

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER 2021



## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- Thurs., Sept. 30: 6:15 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the Protection of the Holy Virgin
- Fri., October 1: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast / Festal Agape Meal
- Sat., October 2: 3:30 PM, Catechism Class #1 *On the True God*, in the Library  
5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, October 3: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape Lunch  
2 PM, Wedding of Tatiana and Mark
- Tues., October 5: 5 PM, Vespers, [Feast of St. Innocent of Alaska](#)
- Wed., October 6: 5 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., October 7: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (Protection Church) Feast of [Sts. Sergius and Bacchus](#)  
6 PM, Angels Unawares  
7 PM, Bible Study with Fr James, via Zoom, on the Psalms
- Fri., October 8: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions

### • PARISH FEAST DAY:

Each year since 1936, as far as we can determine, the Feast Day of *The Protection of the Holy Virgin* has been celebrated here at our parish. Up until twenty years ago, the parish was commonly referred to as “St. Mary.” Of course, we don’t call the Theotokos “Saint Mary” since she is considered to be not only more holy than all the saints but even “more honorable than the Cherubim...” We celebrate this feast day with Vigil (Vespers and Matins) the evening before, and the Divine Liturgy the next morning, October 1, with a Cross Procession from the Cathedral to the Protection Church. Following is a brief account, from the OCA webpage, about the meaning of this feast day:

Church Tradition records that there was a miraculous appearance of the Mother of God which occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century. On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady

Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer. After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe." The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, "O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard." Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and "for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation." At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. [\(from the OCA webpage\).](#)

We do not simply celebrate a vision that came to a saint; the feast is about the meaning of the vision, specifically it is a celebration of the unbreakable and unending bond of the Church—both visible and invisible—between all the faithful as members of the Lord's Holy Body, the Church, the Body of Christ. We experience this reality when we pray, worship and commune together. And it is also a confirmation that until the Glorious Appearing of our Lord—and the resurrection and healing of all creation—all existence beyond the grave, of the righteous and the saints, is one untiring prayer, one ceaseless intercession and mediation, in love. When we sing at the Funeral and Panikhida that "their souls shall dwell with the blessed" this is what we mean. We have become used to imagining that the Holy Theotokos, and all the saints, all the deceased, the entire spiritual world in general—are somewhere over there, far away in the heavens, somehow "upstairs" while we are "downstairs." It is unusual and even difficult for us to believe and the Mother of God and all the saints are so close to us that they can pray together with us in our churches. Do not let go of the chance, dear brethren, to make use of the Theotokos' nearness, and to pray to Her with childish simplicity, loyalty and sincere faith, calling out to Her: "Rejoice, O our Joy, protect us from all evil with Thy most precious veil."

• GOSPEL READING FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3:

*And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful (Luke 6:31–36).* If we could, my brothers and sisters, imagine how the practical love for all people will raise us to such a high position. If we do that, we will certainly do our best to deserve this greatest honor, to become children of the Most High God! ...It is worth making every effort, and the method we use will be simple: Applying the Golden Rule. If there is an issue with another person and their actions, let us ask our conscience: If I was in their position, what would I want another person to do for me? The answer will soon come, and we have to do exactly what our conscience tells us. This depends of course, on our conscience being healthy, good, and enlightened by the Holy Spirit. —[Metropolitan Sotirios of Pisidia](#)

- CONGRATULATIONS:

We rejoice with Tatiana and Mark on the occasion of their marriage, Sunday, October 3 at 2 PM. All are invited to the service. Our best wishes also for Mark, who received Holy Illumination (Baptism) on Sept. 19 and Evan Holloway, who was received as a catechumen that day as well.

- ANGELS UNAWARES:

The Redwood Gospel Mission (RGM) has been running a program called “Angels Unawares (formerly known as “Nomadic Shelter”) for about five years which offers shelter to homeless folks. The RGM works with thirty local churches, each of which takes a night, once a month, to provide dinner and a place to sleep for a dozen or perhaps two dozen. Each person is screened for drugs, alcohol (and bedbugs), and also given a rapid-test for covid before gathering at the RGB and going to a particular church for the night. Our Parish has been involved with the program for a number of years, thanks to the hard work and organization of Michael and Rachel Dovey, and the crew they assembly. On Thursday, September 16, our Parish Council agreed to partner once again with the RGB. Our parish will host a group on the first Thursday of the month, from October to March. Please speak with Michael if you have any questions.

- CATECHISM:

Classes begin on Saturday, October 3, at 3:30 PM, in the Church. All are welcome to attend. Catechesis consists of eight classes, from October 3—to the beginning of December and then another eight beginning in February, culminating in baptisms on Lazarus Saturday. In addition to these sixteen classes, each Sunday there are also twenty-minute sessions with our catechists on topics such as the Prayer Book, the Feast Days of the Church, the history of the Parish, Icons, etc. These classes happen on Sunday mornings. When you hear the Deacon exclaim: “Catechumens, depart...” (starting Sunday, October 3) they indeed do depart to the Hall or Library for study with a teacher.

