

- PENTECOST:

The fulfillment of the Paschal Season is the Feast of Pentecost (*pente=50*), at which we celebrate the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, those with them, and upon each of us who have died and risen with Christ in baptism. St. Luke relates in the Book of Acts that St. Paul was “was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost” ([Acts 20](#)). After Pascha and Ascension, what a spiritual tragedy it would be to not be present for the Vigil and Liturgy of the Feast of Pentecost. This feast is the crown of Pascha, in that the “life in Christ” as St. Paul calls is, the power of the resurrection of the life of the age to come, is actualized in us here and now. Let us take St. Paul as our example, be present at Pentecost, and pray that the grace of the Spirit may be renewed in us on that great feast.—*Fr. Lawrence*

- **June 11:** 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy (Soul Saturday)

Decoration of the Church

5 PM Vigil for Pentecost

- **June 12:** 10 AM Liturgy and Kneeling Vespers

Pot-luck Agape Meal

- VACATION

I will be away on vacation from June 13–23. Father Nicholas will be here for all the services and for any other pastoral needs. You can reach Father Nicholas at (707) 318-5391. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- JULY 4TH AT FORT ROSS:

There will be a Divine Liturgy at the Fort Ross chapel on July 4, 10:30 AM. Bring a hat, umbrella and a folding chair. Pack a picnic to enjoy after the Divine Liturgy.

CANTIAMO CONCERT HERE:

Cantiamo Sonoma will present a free outdoor concert on the church lawn on Sunday, June 5 from 4–6 PM. The program will include a variety of *a cappella* choral music spanning from the Renaissance to the present.

- FAREWELL

We bid a sad goodbye to our long-time parishioner Bonnie Alexandra and her husband Brian as they move north to be with family. Bonnie has given her time, talent and treasure to this holy church with incredible generosity: choir singer, council member, team member of the bookstore, funeral care, church cleaning and parish office. Her presence, love, bonnie and bright nature will be profoundly missed. Many Years. —*Fr. Lawrence*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION of the HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX Church



June 5, 2022

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Council



- 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 ASCENSION, Tone Four:

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

- TROPARION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed

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the one Faith in the Church. And wearing the garment of truth woven from theology on high, she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

- KONTAKION OF ASCENSION, Tone Six:

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from them that love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: “I am with you, and no one will be against you.”

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 4: 10 AM, *Welcoming Home* furniture distribution
5 PM, Vigil and Confession
- Sunday, June 5: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy / Agape Meal
4 PM, *Cantiamo* free outdoor concert
5:30 PM, Young Adult Group get-together
- Monday–Friday: **10 AM–2 PM, St. Seraphim Week Activities**
- Wed., June 8: 4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
5 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., June 9: 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James

• SUNDAY’S EPISTLE in honor of the Holy Fathers of the First Council: In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among

all those who are sanctified... —*Acts 20:16-18, 28-36*

- FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL:

Today we commemorate the *Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea*, who proclaimed that the One Who brings human beings into the eternal life of God is Himself truly divine and eternal: the only begotten Son of the Father. They recognized that even the best angel, prophet, or teacher could not do that, for only One Who is divine and eternal can bring us into the divine, eternal life of the Holy Trinity. That is a key reason why the Council of Nicaea rejected the teaching of the heretic Arius, who did not think that the Son was fully or eternally God. That is why the Orthodox Church has always disagreed with those who seek to reduce Christ to a great religious teacher or moral example, or who view the Kingdom of God as a mere extension of an earthly kingdom of whatever kind. Our salvation comes not merely through instruction or social change, but through the New Adam Who conquers death and ascends to heavenly glory as the God-Man. Even if we know the words of the Nicene Creed by heart, we may still be tempted to turn Christ into a Savior who fits with our preconceived notions about what we would like from a religion. After all, it is much easier to follow a Lord Who serves our own pursuit of pleasure, power, and pride than it is to embrace One Who calls us to holiness in every dimension of our existence. Even as He is fully divine, He is also fully human. He went up into heaven with a glorified human body. To share in His life is to share in His holiness in ways that make us shine with the divine glory in body, soul, and spirit in the world as we know it. That does not mean becoming less human, but becoming more truly ourselves in God’s image and likeness.

—*Father Philip LeMasters*

- YOUNG ADULTS SUMMER KICK-OFF BBQ:

Sunday, June 5, 5:30 PM—Akathist; 6 PM—Talk/tour by Joe Anderson: *Orthodoxy for Everyday People*; 6:30 PM—BBQ, Music, and Fun. RSVP so that we can prepare accordingly: STS.Y2AM@gmail.com

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

Our wonderful annual *St. Seraphim Week for Kids* program will take place June 6–10 from 10 AM to 2 PM. Space is still available for kids and volunteers. Fathers Nicholas, James or Lawrence will open each morning, in the Protection Church, with a prayer and a short lesson of the kids.