

- YOUNG ADULTS PILGRIMAGE ~ SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH:

The Young Adults are organizing a pilgrimage and work party to Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga. See the flyer in the Narthex for more info.

- READING GROUP:

We will begin a reading group on Wednesday, August 24 at 7 PM, in the Parish Library, starting with the book *Laurus*. Daniel DeCarlo will be the coordinator and moderator for this group. All are welcome. Josef Candelario has copies of this book for sale.

- THE ETHICS OF PARADISE:

...In the age before Constantine, Christians were able to be the salt of the earth without losing their flavor. They lived in close-knit community with one another without closing themselves off from their neighbors. Theirs was truly a way of life, not merely a religion. Their experience of God was meta-physical and meta-political. It was rooted in the ineffable revelation of the infinite, transcendent God Who kenotically [self-emptying of Jesus] irrupted into His orderly creation in order to cast out chaos and perfect human nature. He descended so that mankind, in Him, may ascend. We must recapture this orientation. Every thought must be taken captive to obey Christ (2 Cor 2:5). Becoming his disciple is ever a radical choice in a world filled with egotism, for faith propels us toward the other as we discover a universe in the soul of each person. In self-denial, we open ourselves up to eternity. Indeed, we only discover life once we are willing to lose it. In community we discover the love of the Father. It is for this reason that the Gospel cannot be reconciled with society and its false ideals of pride and power, comfort and pleasure. All of reality must be conformed to—or rather transformed by—the ethics of Paradise. Christianity is not a religion of self-actualization, nor a system of political and socioeconomic standards. It does not exist to affirm and fulfill our personal dreams or desires. Christ has come to save us from ourselves. —[*Father Joseph Lucas*](#)

- YOUR PRAYERS:

Please keep in your prayers the following, who are ill: Presbytera Kay Efstathiou, Ned Moganum (husband of Laurice), the child Monica, George, Carl, Sarah, Carol, Reader Nilus, Seraphim Hunter, David Wright, Sergei Moroz, Reader Stephen Tom P..

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



August 14, 2022

Pre-Feast of the Dormition



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF THE PREFEAST OF DORMITION, Tone Four:

In faith, O ye people, leap for joy while clapping your hands; and gather in gladness on this day with longing and shout in radiant jubilation. For the Theotokos cometh nigh to departing from the earth unto the heights; and we glorify her with glory as the Mother of God in our unceasing hymns.

- KONTAKION OF THE PREFEAST OF DORMITION, Tone Four:

Today the universe dances with joy at thy glorious memorial, and cries out to thee, O Mother of God: “Rejoice, O Virgin, pride of Christians!”

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 13: 5 PM, Vespers for the Lord's Day/Confessions
- Sunday, August 14: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Blessing for Students returning to school
11:45 AM, Agape Meal
5 PM, Vigil for Dormition
- Monday, August 15: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast
- Wednesday, August 17: 9 AM, *Fr Lawrence in Calistoga for the 3rd Day*
Liturgy for Dormition
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, August 18: 6 PM, Supplicatory Canon (Protection Church)
- Friday, August 19: No Confessions

• DORMITION ~ SUMMER PASCHA:

The Feast of Dormition is celebrated each year on August 15. We prepare ourselves for the Feast by a two week fast and by praying the *Small Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos* during the Fast. Our preparations reach their climax with the Vigil on the eve of the Feast (Sunday, August 14 at 5 PM). And finally, we arrive at our desired destination—spiritual Gethsemane, with the full celebration of the “Falling asleep of the Theotokos” at the Divine Liturgy on Monday, August 15 at 9 AM. Dormition is the Altar Feast of the Monastery in Calistoga, and we have all been invited to attend. Vigil there will begin at 5 PM on Sunday, and the Liturgy, with His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin presiding, at 9 AM on Monday.

• HYMNS FOR THE COMING FEAST:

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity. In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos. Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

The grave and death, could not hold the Theotokos, who is unsleeping in her intercessions, and an unfading hope in her mediations. For as the Mother of Life, she was translated to Life by the One Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb.

O Apostles, assembled here from the ends of the earth, bury my body in Gethsemane; and Thou my Son and God, receive my spirit.

• UPCOMING:

Parish Council Members, please mark your calendar for the monthly meeting on Thursday, August 25 at 7 PM. Also upcoming is a Master Planning meeting on Sunday, August 28 at 1 PM. The discussion will focus on the use of area behind the Parish Hall.

Once again the parish will host a “Glendi BBQ” on the third Sunday of September, 9/18/22. There will be games for kids starting at 2 PM, and the BBQ from 4–7 PM. More info to follow.

• CHURCH SCHOOL:

Church School Classes begin on Sunday, September 11. Registration begins this Sunday after the Divine Liturgy (an online registration will be available later in the week).

• CONFESSION TIME CANCELED FOR FRIDAY, AUG. 19:

Chaplain Ryan Williams from the Two-Rock Coast Guard Chapel invited me to participate with him and some other pastors in an online discussion dealing with religious faith and resiliency during stressful times. The event will take place on Friday, August 19, late morning, so with apologies, I will be unable to hear confessions that day.

• TEEN EVENT:

Our parish will host Orthodox teens from Deanery Parishes on Sunday, August 21, from 3–8 PM. Activities are still TBD, however we could use volunteers to help with food prep, set up and cleaning. We also may need drivers if we decide to do an “off site” outing (like bowling or Scandia). Please let me know ASAP if: 1) you have a teen who would like to attend and/or 2) you are available to help in any way. We started these monthly activities for our teens last year and they were a huge success.

—Vicky Basch, (707) 291-2369

• NEVER ASSUME:

Until a man's earthly life finishes its course, up to the very departure of the soul from the body, the struggle between sin and righteousness continues within him. However high a spiritual and moral state one might achieve, a gradual or even headlong and deep fall into the abyss of sin is always possible. Therefore, Communion of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which strengthens our contact with Him and refreshes us with the living streams of the grace of the Holy Spirit flowing through the Body of the Church, is necessary for everyone. —*St. John the Wonderworker of San Francisco*