

- 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. A benefactor stepped forward to cover the cost for ten dinners, but would be happy to have others share that cost. See Serge Anderson for more info.

- THE NATIVITY FAST, OR ADVENT:

From November 15 until Christmas we abstain from meat, fish, dairy products, eggs (and on some days olive oil and wine). Perhaps a fast from TV and social media might have a more immediately positive affect upon us. We then turn our attention to prayer and almsgiving. One of the aims of fasting, besides self-discipline and obedience to the spiritual practice of the Church, is that hunger, when given wings by prayer, makes us conscious of our dependence upon God. It's a challenge, focused as we are on our sensory perceptions far more than our spiritual perceptions. While fasting from food, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us. There is a strong connection between fasting and doing works of mercy for those less fortunate. We not only sympathize with those who suffer hunger and want, we show compassion (to co-suffer) as well. Our compassion is sustained by the love of God when we approach fasting in a prayerful, humble and spiritually directed way. [See this link for a short article on fasting.](#) What a joy it is to come to the Feast of Christmas having prepared ourselves by fasting, prayer and works of mercy. —Fr L

- PARISH INTERNSHIP:

Our parish council has for many years been committed to hosting interns. With the blessing of Archbishop Benjamin, we will be receiving, God willing, a husband/wife intern in January, Josef and Euphrosini Candalario. [Here](#) is a short bio from OCMC. We are thankful that our Diocese will be offering some financial support each month.

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



**November 21, 2021**



## Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:

Let us the faithful praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

- TROPARION OF THE ENTRANCE, Tone Four:

Today is the prelude of God's good will and the heralding of the salvation of mankind. In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and she proclaimeth Christ unto all. To her, then, with a great voice let us cry aloud: Rejoice, O thou fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

- KONTAKION OF THE ENTRANCE, Tone Four:

The all-pure Temple of the Savior, the precious Bridal Chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of the glory of God, is led today into the house of the Lord, and with her she brings the grace of the divine Spirit. Of her God's angels sing in praise: "She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle."

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 20: 10 AM, *Cantiamo Choir rehearsing all day*  
3:30 PM, Catechism *On the Holy Spirit*  
5 PM, Vigil for the Resurrection and the [Feast of the Entrance the Theotokos](#) / Confession
- Sunday, Nov. 21: 9 AM, Baptism  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:30 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape Meal
- Wednesday, Nov. 24: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank  
5 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Nov. 25: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day & Leave-taking of the Entrance  
3 PM, Thanksgiving Akathist and Dinner (Hall)
- Saturday, Nov. 27: 5 PM, Vigil / Confession

- BAPTISM:

We congratulate Anahi and Alejandro on the occasion of the baptism of their son Seraphim, Sunday at 9 AM. May the Lord grant Many Years!

- DEANERY CLERGY LUNCH:

Many thanks to Kristina Daya and Mazza Catering for serving a gourmet lunch to the fifteen deanery area clergy who gathered here last Thursday.

- DEANERY TEEN GROUP:

Sixteen high school teens gathered here on Sunday afternoon to have fellowship, watch a movie in the rectory, listen to a brief talk from Mother Macrina and myself, and enjoy dinner around the fire pit. The youth came from the following parishes: Nativity of the Theotokos in Menlo Park, Holy

Trinity Cathedral and Christ the Savior in SF, St. Nicholas in San Anselmo and St. Seraphim. Many thanks to the parents who helped organize the event. —*Fr Lawrence*

- NOTES FROM A SERMON:

The event of the *Entrance into the Temple of the Virgin* is the sign-post that things were changing before the birth of Christ; the old Temple was passing away; a whole new order of life was arriving, one in which human beings themselves will become the tabernacle of God's Presence. The phrase from Isaiah, that "God is with us" became radically new in meaning, and the Virgin is where the change is to be found: "She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle" we sing at Liturgy. The impossible is happening: The Son of God, one with the Father and the Spirit, Who dwells in unapproachable light, is preparing to come down to earth, and prepares her in the Holy of Holies of the Temple to become the living temple, the living ark. God will descend to earth, and so He calls His chariot—Mary—into the most heavenly place on the earth: the Holy of Holies in the Temple. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). All of our labors to love Christ and keep His holy word results in an intensifying of the Divine Presence within us, which is renewed each time we confess and commune. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and my Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him" (St. Jn. 14:23). Today our Virginal Mother calls us to imitate her and to be fit Temples of God. Today the Virgin calls us her children to follow her lead. She calls us to consecrate ourselves more and more to her Son. God's presence within us is the governing feature of our life. We are a Temple of God. —*Fr Lawrence*

- CHECK THE CALENDAR:

Please note that there will be no scheduled confessions on Friday Nov. 26 and no catechism on Saturday, Nov. 27.

- THANKSGIVING DINNER HERE:

Matushka Ann and I are organizing a Thanksgiving Day Dinner in the Parish Hall, 3 PM. If you have no other plans, please join us. There is a sign-up list in the Narthex. —*Fr Lawrence*