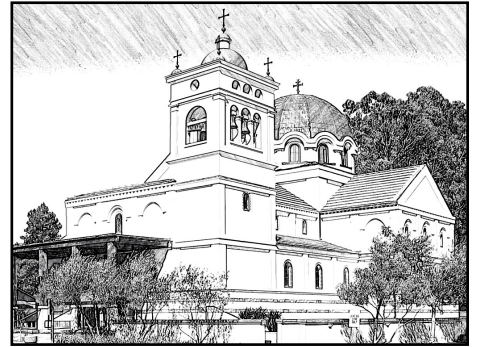


# ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, November 27, 2022



- 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 THE MARTYR JAMES OF PERSIA, Tone Four:

Thou hast astonished all by thy terrifying torments, and the valor of thine endurance, O much-suffering one, most wondrously uttering prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord as each of thy members was severed from thy body. Wherefore, receiving a crown amid thy suffering, though hast ascended to the throne of Christ God, the King of heaven. Entreat Him, O James, that He save our souls.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hades is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: the Savior has come to them that have faith. Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

- KONTAKION OF THE MARTYR JAMES OF PERSIA, Tone Two:

Persuaded, O James, by thy good spouse, who wast patient of soul, and fearing rather the dread tribunal, thou didst spit upon the Persians' command and the fear of them, and didst show thyself to be an honorable martyr whose body was pruned like a vine.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 26: 3:30 PM, Catechism *On Repentance*  
5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 27: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
Noon, Agape Meal (*Church School break, except for Joe Anderson's class*)
- Wednesday, Nov. 30: 5:45 PM, Panikhida for Konstantin Sakovich  
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Dec. 1: 6 PM, Supplicatory Canon for Advent in Protection Church  
8 PM, *Cantiamo Christmas Concert* — Call 707-892-0717 or email [info@cantiamosonoma.org](mailto:info@cantiamosonoma.org)
- Friday, Dec. 2: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions  
8 PM, *Cantiamo Christmas Concert*
- Saturday, Dec. 3: *Retreat at Holy Trinity in San Francisco (Catechism moved to Wed, Dec. 7, 6:30 PM)*  
5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions

## Orthodox Sacred Arts Series

*Part Two: Byzantine Chant: The Ancient Foundation of Christian Liturgical Music*

Speakers: Experienced Cantors Nicholas and Nathaniel Baba



Sunday, December 4th, 2022 at 5 PM

Saint Seraphim Cathedral  
90 Mountain View Ave  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

*Dinner provided. Please RSVP at [STS.Y2AM@gmail.com](mailto:STS.Y2AM@gmail.com) by December 1st so we can prepare accordingly!*

### • FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS ~ DEC. 6TH:

Fr. Stephan Meholick, rector of our sister parish of St. Nicholas in San Anselmo invites us to their patronal celebration: Vigil for the Feast of St. Nicholas will be celebrated on Monday, December 5 at 7 PM. The Hierarchical Liturgy will be served on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 9:30 AM, followed by a festal meal in the parish hall.

### • CHRISTMAS PLAY:

Our annual Christmas Play, directed by Carmen Anderson this year, will take place on Sunday, **December 18**. We begin with the *Kontakion of St. Romanos* at 4:30 PM in St. Seraphim (the *Kontakion* tells the Christmas story in a 24 stanza poem/hymn, composed in the 5th century), followed by a pot-luck dinner at 5:15 PM, then the Christmas Play, concluding with the singing of carols and a visit by St. Nicholas.

