

- REQUEST TO PARENTS:

How blessed we are at St. Seraphim to have more than sufficient space for our children to play and gather: the playground, the parish green and the library. I appreciate very much that there are many parents enjoying their lunch on Sunday by the playground, keeping an eye on the kids. However: I offer you a gentle reminder: The parish property is large, and there are many inviting—yet forbidden—places where children ought not play. Specifically, behind the parish hall, in the parking lots, the vineyard or behind the intern/choir director apartment. In general, out of sight of a parent. Sometimes I see small children wandering around by themselves near the front parking lot or by the Protection Church without parental supervision. As your pastor, and speaking for the Parish Council, it is my constant concern that our parish grounds remain a safe and happy place for our children to play and gather. The parish campus is a public place. *Let us all be vigilant.* This is very obvious, I am sure, but bears repeating. —Fr Lawrence and the Parish Council

- FEAST OF THE CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS:

We celebrate the conception of the Theotokos by her mother St. Anna, December 9—the conception of a child is sacred; think of the implications! Here is a hymn from this feast: “Today the great mystery announced from all eternity whose depths angels and men cannot perceive, appears in the barren womb of Anna. Mary, the Maiden of God, is prepared to be the dwelling of the eternal King. Who will renew our human nature. Let us entreat her with a pure heart and say: Intercede for us with thy Son and our God that our souls may be saved!”

- FOUNDING PRIEST OF OUR PARISH:

As most of you are aware, the *Parish of the Protection of the Holy Virgin* was founded in 1936. We have a parish history book, *Mission and Sacrifice*, published in 2011 (available in the bookstore, the library and the parish website) that can tell you all about our church. The founding priest of the parish (see newly acquired photo) was Father Michael Pelzig. Shortly after the parish was begun, Fr. Michael was killed in a car accident on his way home after an event here, August 1, 1937. May his memory be eternal.



ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



December 5, 2021

St. Sabbas the Sanctified



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy Disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF ST. SABBAS, Tone One:

As one sanctified from thy youth, O righteous Sabbas, thou wast shown forth as a summit of the righteous, and the peer of the angels; for whilst living a heavenly life, thou didst guide thy flock unto godliness by word and deed, and for this, they cry unto thee with faith: Glory to Him that hath given thee strength. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hades is bound, while the prophets

rejoice and cry: the Savior has come to them that have faith. Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

- KONTAKION OF ST. SAVA, Tone Eight:

From thy youth thou didst offer thyself to God as a blameless sacrifice, having been dedicated to Him before thy birth, O blessed Sabbas. Thou wast an adornment of the righteous and a praiseworthy citizen of the desert. Therefore, we cry to thee: “Rejoice, O ever-glorious Father!”

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Dec. 4: 9 AM, *Welcoming Home distribution*
3:30 PM, Catechism, *On the Church*
5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, Dec. 5: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal, Visit of St. Nicholas
- Monday, Dec. 6: *San Anselmo, 9:30 AM, Liturgy, Feast of St. Nicholas*
- Wednesday, Dec. 8: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
5 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Dec. 9: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, [Feast of the Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna](#)
- Friday, Dec. 10: 11:30–1:30 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, Dec. 11: 5 PM, Vigil, Confessions before and after

- WELCOMING THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS:

The Feast of the beloved St. Nicholas is on December 6. The main celebration will take place at the Parish of St. Nicholas in San Anselmo (Vigil, Dec. 5 at 6 PM, Liturgy Dec. 6 at 9:30 AM), however, we will begin the celebration of the Saint's day here. After the Liturgy and Church School on Sunday, December 5, there will be a visit by “St. Nicholas” during our Agape Meal. He always brings gifts.

- DECEMBER 9–16:

I will be flying to Miami on Dec. 9 in order to escort Matushka Eleanor home and to visit my sister and her family. While there I will have the honor

of baptizing my sister's granddaughter as well. Fr. Nicholas will be available for whatever pastoral needs that come up while I am away. —*Fr L*

- CONFESSIONS:

Confessions will be available, per usual, on Friday, Dec. 10. Since there will be only one priest available at the Vigil, you are invited to confess either before (4:30–5 PM) or after the service.

- TIME FOR SPIRITUAL PREPARATION:

Please prepare yourself for the Feast of the Birth of Christ. It is appropriate and proper for us—priests, servers, readers, singers and all the faithful together—to make a Confession prior to receiving Holy Communion on all feast days, but *especially* before Christmas. Let those children who are over seven years of age also make a confession in order to prepare for the great feast. The word “Repentance” means a *change of mind, heart and direction*, a turning towards Christ, which is always a positive movement, and not about guilt or fear. Confession is an encounter with God, and therefore a gift of His loving presence. When we bring our repentance to God the Father in confession (for it is He before Whom we offer the fruit of our careful self-examination) we receive the cleansing of our hearts by Grace. Our bishops teach that if we receive Holy Communion frequently, as we should each week, we will be confessing no less than once a month. Let us all receive Holy Communion on Christmas Eve and Day. There are many opportunities to make confession each week, so please don't delay. —*Fr Lawrence*

- THURSDAY EVENING SCRIPTURE STUDY:

Fr James will focus on the Old Testament readings in the lectionary about the coming of the Messiah, via Zoom, Thursdays at 7 PM.

- PROPERTY WORK:

The work-party a few weeks back was not able to accomplish all the tasks that were planned. Any help with the following would be much appreciated: Change light-bulbs on porch of St. Seraphim; Sweep olives off the walkway around St. Seraphim; Clean solar panels and cut back weeds around them; Repaint outside Altar door. —*see Fr. Lawrence for more info*