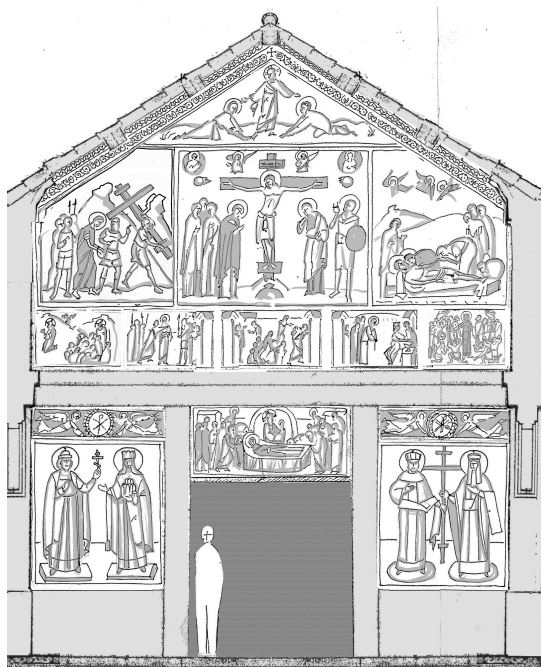


- NEW MINISTRY:

Last week in my homily I challenged the Parish membership to begin a new ministry: humbly and simply beginning outreach to women with unplanned pregnancies, along the lines of the Orthodox organization, [Zoe for Life](#), which you can read about here. A meeting for those who are interested will be called after I return from the [AAC in Baltimore](#).

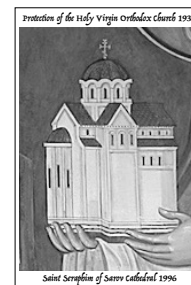
- SOME WONDERFUL NEWS:

Last week Randall Willens, husband of the late Katherine Willens (Kate reposed and was buried in January), delivered a check, as directed by her Will, for \$90,000. We are very grateful for this extraordinary and generous gift, especially at the present time: we have just renovated the parish duplex using "Special Project Funds" and so we can now restore those funds, which are reserved primarily for fresco painting. This will be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting. We expect the fresco painters from Minsk, who will be painting alongside of Fr Patrick and Fr Moses, to arrive here on July 18 and begin painting right after St Seraphim Day, July 19. They will work on the upper portion of the back wall (scenes relating to the arrest, trial, denial of St. Peter, scourging and crucifixion of the Lord). They hope to complete this section in two months. —*Fr Lawrence*



ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



JULY 3, 2022

Holy Youth Martyr Hyacinth (Rome, 108 ad)



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life-Immortal, Thou didst slay hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead; and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:

Hades became afraid, O Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb. The dead arose, creation with Adam beheld this and rejoiced with Thee; and the world, O my Savior, praises Thee forever.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat., July 2: 5 PM, Vigil /Confessions
- Sun., July 3: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Agape Meal

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

- Mon., July 4: 10:30 AM, Divine Liturgy at Fort Ross
- Wed., July 6: 6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., July 7: 6 PM, Supplicatory Canon, Young Adult Get-together, Talk by Fr Theodor and BBQ
- Fri., July 8: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
5 PM, *Hall/grounds rented for non-parish wedding reception*

• CONFESSION AND COMMUNION:

We welcome our guests and visitors, and trust that you will have a good experience at the Divine Services—please speak with one of our priests if you have any questions. Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer (*Pre-Communion Prayers* are essential), fasting according to our practice, and a recent Confessions (at least within a month's time). *With the fear of God, with faith and with love, draw near.*

• JULY 4TH PILGRIMAGE AT FORT ROSS:

The annual July 4th pilgrimage to Fort Ross takes place on Monday, with the Divine Liturgy at the Fort Ross chapel, 10:30 AM. Bring a hat, umbrella and a folding chair. Pack a picnic to enjoy after the Divine Liturgy.

• YOUNG ADULTS: PARAKLESIS & PIZZA~JULY 7TH, 6PM:

Come and join us for an evening of hymning the Theotokos, food and fellowship, and a talk by our own missionary priest Fr Theodor Svane on Orthodoxy in Norway. All are welcome regardless of age. RSVP to STS.Y2AM@gmail.com so that we can prepare accordingly. Let us know if you're gluten free.

• SANCTITY:

The most important thing in the spiritual life is to strive to receive the grace of the Holy Spirit. It changes our lives (above all inwardly, not outwardly). We will live in the same house, in the same circumstances, and with the same people, but our life will already be different. But this is possible only under certain conditions: if we find the time to pray fervently, with tears in our eyes, to ask for God's blessing, that a prayerful attitude may define our entire day. —*Elder and Saint Sophrony reposed on July 11, 1993*

• EPISTLE, ROMANS 5:1–10

Brethren...having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

• COMMENTARY:

Saint Paul knew that the only way to live in hope for the eternal blessedness of the Kingdom was to endure his struggles with faithfulness, no matter the cost. He was able to do so not merely by his own strength, but “because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.” It is through the Holy Spirit that the Savior dwells in our hearts and illumines our souls. As St. Paul taught, *Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God.* ...In order to cultivate that kind of faith, we must do everything we can to open the eyes of our souls to the brilliant Light of Christ, for the darkness is all around us and deeply rooted in our hearts. Doing so requires mindfully offering our worries and fears to God through prayer on a daily basis, making frequent use of the Jesus Prayer to call upon the Lord's mercy when our thoughts only make things worse. It means reading the Psalms in order to learn how to cry out to God from the depths with persistent trust, instead of wallowing in despair. It means not allowing ourselves to use food, drink, entertainment, or anything else to keep us from facing the truth about our souls. It means sacrificing the false idols we have been worshipping in order to seek first the Kingdom of God in how we live. —[*Fr. Philip LeMasters*](#)