### • BACKPACKS FOR NIGHTINGALE:

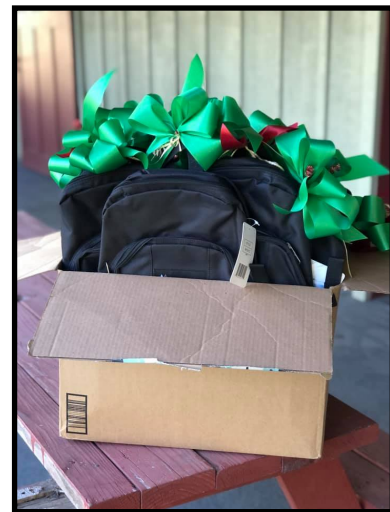
The *Nightingale Shelter* at the new Catholic Charities [\*Caritas Village\*](#) in Santa Rosa provides beds for hospital-referred patients experiencing homelessness to heal and connect with permanent, affordable housing. With the leadership of Denise Pellizzer, our parish makes an offering each year of “Blessing Backpacks” which contain various personal-care items (combs, water, poncho, wipes, gift card, protein bars, etc.). Denise is organizing assembly of the backpacks for Saturday, **December 17 at 11 AM**. Please call Denise— at (707) 364-6445—to let her know you intend to help out with this project.

### • DIAPER BANK:

Many thanks to those who have made donations to the parish diaper bank. There is a drop off box in the parish hall. On Sunday, Dec. 4, during the Agape Meal, Catie DeCarlo will give us a briefing on how, when and where our diaper bank will make distributions.

### • THANKSGIVING MEALS:

Thanks to your generosity, the parish made an offering of \$3,743 to Catholic Charities which provided over 60 thanksgiving dinners boxes (each feeding ten people) to those in need. May the Lord bless you all. —*Fr. Lawrence*



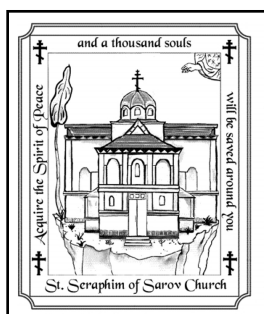
## ~ A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION ~

“I behold a strange, most glorious mystery! Heaven—the cave! The cherubic throne—the Virgin! The manger—the place where Christ lay, the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song!” (*Ninth Ode of the Canon for the Nativity of the Savior*). Everything is much more than the familiar. It is a mystery that is glorious and strange, blinding and unfamiliar, radiant and new. Nothing is precisely as it seems, but incomparably more profound, infinitely more holy, and indescribably more divine than anything the human mind can grasp. God becomes man. For our sakes, the pre-eternal God is born a young child. All the rules of logic, all the rules of the creation,

all the rules for all things human melt before the fire of divinity that burns, but does not consume, that is majestic, yet humble, and that is our salvation. The Christmas story is not meant to just warm our hearts. It is meant to enflame us with divine love, to cause us to embrace the humility of Christ and become humble ourselves, to embrace the impossibility of the union of heaven and earth and to become earthly angels and heavenly men and women. It should fill us with boldness in an inhospitable world, spontaneity to look and see where the young child is laid, and a readiness to follow the star of Christ's truth wherever it may lead us. All of this is possible if we but humble our hearts and seek to worship Christ, praying that He gives us new eyes to behold, not just the familiar story, but the strange and glorious mystery of God becoming a child, so that we who are in so many ways still children might become gods by grace, coheirs in Christ's heavenly kingdom. A strange, most glorious mystery, indeed! —Father Alexis (now Bishop Alexis of Alaska) from his blog, *Ancient Christian Wisdom*

# • ACTS OF MERCY:

Since the Lord's birthday is approaching, let us with Christ's help prepare ourselves for the nuptials and heavenly banquet by being clear of all dissipation and adorned with good works. Let us give alms to the poor, attend vigils more promptly, pray or chant the psalms standing in church; observe peace with all men, and recall to harmony those whom you know are at variance. If with the help of Christ you are willing to fulfill these things faithfully, you will be able to approach the Lord's altar in this life with an easy conscience and in the future life will happily arrive at eternal bliss. *St. Caesarius of Arles, reposed Aug. 27, 542 AD.*



## Holy Trinity Cathedral & Pacific Central Deanery Annual Advent Retreat Saturday, December 3, 2022



# “Behold, I make all things new!”

What does the coming of Christ mean for us, today?

