

• **RIGHTEOUS KING ELESBAN:**

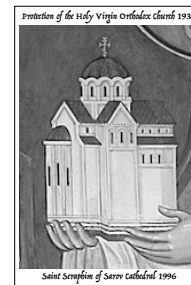
Saint Elesbaan, King of what is now Ethiopia lived when Arabia was ruled by Dunaan, the oppressor of Christians. The pious Elesbaan was unable to look on indifferently as believers in Christ were being massacred. He declared war on Dunaan, but his military campaign was unsuccessful. Wishing to learn the reason for his defeat, Elesbaan, with prompting from above, turned to a certain hermit. He revealed to the emperor that he had proceeded unrighteously in deciding to take revenge against Dunaan, since the Lord had said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay!" (Heb 10:30). The hermit counseled Saint Elesbaan make a vow to devote his final days of life to God, to escape the wrath of God for his self-willed revenge, and then to defeat Dunaan. Saint Elesbaan made a vow to the Lord, and marching off with his army against the enemy, he defeated, captured and executed him. After the victory the saint resigned as emperor, secluded himself within a monastery and for fifteen years he dwelt in strict fasting and asceticism. Saint Elesbaan reposed around 553-555.

• **RICH MAN AND LAZARUS:**

See [Luke 16:19-31](#). What were the concerns of this rich man? They were the ordinary concerns that people have all around, ordinary concerns—the very things that Jesus said *don't be concerned about them*. Do not be anxious about what you eat or what you drink or what you wear. Don't be anxious about them. And that's the only thing this rich, nameless man is concerned about. He made sure he was sumptuously clothed, richly fed, and that was the limit of his concern: the matters of this life. He thought nothing of the next life or the coming judgment of God. As far as he was concerned, he had to answer to no one but himself. It's been pointed out that he was a man of routine. He lived, as the text says, day by day. Every day, filled up. He tended not to notice insignificant things around him, such as a man starving at his doorstep. Things that appear to be small in this life, are in the next life significant. Little things, such as crumbs that fall from the table, or the drop of water on the tip of a finger—the man now saw that these little things are really huge. He now sees that a poor, weak, sick man is really a person of consequence. He's got a new perspective, and there is deep, fiery pain in that understanding. The chasm *Father Abraham* mentions did not all of sudden appear at the moment of death as if it is the punishment. The whole of this rich man's life has been moving toward that chasm. This rich man, in fact, has effectively constructed that chasm.—*borrowed*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



October 24, 2021

St. Elesban of Ethiopia



• **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.

• **KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master; Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Oct. 23: *In Calistoga—9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy & Feast of St. James*
3:30 PM, Catechism: *On Sin*

Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa
707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

- 5 PM, Vespers only
7:30 PM, *Concert*
- Sunday, Oct. 24: 9:40 AM, 3rd and 6th Hours
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
3 PM, *Concert*
- Monday, Oct. 25: 5 PM, Vespers, Feast of St. Demetrios
- Tuesday, Oct. 26: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Demetrios
- Wednesday, Oct. 27: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
5 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Oct. 28: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, St. Job of Pochaev
7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James via Zoom
- Friday, Oct. 29: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6:30 PM, *Square Dance at St. Nicholas, San Anselmo*
- Saturday, Oct. 30: 11 AM, Baptism (*Naomi, child of Wube and Richard*)
3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Jesus the Son of God*
5 PM, Vigil of the Resurrection/Confessions

• MEMORIAL SATURDAY AND FEAST OF ST. JAMES:

Liturgy will be served at the Monastery in Calistoga at 9 AM, Saturday, October 23. It is the tradition in the Russian Orthodox Church (the OCA is a daughter of the Russian Church) to serve a Memorial Liturgy on the Saturday closest to the Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrios of Thessaloniki. For why we have this connection, please refer to the explanation on the OCA website, [HERE](#). October 23 is also the Feast of St. James, the Brother of the Lord and the first bishop of Jerusalem. This is the name-day of our beloved Archpriest James, who will be celebrating together with the Sisters and me at the Monastery on Saturday. Please join us. —Fr. Lawrence

• EVENTS THIS MONTH:

This November we are making up for the lack of events last year:

- Sunday, Nov. 7, the *International Orthodox Christian Charities* will hold its annual get-together, this year at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Moraga. See [HERE](#) for more info.

- The Parish Council has scheduled a **Parish Grounds Work Party** for Saturday, November 13 at 10 AM. The Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. John Chrysostom will be served that morning at 9 AM.
- On the same day there will be a co-ed baby shower for Hannah Stameroff in the parish hall, beginning at Noon. Speak with Lydia Nicholson for more information.
- On Sunday, November 14, our parish will host a deanery-wide event for teens, beginning at 3 PM. There will be a short talk around the fire pit (if there's no rain) dinner and a movie in the Hall. See Vicky Basch for more information or to volunteer to help.
- The Nativity Fast begins on Monday, November 15. To mark that important date and beginning of our preparations for Christmas, a Supplicatory Canon for the beginning of Advent will be served at 6 PM.
- The *Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*, one of the Twelve Great Feasts, is Nov. 21, a Sunday.
- Thanksgiving Day is a wonderful holiday, the only American holiday dedicated to thanking God and one another (at least in its inception). As always, we will have the Divine Liturgy at 9 AM. This year, Matushka Ann and myself, along with some others, are organizing a Thanksgiving Dinner in the parish hall, for 3:30 PM. There will be a sign-up list posted next week. On it, you will be able to indicate which dish/food you can bring (turkey and a salmon will be provided), and how you will assist in set-up, serving or cleaning. There will be prayers of Thanksgiving at 3 PM. More info to follow.
- The annual *Thanksgiving Day Food Box* project will be organized once again, this will be our ninth year. Partnering with Catholic Charities, we will put together one hundred full meals which will go to families in need. How to participate? You can sponsor a box for \$50 and/or help out with putting the meals together the day before Thanksgiving. Donations can be made directly to St. Seraphim Orthodox Church. For more information, please speak with Amy Ramirez Margitich or Serge Anderson.