

## THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH:

The Savior testified about himself that He “conquered the world.” And His victory, His redemptive achievement is included in the fact that He created His Church, the beginning of the “new creation.” Beginning with the holy apostles, ancient Christians called themselves the “people of God,” a new nation, the “chosen people,” “a holy people.” And in truth the Holy Church is the “House of God,” the City of God, “of which the artist and builder is God,” the “Kingdom of God,” “the New Jerusalem from above.” Already in the name itself—*ekklesia*—the idea of the Church is contained and is carried on, as a City or Kingdom of God. *Ekklesia* is like a never-dispersing national convocation of new people born in grace, the “summoned” citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem. And it is namely this concept which is disclosed even now by the Orthodox Church, when before Holy Baptism it demands from the “enlightened” to confess faith in Christ,” “as *King* and God” and in baptismal prayers it prays for them, “and they will honor the higher calling and be numbered among the first-born written in the heavens.” In Holy Baptism man leaves “this guilty world,” leaves “hostile work” as if entering or being released from the natural order of things, from the order of “flesh and blood,” and passes to the order of grace—and, according to the mysterious and solemn words of the Apostle Paul, “approaches Mt. Zion and the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and the host of angels, and the solemn council, and Church of the First-Born, written in the heavens, and the Courts of all—God, and the souls of the righteous, having achieved perfection.” The entire meaning and strength of the sacrament of Holy Baptism is that the baptized enters into the *one* Church, “the one Church of angels and men,” taking root and growing into the one Body of Christ,” and becomes a “fellow citizen of the saints and friends of God,” for “we are all one Spirit baptized in one body.” Holy Baptism is like a mysterious initiation into the Church, as into the kingdom of grace. ... The Church is the new people in grace, not coinciding with any natural or earthly people... a people having been formed according to another principle entirely—not through the necessity of natural birth, but through the “mystery of water,” through the mysterious union with Christ in the “mysterious font,” “through freedom, deed and gift of adoption by God.” —*Protopresbyter Georges Florovsky +1979*

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



## May 15, 2022 ~ Sunday of the Paralytic



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:  
Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord has shown strength with His arm; He has trampled down death by death; He has become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hades, and hath granted the world great mercy.
- KONTAKION OF THE PARALYTIC, Melody *On This Day*:  
As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, O Lord God, by Thy God-like care and might, raise up my soul which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions and by unseemly deeds and acts, that, being saved, I may also cry out: O Compassionate Redeemer, O Christ God, glory to Thy dominion and might.
- KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:  
Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst 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 14: 5 PM, Vigil for the Resurrection
- Sunday, May 15: 9:45 AM, Reception of Catechumens\*  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:30 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape Meal  
12:45 PM, Church School Teacher Mtg
- Tues., May 17: 5 PM, Vespers for Mid-Feast
- Wed., May 18: 5 PM, Blessing of Water
- Thur., May 19: 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr. James
- Fri., May 20: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions  
6 PM, Baptismal Catechesis for Catechumens and Godparents

### • MANY YEARS:

Congratulations to Mica and Tito on the birth of their beautiful and healthy baby girl on Monday, May 9! Many Years.

### \* RECEPTION OF CATECHUMENS:

Please pray with us on Sunday before the Divine Liturgy as we receive Paulina Zeni and Stefan Perez as catechumens.

O Lord our God, who dwellest in the heavens, and lookest down upon all thy works, look down upon thy servants, the catechumens, who have bowed their necks before thee, and grant them a light yoke. Make them honorable members of thy holy Church, and vouchsafe unto them the laver of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins, and the robe of incorruption, unto the knowledge of thee, our true God. —*Liturgy of St. Basil*

### • BAPTISMS ~ Sunday May 22:

The following catechumens will be baptized May 22, the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman at 9 AM: Evan Holloway, James Green, Bibiane Vissoh, Raquel Llamas and John Fullerton.

### • BLESSING OF WATER:

Just as the *Veneration of the Cross* on the third Sunday of Lent marked the halfway point of Great Lent, so this Feast of Mid-Pentecost, a.k.a. Mid-

Feast, marks the halfway mark to Pentecost (fifty days from Pascha to Pentecost). [Click here](#) for a short explanation of this feast. We will have a Blessing of Water 5 PM on Wednesday, May 18 to mark the Feast. There is at least one lesson to be learned from the teaching of this feast of Mid-Pentecost: *thirst*. Even while feasting on the good things of this earth during this joyful season, we should yet thirst for what lies above the earth, for the Holy Spirit Whose coming we await even while we enjoy the presence among us of the Risen Lord. “*Let him who thirsts come to Me and drink!*” *O Christ God, Thou Wellspring of life, glory to Thee!*

### • CONFESSION:

We rightly consider Confession as part of our preparation for Holy Communion—yet it also stands on its own as a Holy Mystery: an encounter with and embrace by the Living God, and it is He Who gives the forgiveness through our prayer to Him. It’s essential to have a conscience washed clean by the grace of the Holy Spirit in order to pray more deeply, but also when we are faced with temptations, doubts, insensibility of soul and obstacles for peace of heart. —*Fr. Lawrence*

### • ST. SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

The annual *Saint Seraphim Week for Kids* will take place here June 6–10, 10 AM–2 PM each day. *St. Seraphim Week* is our version of annual “Vacation Bible School.” The daily schedule, more or less, will be to greet the kids at 10 AM, then go to the Church for brief morning prayers at 10:15 AM sharp, with a spiritual lesson by one of the priests. Various activities will follow: crafts, games, snacks, music and a prayer to end the day. This year our focus will be on some of the frequently heard Psalms. [Registration and Volunteer forms will be available on Sunday on the church porch.](#)

### • MEMORIAL DAY PRAYERS

It is my custom to go to Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery on Memorial Day at **Noon** to offer prayers for the repose of the souls of those who served in the Armed Forces. I will set up an icon table at the east end of the cemetery, under a tree. Look for the priest in the white cassock. —*Fr L*

### • SEEK YE FIRST..

Everything is for a person to love Christ and all the other problems are taken care of. —*Elder Saint Porphyrios +1991*