

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and
Confessors of Russia



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Six:

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture
hades, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life.
O Lord who didst rise from the dead: Glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF THE NEW MARTYRS, Tone Four:

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passions-bearers and pastors, monastics, men, women and children, ye countless new-martyrs, confessors, blossoms of the spiritual meadow of Russia, who have borne fruit for Christ in your endurance: Entreat Him, as the One that planted you, that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, and that the Church of Russia be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, unto the salvation of our souls.

- KONTAKION OF THE NEW MARTYRS, Tone Two:

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, who have with your confession finished the course of this earth, receiving boldness through your sufferings: Beseech Christ Who suffered for you, that they who pray to you in the hour of the testing of their faith may receive the gift of courage. For ye are witnesses to us who kiss your feet, that neither tribulation, prison nor death can separate us from the love of God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Jan. 22: *Walk for Life in SF*
5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, Jan. 23: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Coffee and Donuts by the bells
- Wednesday, Jan. 26: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank Distribution
5 PM, Vespers
6 PM, Panikhida for Katherine Willens
- Thursday, Jan. 27: 10 AM, Funeral for Katherine Willens
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting via Zoom
7 PM, Bible Study with Fr James via Zoom
- Friday, Jan. 28: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions

- Saturday, Jan. 29: 5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, Jan. 30: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School (to be confirmed)
Noon, Agape Meal (to be confirmed)

• MEMORY ETERNAL—**UPDATED SATURDAY 1/22/2022:**

It is with a great deal of sorrow that we all learned of the sudden repose of Katherine Magdalena Willens on Wednesday, January 19, the old calendar feast of Theophany. With trust and joy in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom and by Whom we too are also assured resurrection from the dead, we offer our prayers for Kate's repose, remission of sins and blessed memory. The Panikhida (brief memorial service) will be served on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 6 PM. The Funeral will take place at 10 AM, the next morning, January 27. —*Fr Lawrence*

• A FUNERAL HYMN, INTONE SIX

*As ye behold me lying before you voiceless and breathless,
weep for me, brethren and friends, kindred and acquaintances;
for yesterday I conversed with you,
and suddenly the dread hour of death came upon me;
but come ye, all that love me, and kiss me with the final kiss;
for no longer will I walk or talk with you;
for unto the Judge do I depart, where there is no respect of persons;
for servant and master together stand,
king and warrior, rich and poor in equal worthiness;
for each according to his deeds is either glorified or put to shame.
But I beg and implore all,
pray unceasingly to Christ our God for me,
that I be not brought down according to my sins to a place of torment;
but that He may number me where is the light of life.*

• CONFESSION AND COMMUNION:

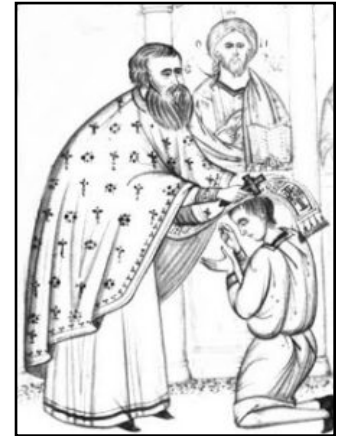
We welcome our guests and visitors, and trust that you will have a fulfilling experience at the Divine Services—please speak with one of our priests if you have any questions. Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer (*Pre-Communion Prayers* are essential), fasting according to our practice and a recent Confession (at least within a month's time). *With the fear of God, with faith and with love, draw near.*

• THURSDAY EVENING SCRIPTURE STUDY:

Fr. James hosts a Bible Study each Thursday evening at 7 PM, via Zoom. He is examining the many readings (over thirty selections) used for the Feast of Theophany, recently celebrated.

- WATCHFULNESS LEADS TO CONFESSION:

The Holy Mystery of Confession is meant to be an encounter with God. “Behold, Christ stands here invisibly before us and hears your confession...” says the priest. What a great gift the Lord gives to us sinners! Do you remember the last time you made Confession before God in Church? Perhaps, too much time has gone by since your last Confession? Come, receive absolution, cleansing of your heart and soul, and God’s grace. Don’t leave it to some future moment; we do not have any of those moments in our pocket. St. Theophan the Recluse says “if you have sinned, acknowledge the sin and repent. God will forgive the sin and once again give you a new heart...and a new Spirit (Ez. 36:26). There is no other way: Either do not sin, or repent.” Confessions are heard on Saturdays just before and during Vigil, on Fridays from 11:30 AM until 1 PM, or by appointment. Due to lack of time before the Divine Liturgy, Confessions are not heard on Sunday mornings.



