

• JUST BEFORE THE TRANSFIGURATION:

*From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day (Matthew 16:21). St. Peter objected to this, even going so far as to “rebuke” his Master. Jesus’ response is one of the most fierce in the entire Scriptures: “Get thee behind me Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” Consider the following witness from the director of the movie, *Man of God*, and how she was enabled to make visible the willingness of St. Nektarios to endure suffering without complaint: “It expresses something that I experienced myself. I had never had a closer encounter with God than when I had nothing to eat and no one to turn to. And how I wanted to again feel what I had felt at that time! I know how such moments lift you up above the earth... I have usually experienced this when things have been especially difficult, Comfort destroys the possibility of an encounter with God. Prayer becomes far more powerful when your heart is broken, when you’re suffering, when you’re unhappy. This is impossible to explain, and there’s no sense in discussing it—you just clearly feel that you know this, and that’s all.” Jesus tells us that “sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.” In other words, there is no need to go hunting for suffering in order to be *spiritual*; the challenges of each day will be more than sufficient. Ascetic exercise, just like physical exercise, helps us stay “in shape” so as to better meet those daily challenges, but life itself is the arena and the “proving ground” of our faith. —Fr. Philip McCaffery*

• START TIME OF SUNDAY LITURGY:

A suggestion was made at the Parish Council last week, to move the Sunday Divine Liturgy start time to 9:30 AM. Various reasons were offered for and against this change. Keep in mind that any decision regarding liturgical services is the sole responsibility of the rector (of course, in consultation with the Archbishop), but I was happy to give a blessing for this topic to be discussed. After discussion a motion was made and seconded, with more discussion following. A vote was taken, with the majority in favor of a **9:30 start time—beginning on Sunday, September 4th**, and to run for a three month trial period. 🙏

• 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.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



August 7, 2022

Post-Feast of Transfiguration



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy Disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF TRANSFIGURATION, Tone Seven:

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, O Christ our God, showing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. By the prayers of the Theotokos, let Thine everlasting light shine forth upon us sinners. O Giver of Light, glory to Thee.

• KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, Tone Seven:

On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

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

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, August 5: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions (in St. Seraphim)
6 PM, Vigil for Transfiguration
- Saturday, August 6: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Transfiguration (Blessing of fruit and vineyard)
5 PM, Vespers
- Sunday, August 7: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:45 AM, Agape Meal
- Tuesday, August 9: 6 PM, Vespers for the Feast of the Holy Martyr Lawrence of Rome
- Wednesday, August 10: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy
4 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, August 11: 6 PM, Supplicatory Canon
- Friday, August 12: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Supplicatory Canon

• BLESSING OF FRUIT:

On the Feast of Transfiguration the faithful bring baskets of fruit to be blessed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy: *O Master, Lord our God, who commandest everyone to offer to thee thine own of thine own, according to their intention, granting them in return thine eternal good things, and who didst favorably accept the offering of the widow which was according to her ability: now also accept these things offered by thy servants, counting them worthy to lay up the same in thine eternal treasury. And grant them an abundant harvest of thine earthly good things, together with all things that are profitable unto them. For blessed is thy Name, and glorified is thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever...*

• GOSPEL AND SERMON:

The Gospel reading for this Sunday can be read [HERE](#) along with the appointed Epistle. For a wonderful homily on this Gospel of the *Loaves and Fish*, given in 2011 by Father Michael Margitich, please click [HERE](#).

• AUGUST 15 ~ FEAST OF DORMITION:

We are still in the Fast, preparing us for the Feast Day of the Dormition, August 15. Our attention is directed to final things: our death, the Lord's promise to raise us from death to life-eternal, and of course, the great example of

the fulfillment of that promise in the death and *translation* of the Holy Virgin Mary. The feast celebrates her death and her being raised to the *life of the age to come*—which is why we call it a *translation*. This feast is a *Pascha of the Theotokos*, her “translation” from her death to the resurrection, from earth to heaven. The Vigil will be on Sunday, August 14 at 5 PM, with Liturgy for the Feast on Monday at 9 AM. The Monastery of the Assumption will be celebrating its Temple Feast on Dormition, and all are invited to join them. Vigil at 5 PM on Sunday, Aug. 14, Liturgy with His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin presiding, 9 AM.

• ON THE TRANSGURATION:

The Feast of the Transfiguration is a revelation not just of the identity of our Lord Jesus, but of our potential identity as well. You see, the whole of the Orthodox Faith is about shaping you and me to be “like Christ.” All our liturgies, spiritual disciplines, prayers, actions, homilies, and worship are designed to so reshape you and me that we take on the likeness of Jesus Christ Himself. The ultimate work in the Eucharist is to have us take Christ within us so that we can be “fed” by Him and become “like” Him. After all, you are what you eat! Today, are you satisfied with playing at the periphery of this awesome truth, or are you finally willing to press into this wondrous Faith with purpose and love? Are you willing to be made into His likeness by the collected wisdom of 20 centuries of Orthodox insight, or will you be satisfied merely standing in the “narthex” of the Faith? On this Feast Day when He reveals Himself AND reveals what you could be, it's time to be Orthodox on Purpose! —*Father Barnabas Powell*, [from his blog post](#)

• SUPPLICATORY CANON TO THE THEOTOKOS:

During the Dormition Fast, which began on August 1 and ends with the *Feast of Dormition* (the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos) on August 15, we will celebrate the Small Supplicatory Canon in the Protection Church most evenings at 6 PM.

• YOUNG ADULTS PILGRIMAGE ~ SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH:

The Young Adults are organizing a pilgrimage and work party to Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga. Lunch will be provided, as well as a talk by Mother Melania. Carpools leave from St Seraphim's at 8:45 AM. RSVP by August 6th: STS.Y2AM@gmail.com. NB: This event is geared towards all college students and young adults (18–30s).