- THANKSGIVING BANQUET:

*The following was received via email from the Redwood Gospel Mission:*  
We have great news! Redwood Gospel Mission’s Great Thanksgiving Banquet will be returning to the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Wednesday, November 24, from 11 AM to 6 PM. We have a variety of ways to be involved, from item drives to hosting an activity booth. Would St. Seraphim’s be interested in participating? *To get involved, email or call Chaplain Rod Bowman* [rbowman@srmission.org](mailto:rbowman@srmission.org) (707) 578-1830

- DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY:

Our annual Assembly—gathering of bishops, priests and parish delegates from all over the Diocese—takes place October 11–14 at St. Paul Orthodox Church in Las Vegas. Your delegates are Deacon Justin, Alex Stameroff, Michael Dovey and myself, with Emma Anderson as an observer (helping out with singing too). —Fr L



The poster for OCF College Student SUNDAY features a group of four smiling students. The text on the poster includes the OCF logo, the title "College Student SUNDAY", the date "OCTOBER 3, 2021", a description of the vision of Orthodox Christian Fellowship, a call to donate, and a QR code. Social media handles and the website are listed at the bottom.

OCF  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
CAMPUS MINISTRY



*College Student*  
**SUNDAY**  
OCTOBER 3, 2021

The vision of Orthodox Christian Fellowship is to be the loving presence of Christ and the Orthodox Church on college campuses. This is accomplished via a growing network of on-campus OCF chapters led by talented students, clergy, and lay advisors as well as through programs such as Regional Retreats, College Conference, Real Break, and the Summer Leadership Institute.

**Donate now and help keep college students close to Christ and His Church.**

Join other Orthodox faithful across the country by offering a donation to OCF this College Student Sunday.

Scan the QR code or visit [ocf.net](http://ocf.net) to give.

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# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

OCTOBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>September 26</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> • 5 PM, Vespers	<b>30</b> • 6:15 PM, Vigil/Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos	<b>1 – PROTECTION FEAST</b> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy • Agape Meal to follow	<b>2</b> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On the True God</i> • 5 PM, Vigil / Confessions
<b>3 – St. Dionysius of Athens</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 2 PM, Wedding	<b>4</b> <i>Fr Patrick and Moses return to paint</i>	<b>5</b> • 5 PM, Vespers for the Feast of St. Innocent of Alaska	<b>6</b> • 5 PM, Vespers	<b>7-Sts. Sergius &amp; Bacchus</b> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 6 PM, <i>Angels Unnumbered</i> • 7 PM, Bible Study	<b>8</b> • 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions	<b>9</b> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On the Human Being</i> • 5 PM, Vigil / Confessions
<b>10 – Holy Fathers/7th Council</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal	<b>11</b> <div>Fr Lawrence and Delegates at Diocesan Assembly in Las Vegas/St Paul Orthodox Church</div>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> • 4 PM, <i>Redwood Empire Food Bank</i> • 5 PM, Reader Vespers	<b>14</b> • 7 PM, Bible Study	<b>15</b> • 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions	<b>16</b> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Sin</i> • 5 PM, Vigil / Confessions
<b>17 – Prophet Hosea</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal <i>*3 PM, free concert by Cantiamo Sonoma, courtyard</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> • 5 PM, Vespers	<b>21 – St. Hilariion</b> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 7 PM, Bible Study • 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting	<b>22</b> • 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions	<b>23</b> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Jesus Christ the Son of God</i> • 5 PM, VESPERS ONLY <i>**7:30 PM, Sonoma Bach*</i>
<b>24 – St. Elesban of Ethiopia</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal <i>**3 PM, Sonoma Bach*</i>	<b>25</b> • 5 PM, Vespers for the Feast of St. Demetrios	<b>26 – St. Demetrios</b> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy	<b>27</b> • 4 PM, <i>Redwood Empire Food Bank</i> • 5 PM, Vespers	<b>28 – St. Job of Pochaev</b> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 7 PM, Bible Study	<b>29</b> • 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions	<b>30</b> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Jesus Christ the Savior</i> • 5 PM, Vigil / Confessions
<b>31 – St. John Kuchurov</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal	<b>NOVEMBER 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> • 5 PM, Vespers	<b>4 – Kazan Skete Feast</b> <i>No Liturgy here</i> • 6 PM, <i>Angels Unnumbered</i> • 7 PM, Bible Study	<b>5</b> • 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions	<b>6</b> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Repentance and Faith</i> • 5 PM, Vigil / Confessions

\* Cantiamo Sonoma free concert here, Church porch, Sunday, Oct. 17 at 3 PM

\*\* SONOMA BACH singers will present a concert here Oct. 23/24. Info [HERE](#)