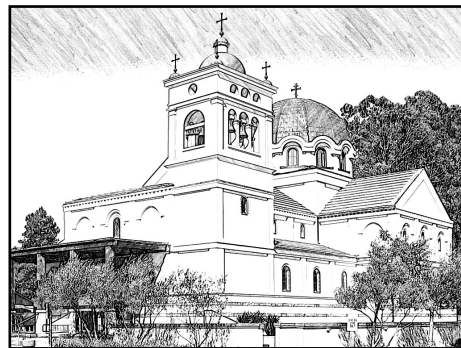


ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, May 1, 2022

Thomas Sunday - Renewal Sunday



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.
- TROPARION OF THOMAS SUNDAY, Tone Seven:
Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.
- KONTAKION OF THOMAS SUNDAY, Tone Eight:
With his searching right hand, Thomas did probe Thy life-bestowing side, O Christ God; for when Thou didst enter whilst the doors were shut, he cried out unto Thee with the rest of the Apostles: Thou art my Lord and my God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat., April 30: 9 AM, Paschal Divine Liturgy
5 PM, Great Vespers only
- Sunday, May 1: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, breaking and distribution of the *Artos*
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Lunch
- Tuesday, May 3 10 AM, blessing graves for the “Day of Rejoicing” (see below for specifics)
- Wed., May 4: 5 PM, Vespers
- Fri., May 6: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (*Old Calendar commemoration of St. George the Great Martyr*)
- Sat., May 7: 5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sun., May 8: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

- TODAY’S CELEBRATION:

The Sunday after Pascha is called by three names: St. Thomas Sunday, Anti-Pascha and Renewal Sunday. Accordingly, we hear the Gospel from John 20:19. We hear Jesus say: “*Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed. Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.*” Faith is not discovered by investigation (although it paves the way) or even by seeing. Keep in mind that the Apostles, the Pharisees and Judas all saw the incredible miracles. Not all believed (St. Matthew records that “*they worshipped Him, but some doubted.*”) Faith is given, revealed, received, learned, lived and then understood. Remember the Lord’s words to Peter: “*flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in Heaven.*” We come to faith

because the Father, Who loves us before we love Him, reveals it to us. *Seeing is believing* we say. However, from the beginning the evil one, that liar, along with hypocrites, charlatans, thieves, philosophers, politicians, those guessing and those deceiving, and you name it, have used the approach that *seeing is believing* only to dupe the mind and heart; and this has led to all kinds of falsehoods, fictions and disasters, sorrows, disappointments, heresies and sins. Only God, the Risen Lord, to be exact, can cut through fiction, lies and deception; and He only can gently present Himself to the human heart (and then the mind), and bring a person who is willing to the illumination of faith. We believe, then we understand. And then we will call Jesus, Lord. Only God can get us there, and only if we offer Him a little way in to ourselves. Jesus, says Luke, “*opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,*” particularly that “*the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.*” And so he does for us as well. So, this is one aspect of *Renewal Sunday*. Let us not forget that we are in a battle for our spiritual lives; we exercise and feed the soul. Otherwise doubts arise and cannot be answered. **Suggestions for the Paschal Season:** Read scripture in light of how you came to believe in Jesus Christ. Read the Scriptures right after praying, so you will read in a prayerful frame of mind. Secondly, never remove yourself from the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist: it is union with Christ, with the Holy Orthodox Church, and union with one another—we are not individuals, but human beings called together to be one in Christ. This day is also known as “Antipascha.” This does not mean “opposed to Pascha,” but “in place of Pascha.” Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates every Sunday of the year to the Lord’s Resurrection. Sunday is called “Resurrection” in Russian, and “the Lord’s Day” in Greek.

- DAY OF REJOICING:

During Holy Week and Bright Week, other than funerals, the Church forbids us to sing memorial hymns and *Panikhidas*. Why? Because Christ has destroyed the power of the devil and death by His death and resurrection, and the faithful are alive in Him. Memorial services are not necessary. Pascha is the perfect and all-encompassing memorial; what more could be desired. However, on the Tuesday after Bright Week we once again begin to sing hymns for those who have departed this life. I will be visiting the following cemeteries to bless graves:

10 AM at Pleasant Hill in Sebastopol; 11 AM at the Forestville Cemetery;

Noon at Healdsburg’s Oak Mound Cemetery (Bring a picnic);

1:45 PM at the Windsor Cemetery; 2:30 PM at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery

- GRATITUDE:

Christ is risen. We all give thanks for the tremendous blessings of Holy Week and Pascha, especially giving thanks for those who organized all the various ingredients that make for a successful and bright feast. There are countless things to do to prepare for Holy Week and Pascha, to manage during Pascha and to arrange after Pascha. Please, extend a personal word of thanks to those that did so much.