- NEW MARTYRS OF RUSSIA, CELEBRATED EACH JANUARY:

Click [HERE for a photo montage](#) of many of the men, women and children (How familiar many of them appear!) martyred in Russia by the Bolsheviks. These are family photos, church event photos, and prisoner photos. The wave of repressions started soon after the revolution. On January 25th, 1918, Vladimir, Metropolitan of Kiev, the oldest archbishop of the Church, was killed. In the same year, the *Cheka* executed over 3,000 Orthodox clergymen. Many of them were drowned in ice-holes or covered with cold water until they froze to death. Thousands of Orthodox Christians were sent to the concentration camp Solovki, a former monastery on the islands in the White Sea. Eight Metropolitans, twenty Archbishops and forty-seven Bishops died there. One of the places of mass killings was KGB *Butovo Field* near Moscow, when in 1938 alone, over 20,000 Orthodox people met their death. Thousands of churches were destroyed; monasteries and seminaries were closed. In the period between 1927 and 1940, the number of the churches fell from around 60,000 to less than 500. Countless icons and sacred church objects were lost, destroyed or stolen. The government did not allow construction of new churches. Innocent believers —beyond numbering—died in prison, concentration camps and mental hospitals. We know that pain, fear, rejection, oppression, ridicule, suffering and death are weapons of the evil one used by the powerful of this world against Christians. Since the resurrection of Jesus Christ those things have never been effective against those who share in that victory over threats and death. I recommend this [2016 sermon](#) from the Monastery of the Holy Cross in West Virginia and [this talk](#) by Fr. Ilya Gotlinksi on the New Martyrs, given here in 2018.

- IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE ANNUAL MEETING:

With the blessing of Archbishop Benjamin, the Parish Council and I decided to postpone the Annual Meeting by a couple of weeks (normally takes place the first Sunday in February). **The new date is Sunday, February 27.** It seemed sensible to wait until the high rates of covid have dropped a bit, and also to give me additional time to finish putting together the Annual Meeting booklet. —*Fr Lawrence*

- OUR NEIGHBOR:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection ... Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them ... if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink ... Owe one another nothing, but to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet,” and any other commandment are summed up in this sentence, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law (Rom 12.9–10, 14–20; 13.8–10;

cf. Mt 25.31–46). Genuine love is expressed in deeds, and not in words alone. It is expressed through what one actually does in one's life. It is manifested in concern for others through kindly speech and generosity with one's earthly possessions given by God. It is revealed in one's works of faith in keeping all of God's commandments. The love of neighbor "as oneself" is sometimes misunderstood. One should, of course, love oneself in the sense that one is faithful to God and grateful for his life. And certainly one should love oneself in the sense that he sees himself as uniquely important in the eyes of God and the object of God's own unfailing love and mercy. [See more here at this link.](#)

- COMING UP:

❖ Feast of the Meeting of the Lord	Wednesday, Feb. 2
❖ Meat-fare/Sunday of the Last Judgment:	Sunday, Feb. 27
❖ Forgiveness Sunday:	Sunday, March 6
❖ Annunciation:	Friday, March 25
❖ Thursday of the Great Canon:	Thursday, April 7
❖ Lazarus Saturday (Baptisms)	Saturday, April 16
❖ Pascha	Sunday, April 24

- ST EUGENE'S SUMMER CAMP:

The volunteer camp committee for our annual St. Eugene's Camp is hard at work preparing for camp this summer! The dates are Sunday, June 26 (evening) through Saturday, July 2 (morning). This year's camp will be held near Dunlap, CA. Our Orthodox camp is a foundational experience in the Christ-centered upbringing of our kids! Our parish offers scholarships to our kids to attend; just speak with Fr. Lawrence (or if you'd like to be a counselor!) Here is a message from the Camp Director, Fr. Andrew Smith:

Please join all the other parishes in the deanery in holding a collection for St Eugene Camp on Sunday, January 23rd (New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia). As always, funds from this collection will go toward funding the cost of counselors. We wish we could pay them all handsomely, but at the very least we should not ask them to pay their own way! Wouldn't it be wonderful if every parish in the deanery came together in this effort? Your responses to this appeal can be made out to St. Eugene Camp and mailed to our Camp Treasurer Kathy Pieracci at 9535 Sun Poppy Way El Dorado Hills CA 95762. Please indicate on the check that the funds are for Camp Appeal 2022. I am always willing and eager to speak with you if you have any camp-related questions or if you would like to refer a potential counselor to our team. Thank you for your efforts—they are essential to the success of this camp that, with God's help, feeds and nourishes the children of our parishes in this deanery. —*Priest Andrew Smith, Director, St Eugene Orthodox Youth Camp, (707)-327-617. Email: director@steugenecamp.org*

- THANK YOU, FROM JOSEF AND EFFIE:

We just wanted to thank everyone for your very kind and warm welcome to us, and we wanted to express our deep gratitude for inviting us to come serve and learn from you this year, for giving us a home, and also for the generous Trader Joe's gift card. We have already been blessed to start meeting a lot of you, and we very much look forward to getting to know each of you soon!