

- 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*

- CHARITABLE ACTIVITY:

Each Christmas season our parish provides backpacks with toiletries and “necessaries” to the [Nightingale Shelter](#) (a short-term, 13-bed facility for homeless adults who have been discharged from the hospital and need additional recuperation). Come on Saturday, December 18th to the parish hall at 2:30 PM to help out with this project. For more information, please speak with Denise Pellizzer.

- CHURCH DECORATION:

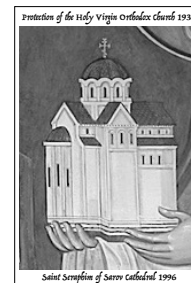
We will begin to decorate the Church for Christmas on Sunday, December 19, after the 1 PM Vespers. See Denise Pellizzer if you’d like to help out. Many thanks to the generous couple who purchased and decorated the Christmas tree now in the Narthex.

- 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; Repaint outside Altar door. —*see Fr. Lawrence for more info*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



December 12, 2021

**Sunday of the Holy Ancestors of Christ
& St. Spyridon of Tremithus**



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF THE ANCESTORS, TONE TWO:

By faith, Thou hast justified the ancient forefathers; through them Thou hast betrothed to Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the Saints, therefore, exult in glory, for from their seed is the noble fruit: she who without seed gave birth to Thee. Through their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

By raising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam; Eve exults in Thy resurrection; and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One.

- KONTAKION OF THE ANCESTORS, TONE TWO

A hand-wrought image ye would not worship, O thrice-blessed ones; but armed with the indescribable Essence, ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire. Standing in the midst of the irresistible flame, ye called upon God: Speed Thou, O Compassionate One, and hasten, as Thou art merciful, to come unto our aid. For Thou art able to do what Thou wilt.

- KONTAKION OF THE PRE-FEAST, Tone Three:

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the angels and the shepherds now glorify Him, Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child, Who before the ages is God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Dec. 11: 5 PM, Vigil of the Resurrection and commemoration of the Ancestors of Christ
- Sunday, Dec. 12: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
1 PM, Vespers for St. Herman of Alaska
- Wednesday, Dec. 15: 5 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Dec. 16: 7 PM, *Online Study of the Messianic psalms*
- Friday, Dec. 17: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, Dec. 18: 11 AM, Infant Baptism
3:30 PM, Catechism *On the Theotokos*
5 PM, Vigil / Confession
- Sunday, Dec. 19: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
1 PM, Vespers for the Prefeast of Christmas

- 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

- OUR COMMEMORATION:

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the *Sunday of the Holy Forebears*. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, “In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3, 22:18). On this Sunday the Epistle reading comes from St. Paul’s letter to the [Colossians \(3:4–11\)](#) which begins with the incredible sentence: *When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.* We look toward the Glorious Appearing of the Lord when He comes in glory. St. Paul told the Colossians to prepare to encounter Christ by putting their sins to death, for they are all forms of idolatry that exclude us from the holy joy of the Kingdom. The Gospel reading for this Sunday is always from Luke 14: 16–24, the Parable of the “Great Supper” which tells of those who are invited refusing to come, *so the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled...’* All are invited, but many are distracted, if not by duties (in the Parable there are the excuses of marriage, oxen and property) then by the things that St Paul lists in Colossians. Christmas, of course, is a banquet, a great feast; a celebration of our salvation in the God-Man Jesus Christ, Who in Himself united humanity with divinity, Who brings us from mortality to immortality. Here is a wake-up call for faith—a warning to not let anything come between us and Christ.

- CONFESSION AND PREFESTAL SERVICES:

The demands of work, family, holiday preparations along with morning and evening routines the week before Christmas present many challenges, perhaps this year more than ever (I always write that). Nevertheless, I invite you to make your pre-Christmas confession to prepare for Holy Communion, and to set aside a little time to join me at the Pre-Feast Services Dec. 20–24. The profound hymnography is enlightening and consoling. May God grant us the experience of calming and cleansing silence found in the approach to the spiritual Cave in Bethlehem during this **Winter Holy Week**. —Fr Lawrence

- FRESCO

Fr Patrick’s plans for painting this Fall were interrupted by various illnesses (not Covid) at his monastery. They plan to return after old calendar Theophany (Jan. 19).