

- MARRIAGE (AND PARISH LIFE, TOO):

There can be no true community without a voluntary, self-offering of one's freedom to God. The co-existence of isolated individuals, each bent on the pursuit of his or her own private interests and desires, may perhaps be termed a kind of society, but it cannot be called a community. God has given me the gift of my freedom for no other reason than that I should return it to Him. But if I seek instead to retain my freedom in a selfish, egotistical way, I shall become a slave of mindless impulse and desire. My need for love and companionship is essentially a longing for God, and not even my marriage will be of any help to me if I do not have the Church as my spouse. Marriage...like monasticism, is a longing for the infinite; it is not the satisfaction of a biological drive, but an orientation of the self toward the *eschaton* (the glorious [appearing of the Lord](#)). Marriage is a journey, an ascent toward the perfection of Paradise, which is, as we've said, a place that we've already entered and into which we continue to progress... —Archimandrite Aimilianos of Mount Athos, *reposed 2018*

- THANKSGIVING BOXES:

If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother....For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land." Deuteronomy 15

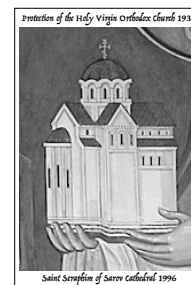
The annual **Thanksgiving Day Food Box** project is being organized once again, for this, our ninth year. Partnering with *Catholic Charities*, we will put together one hundred full meals which will go to families in need. How to participate? You can sponsor a box for \$50 and/or help out with putting 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.

- BAPTISM NEXT WEEK:

On Sunday, November 21 at 9 AM, the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, we will have the joy of baptizing baby Seraphim Sandoval, son of Anahi and Alejandro, recently returned from Mexico.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



November 14, 2021

Holy Apostle Philip



- RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION FOR THE APOSTLE PHILIP, Tone Four:

O Holy Apostle Philip, entreat the merciful God, that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offenses.

- KONTAKION FOR THE APOSTLE PHILIP, Tone Eight:

Thy disciple and friend, the imitator of Thy passion, the God-preaching Philip, proclaimed Thee to the universe. By his prayers deliver Thy Church from her enemies; through the Theotokos protect every city, O most merciful Christ!

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 13: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. John Chrysostom
10 AM, Work Party
Noon, Panikhida for Alan Duquette
12:30 PM, Baby Shower for Hannah S.
3:30 PM, Catechism *On Faith and Repentance*
5 PM, Resurrectional Vigil / Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 14: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
2–8 PM, Deanery *Highschool Get-Together*
- Monday, Nov. 15: 6 PM, Supplicatory Canon for Advent, Beginning of the Nativity Fast
- Wednesday, Nov. 17: 5 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Nov. 18: 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr. James
- Friday, Nov. 19: 11:30–1 PM, Confessions

• WORK PARTY—SATURDAY, NOV. 13:

Tasks for the morning will be posted at the Hall porch.

• BAZAAR AT STS. PETER AND PAUL:

Our Sister Parish on Stony Point Rd will hold its annual *Christmas Bazaar and Food Fest*, Sat. Nov. 13 from 10 AM–3 PM, and Sun. from 11 AM–3 PM.

Shop for Christmas gifts, jewelry, crafts and enjoy a Russian lunch, with food to go. For more info call Nadia Stewart at 925-372-7838.

• HANDICAPPED PARKING SPOTS:

It was brought to my attention that we might need more handicap parking spots by the church and the hall. Last Sunday, as I was informed, there was no handicap spot left for a person in a wheel-chair. Getting out and around was reported to be extremely difficult. I would kindly request that those who have placards, yet who are not only ambulatory but still spry on your feet, to consider NOT parking in a handicap spot, in order to leave space for those who truly need it. —Fr Lawrence

• HIGH-SCHOOL TEEN GET-TOGETHER HERE:

Our parish will host a deanery-wide event for high-school teens, beginning at 2/2:30 PM. There will be a movie in the Hall (*Princess Bride*), a brief talk by Fr. Lawrence and Mother Macrina from Calistoga in the Church and then dinner by the fire pit. See Vicky Basch for more information.

• COMMEMORATIONS TODAY:

On November 14 we remember the Holy Apostle Philip, St. Philip of Novgorod, St. Gregory Palamas, New Martyr Constantine of Hydra, St. Justinian the Emperor and his wife, the Empress Theodora, also a saint. We also remember the New Hieromartyr Demetrius of Tver. Demetrius Mikhailovich Benevolenskii was born on October 10, 1883 in Vishny Volochyok, Tver province. After his ordination to the priesthood in 1911, he was assigned to the Church of the Great Martyr Demetrius in the village of Ostrovno and, in 1919, to the Church of All the Afflicted in the village of Panoshino [today Udomlya]. He later served to other parishes in the Tver region. As a result of his intense dedication to his pastoral duties, he had been arrested and imprisoned several times by the communist regime. After a show trial, Archpriest Dimitri was shot on November 14/27, 1937 and buried in a mass grave. The place of his burial was hidden by the authorities and remains unknown to this day. To this day, the memory of the ascetic labors of the holy martyr is preserved among the parishioners. On September 19, 1999, he was numbered among the new martyrs and confessors of Russia. A more detailed account of his life, and the persecution he and his family suffered can be read [HERE](#).

• THINKING ABOUT THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN:

...by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Galatians reading for Sunday). We will meet more than one person today and during the course of the coming week. Are we prepared to love our neighbor as Christ has taught us? We love our neighbor because we see our Savior in that person. Love for the neighbor is a gift from God, and not of ourselves. The Lord knows our capabilities, our limits, our blessings, and those blessings that we have neglected and become poorer for that neglect. Maybe we won't reach that level of love, which is a gift of God, but at least, let's think of this parable as our itinerary, our agenda and spiritual outline, and act upon that as we journey not to Jericho, but to the cave in Bethlehem. —Fr Lawrence