

• FROM THE LADDER OF DIVINE ASCENT OF ST. JOHN:

- The sun shines on all alike, and vainglory beams on all activities. For instance, I am vainglorious when I fast; and when I relax the fast in order to be unnoticed, I am again vainglorious over my prudence. When well-dressed I am quite overcome by vainglory, and when I put on poor clothes I am vainglorious again. When I talk I am defeated, and when I am silent I am again defeated by it. However I throw this prickly-pear, a spike stands upright.

- Fire and water are incompatible; and so is judging others in one who wants to repent. If you see someone falling into sin at the very moment of his death, even then do not judge him, because the Divine judgment is hidden from men. Some have fallen openly into great sins, but they have done greater good deeds in secret; so their critics were tricked, getting smoke instead of the sun.

- The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John of the Ladder (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The abbot of Saint Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (this 6th century monastery is still active) stands as a witness that the spiritual struggle of the Christian life is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John's book is an encouragement for the faithful.

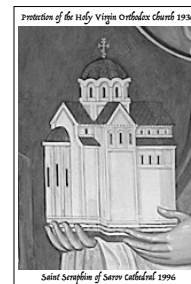
• GLIMPSES OF THE RESURRECTION:

The Resurrection is the restoration of our human nature. Such things God gives freely, for just as He forms us without us willing it, so He forms us anew though we have contributed nothing to it. On the other hand, the Kingdom and vision of God and union with Christ are privileges which depend on willingness. They are thus possible only for those who have been willing to receive them and have loved them and longed for them. For such it is fitting that they should enjoy the presence of the things for which they longed; for the unwilling it is impossible... Like a blind man he would fall out of this life into that, bereft of every sense and faculty by which it is possible to know and love the Savior and to wish to be united to Him and to be able to achieve it. One need not therefore marvel that while all will live in immortality, it is not all who will live in blessedness. All equally enjoy God's providence for our nature, but it is only those who are devout towards God who enjoy the gifts which adorn their willingness.

—St. Nicholas Cabasilas, *"The Life in Christ"* [PDF book here](#)

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



April 3, 2022 ~ St. John of the Ladder



• 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 ST. JOHN, Tone One:

O John, our father, saint of God, thou wast revealed as a citizen of the desert, an angel in a body and worker of miracles. Through fasting, prayer and vigils thou hast received heavenly gifts of grace, and thou healest the sick and the souls of those that turn to thee with faith. Glory to Him who gave thee strength; glory to Him that crowned thee; glory to Him who through thee grants to all men healing.

• KONTAKION OF ST. JOHN, Tone Four:

Truly the Lord has set thee as a fixed star in the firmament of abstinence, giving light to the ends of the earth, O Father John, our teacher.

Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa
707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, April 2: 11 AM, *Lenten Retreat in SF at Holy Trinity*
5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, April 3: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tuesday, April 5: 8 AM, Matins
1 PM, *Presanctified Liturgy at the Monastery in Calistoga, Feast of St. Tikhon of Moscow*
- Wednesday, April 6: 8 AM, Matins
5 PM, Confession
6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy, Meal to follow
- Thursday, April 7: 9 AM, Matins with the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, Life of St. Mary of Egypt (9 AM–Noon)
5 PM, *Angels Unawares*
- Friday, April 8: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Matins with the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos (*5th Fri eve/Sat is dedicated to her*)
- Saturday, April 9: 11 AM, Baptism of Sigrid Cecilia, child of Lina Michal and Alexander Margitich
3:30 PM, Catechism *On Death and the Funeral Services*
5 PM, Vigil and Confession

• CHURCH CLEANING:

Our Church Cleaning Team is looking for additional team members to share in cleaning responsibilities. Please see either Harriette Acorne or Bonnie Alexander if you are interested.

• ANGELS UNAWARES:

Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them who suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. “Angels Unawares” is a program in which the Redwood Gospel Mission of Santa Rosa has partnered with thirty local church communities—each taking one night a month during the winter—to provide dinner and a safe place for

prescreened homeless folks (many of them women and children) to be brought to the church by the Mission for the night. Our parish is the host this Thursday, April 7. Guests arrive about 5 PM, with dinner before 6 PM. Guests depart in the morning about 6:30 AM. Michael and Rachel Dovey are the coordinators for the program this year. They request help with serving and cleaning up.

• BAPTISMS:

Next Saturday, April 9 at 11 AM, I have the honor and joy of baptizing my granddaughter Sigrid Cecilia, daughter of Lina and Alex. All are welcome to attend. The Baptisms of Catechumens, which we normally do on Lazarus Saturday (and in the past on Holy Saturday) will take place sometime during the Paschal season. —*Fr Lawrence*

• HOLY UNCTION AT STS. PETER AND PAUL:

The *Sacrament of Holy Unction* will be served at Sts. Peter and Paul on Stony Point Rd. on Monday, April 11 at 5 PM. All Orthodox Christians who have made a recent confession may participate (children under age seven do not partake of this sacrament).

• DONATIONS FOR PASCHA FLOWERS:

A donation basket will be set out after the Liturgy on the next two Sundays for offerings toward Holy Week and Pascha flower decorations.

• HOLY WEEK SIGN UP SHEETS NOW POSTED:

You are invited to sign up for reading the *Psalter* before the Tomb on Holy Friday night thru Saturday morning, and for the reading of the *Book of the Acts of the Apostles* on Saturday afternoon from 4 PM until 7 PM. You are invited to help each day of Holy Week: working at the Candle Desk in the evenings, cleaning the church after the Presanctified, setting up for the Paschal Agape Meal in the Hall and the Potluck BBQ on Pascha afternoon.

• CONFESSIONS

We look forward to Holy Week and especially our participation in Holy Communion on Great Thursday and the Paschal Divine Liturgies. An important—essential—part of our preparation for entering into those holy days is the Sacrament of Confession. Please make your confession at least once in the three weeks before Holy Week. No Confessions will be heard after Holy Wednesday. *Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of repentance* (2 Cor. 6:2). —*Fr. Lawrence*