideration and respect for others while in the temple itself—and an obedience to our Archbishop's request. Finally, let me get to my two main points. First, like you, I am also weary of covid and the various restrictions (masks especially), yet parish life continues. In the midst of our weariness, I am daily confronted with the question—what is the primary concern of my life, that informs all my activities, relationships and responsibilities? Hopefully it is to *seek first the Kingdom of God and all its righteousness* and trust that our heavenly Father will give us what we need for our lives (Matt. 33). Our lives are in God's hands, and each day and hour we have is a gift from Him, including *all the situations and encounters we experience*. Those are from Him. Secondly, since we profess to be “servants of God” we have the blessing of being supporters of our parish life, in many and diverse ways: By being present at the corporate prayer of the Saturday evening and festal Vigils, the Sunday and festal Divine Liturgies, the memorials for our departed; in charitable work with the Redwood Empire Food Bank; in our financial support; at our agape meals; in our spiritual struggles, by intercessory prayer, in our confession of sins, in our thanksgiving to God; in our love for one another. Now is the time to increase our goal of seeking first the Kingdom of God, not to lament about the path that has been given to us by our Savior. “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13). —*Fr Lawrence*

### • CHURCH SCHOOL:

Church School Classes begin here, in-person, on Sunday, September 12. A table will be set up registration (or use the new online registration [HERE](#)).

### • CHRISTIAN ED CLASSES:

Father James will begin a series of *Thursday Evening Bible Studies* on the Psalms beginning Thursday, September 9, at 7 PM, in the Parish Hall and on Zoom as well. Also, our *Catechumen Classes* will begin on Saturday, October 2 at 3:30 PM, and meet each Saturday for eight weeks.