

• THE HOLY MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN:

This Sunday we remember the Holy Myrrhbearing Women and the Theotokos. We contemplate their courage and love for the Lord, as they faithfully stood by Him as He was crucified. We remember how they, with Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, cared for and buried His broken body. At the Cross on Golgotha on Great and Holy Friday, it was those Holy Women who constituted the Church—ministering to Christ—as an example to us, despite the profound danger and opposition they faced.

Fr. Alexander Elchaninov (reposed 1934 in France), wrote that “...as Orthodox, we have a great treasure of things and yet we vegetate in mediocrity.” And that is, spiritual mediocrity. A listlessness. Discomfort. Coldness of heart. Blinding egoism. Boredom. Even at times we may be afraid to witness and express ourselves openly as Christ’s disciples. Perhaps a remedy for this state of weakness is to contemplate the Myrrhbearers: St. Mary Magdalene, out of whom Jesus cast out the demons (she was NOT a prostitute); Joanna the wife of Chouza (who was the steward-administrator of King Herod Antipas!! — imagine the social interactions); Mary the wife of Cleopas; Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee; Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph’s sons James and Joseph. Today we also also remember Saint Joseph of Arimathea, who was a secret disciple (John 19:38), and Saint Nikodemus, who was a disciple by night (John 3:3; 19:38). The holy right-believing Queen Tamara of Georgia is also honored on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women. —*Fr Lawrence*



When? June 12-18, 2022
Where? Monastery of St. John, Manton, CA
For Whom? Orthodox Christian men and women, 18-35 years old.
How Much? \$250

The Orthodox LIFE School is a program directed at Orthodox Christian young adults (both men and women) wanting to know Jesus Christ, the Faith and the Tradition of the Orthodox Church in a deeper way.

The program is designed to be practical, personal and interactive. We follow the daily schedule of the monastics, and participate in the services and daily work at the monastery as well as receive talks from clergy, monastics and people from different walks of life. Together we will address challenges and opportunities that Orthodox Christians encounter in today’s world, help one another to take up our crosses and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CURRICULUM:

- “In the World, But Not of the World”
- “Walking in the Light”
- “The Hidden Man of the Heart”
- “Go Into the World”
- “Not to Be Served, But to Serve”

Some of our Speakers: His Grace Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa (OCA), Abbess Melania (Salem), Hieromonk Innocent (Green)

To register, go to:
<https://monasteryofstjohn.org/retreats>
 If you have questions, please contact Brendan O'Neill:

Email: lifeschool2022@gmail.com
Phone: (541) 301-0811

Register by May 15, 2022!

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



May 8, 2022

Holy Myrrh-bearers & St. John the Theologian



• TROPARION OF THE NOBLE JOSEPH, Tone Two:

The Noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices and placed it in a new tomb; but Thou didst rise on the third day, O Lord, granting the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS, Tone Two:

The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said: Myrrh is meet for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself to be a stranger to corruption, so, proclaim: the Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.

• KONTAKION OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS, Tone Two:

Thou didst command the myrrh-bearers to rejoice, O Christ. By Thy resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, O God. Thou didst command Thine apostles to preach: the Savior is risen.

• KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst

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Thou destroy the power of Hades. And didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice; and giving peace unto Thine apostles, O Thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 7: 4:30 PM, Panikhida
5 PM, Vigil and Confessions
- Sunday, May 8: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
11:45 AM, Ministry Sunday Displays/Agape meal
- Wed., May 11: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank, volunteers
needed
5 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., May 12: 7 PM, Bible Study online with Fr. James
- Friday, May 13: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions

• PARISH MINISTRIES—A REMINDER OF OUR COMMON WORK:

On this second week after Pascha, we commemorate the Holy Myrrhbearing Women, St. Joseph and Nicodemos (see Mark 15:43 ff). On this day we also celebrate the institution of the Sacred Diaconate (as we hear in Acts 6:1–7). The themes of service, offering, devotion to the Lord and His Church are clearly given to us today in these readings. So, it is only appropriate that first, we give thanks to God for all those who labor here with faith, love and diligence for the upbuilding of the Church of God. Secondly, we will highlight all our parish ministries today after the Divine Liturgy on the porch and the Hall. Perhaps those who are not yet committed to a ministry, after speaking with those who are, will also feel drawn to offer themselves to one of those listed here: Church Readers and Church Singers (adult and youth choirs), Altar Servers, Sacristans, Live-streaming, Prospora Making, Bell Ringing, Candle Desk, Ushers and Greeters, 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, Senior Lunch, St. Seraphim Week for Kids, the Bookstore, Agape Meals, Kitchen Upkeep and Hall Supplies (ordering and storing), Redwood Empire Food Bank Distribution, Angels Unawares (Winter ministry). 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.*

• 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. Ask Christ to help our parish to be prepared to receive new catechumens and seekers.

• SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

The dates of **June 6–10, 10 AM–2 PM** have been proposed for the annual *St. Seraphim Week for Kids*. This event is what used to be called “Vacation Bible School.” The basic daily schedule is to gather in the Parish Hall to take role, then head over to the church for a brief morning prayer and lesson by either Fr Nicholas, Fr James or myself, then have songs, crafts, lessons, games and snacks. Registration forms will be available after Liturgy. —*Fr Lawrence*

• CONFESSIONS:

Friday, May 13, 20, 27, from 11:30 AM–1 PM; Saturday, before, during and after the Vigil; Tues–Thurs. by appointment.

• A FEW PROJECTS THIS WEEK:

The inside of the Parish Hall was painted this week and now looks bright and fresh. A new red embroidered curtain was hung in the Altar. Small speakers were mounted on the Hall porch, so we don't have to lug the two large outdoor speakers in and out (we will use those for various outdoor events) and the choir microphone (for live streaming) was moved off the floor and hung from the ceiling. Many thanks to those who made all these project happen.