- BAPTISMS:

God willing, our catechumens will be baptized on the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, May 22 at 9 AM. Looking at the fresco depicting Christ’s encounter with the Samaritan Woman, Photini, one immediately notices that the well where she came to get water, appears here as a baptismal font.

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

Our annual *Saint Seraphim Week for Kids* normally takes place in June. St. Seraphim Week is our version of annual “Vacation Bible School.” The dates of June 6–10, 10 AM–2 PM have been *proposed* for a week focused on the Psalms. **Parents**, please let me know if the proposed dates will work. —*Fr Lawrence*

- MINISTRY SUNDAY:

On May 8, the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women and the institution of the Diaconate (*diaconia* means “service”), the various ministries here at the Parish will be on display. We have the following ministries: Clergy, Parish Council Leadership, Church Readers and Church Singers (adult and youth choirs), Altar Servers, Sacristans, Live-streaming, Prosphora Making, Bell Ringing, Candle Desk, Ushers, Cleaning, Floral Decorations, Vestment Sewing and Care, Lawns and Garden Care, Facility Maintenance, eScrip, Sisterhood, Youth coordinators, Young Adult Group, Mercy Meals for the sick, Parish Hall Events, Care for the Reposed, Church School, Catechists, Library, Catholic Charities Liaison, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Thanksgiving Dinner Project, Church Office, Planned Giving and Financial Stewardship, Senior Lunch, St. Seraphim Week for Kids, the Bookstore, Agape Meals, Kitchen Upkeep and Hall Supplies (ordering and storing). The parish is a community of those who labor for the glory of God, both in and out of the worship of the Liturgy. Are you involved in any of these wonderful and effective ministries? Surely, no one is *too busy* or lacks the interest to contribute talent and time to the community. We recall the words of our Savior: *Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

- PASCHAL JOY AMIDST SORROW:

Pascha calls us to live like men and women who have heard the blast of a trumpet, who have arisen like those alive from the dead, living in joy. Nietzsche famously said that he would believe in the Redeemer

when the Christians looked a little more redeemed. Fair enough: let us live in such a way that all may know that we have been redeemed—living each day in freedom and joy. Formerly we lived like everyone else, helpless and trembling in the shadow of death, debtors to sin in the lands of Assyria and Egypt. But no longer. Now we are going home, our faces radiant with Pascha, the faces of those who have heard the blast of the Jubilee trumpet. Let that trumpet sound in the ears of the weary world, loud enough to wake the dead: Christ is risen! —*Fr. L. Farley*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

PILGRIMAGE AND RETREAT TO ST JOHN'S MONASTERY

MANTON, CA

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH - SUNDAY, MAY 22ND

We will be carpooling from the parish to the beautiful Monastery of St. John near Manton, CA for a weekend retreat away from the noise of the world. This is a great opportunity to become acquainted and enriched by the monastic way of life and prayer, to recharge spiritually, and to enjoy the natural beauty and peacefulness surrounding the monastery.

**We will meet in the church parking lot on Friday, May 20th,
at 8:45am and depart by 9am,** ideally arriving in time for lunch at the monastery.

We will depart from the monastery on Sunday, May 22nd,
after Divine Liturgy and breakfast.

Spaces are limited! If you are interested in participating,
please register by Friday, May 6th, 2022.

Questions can be directed to Josef Candelario or Fr. Lawrence

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 – Thomas Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	2	3 – Day of Rejoicing* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Sebastopol • 11 AM, Forestville • Noon, Healdsburg • 1:30 PM, Windsor • 2:30 PM, SR Memorial 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vespers 	5	6 – St. George Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (<i>Old Calendar date</i>) 	7 – St. Alexis Toth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:30 PM, Panikhida • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
8 – Holy Myrrhbearing Woman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	9	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank • 5 PM, Vespers 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
15 – Paralytic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vespers for Mid-Pentecost 	18 – Mid-Pentecost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Water Blessing 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
22 – Samaritan Woman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Baptism of Catechumens • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	23	24	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank • 5 PM, Vespers 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James • 7 PM, Parish Council Meeting 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
29 – Blind Man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:45 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	30 – Memorial Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Noon, Panikhida at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery</i> 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Matins for Leave-taking of Pascha 	Leave-taking of Pascha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:15 PM, Vigil for Ascension 	2 – Ascension of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for Ascension • 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James 	3 <i>No Confessions</i>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions

* On the *Day of Rejoicing* (Radonitsa) we go to the cemeteries to sing the Paschal hymns, bless the graves and pray for the departed. Bring a picnic for after the service at the Healdsburg Cemetery.