Reflections and conversations led by  
**The Very Rev. Andreas Blom**  
**The Rev. Dr. Gregory Matlak**  
**The Very Rev. Dr. Kirill Sokolov**

It is the conviction of the Orthodox, Catholic, Christian faith that God took flesh to make humans His dwelling; He lived as a creature on earth to recreate the whole of creation; He came and lived and died so that we could live as God intended us to live, both now in this world and in the age to come. For those who are in Christ, everything is new (2 Corinthians 5:17). And yet, here we are — at the end of 2022 — and sometimes it feels like nothing is new and instead everything is somehow at best “same old, same old”; tired and weary, or getting much worse. What do we make of this? How can we rediscover the newness of Jesus Christ? What would that look like in our lives, our homes, and in our parishes?

This day-long “retreat” will include a series of reflections and conversations intended to stimulate our faith and life in this annual season of renewal. Archpriest Andreas Blom was born and raised in Sweden. He is a graduate of St. Tikhon's Seminary, and the rector of Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church in Ashland, Oregon, where he has been serving since 2012. Father Gregory Matlak was raised in Utah and is Rector of St. Christina Orthodox Church in Fremont, CA, where he has served since his ordination to the priesthood in 2020. He received his PhD in Theology and Education from Boston College and studied at St. Tikhon's. Archpriest Kirill Sokolov is Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral and Chancellor of the Diocese of the West. He is a graduate of St. Vladimir's Seminary and earned his doctorate in leadership from Pepperdine University.

## SCHEDULE Saturday, December 3, 2022



8:30 am	Divine Liturgy
10:00 am	Registration, coffee, lenten breakfast
11:00 am	<a href="#">Introduction and first session</a>
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	<a href="#">Second session and panel discussion</a>
3:30 pm	Closing prayer
4:00 pm	Vigil

Pre-register at [holy-trinity.org/events](https://holy-trinity.org/events) with a suggested donation of \$25. Please pre-register regardless of your ability to contribute. Registration will be accepted at the door as space permits with a suggested donation of \$30. Contact Fr. Kirill Sokolov at [frkirill@holy-trinity.org](mailto:frkirill@holy-trinity.org) or 415-673-8565 with questions or to register by mail or phone. We look forward to being with you!

## Holy Trinity Cathedral

A parish of the Orthodox Church in America; all are welcome!  
1520 Green Street @ Van Ness Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
[holy-trinity.org](https://holy-trinity.org)

Parking at St. Brigid School (Enter on Broadway between Van Ness & Franklin)

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Nov. 27 – St. James of Persia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:30 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	28	29	<b>30</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5:45 PM, Panikhida for Konstantin Sakovich</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>December 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Supplicatory Canon for Advent</li> <li>• 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online</li> <li>• 8 PM, <i>Cantiamo Concert</i></li> </ul>	<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions</li> <li>• 8 PM, <i>Cantiamo Concert</i></li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <i>Retreat in SF at Holy Trinity Cathedral</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>4 – St Barbara/John of Damascus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:30 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> <li>• 12:30 PM, Parish Council</li> <li>• <b>5 PM, Sacred Arts Talk</b></li> </ul>	<b>5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM, <i>Vigil in San Anselmo for Feast of St. Nicholas</i></li> </ul>	<b>6 – St. Nicholas Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, <i>Liturgy in San Anselmo for Feast of St. Nicholas</i></li> </ul>	<b>7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> <li>• 6:30 PM, Catechism: <i>On the Holy Spirit</i></li> </ul>	<b>8</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Akathist to Sts. Joachim and Anna</li> <li>• 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online</li> </ul>	<b>9 – Conception Theotokos</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3:30 PM, Catechism: <i>On the Church</i></li> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>11 – Holy Ancestors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:30 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	<b>12</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vigil for the Feast of St. Herman of Alaska</li> </ul>	<b>13 – St. Herman</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Herman</li> </ul>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Supplicatory Canon for Advent</li> <li>• 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online</li> </ul>	<b>16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions</li> </ul>	<b>17</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 AM, Assembly of “Blessing Bags”</li> <li>• 3:30 PM, Catechism: <i>On the Theotokos</i></li> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>18 – Sunday before Christmas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:30 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> <li>• <b>4 PM, Potluck and Children’s Play</b></li> </ul>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 – Prefeast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>21 – Prefeast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>	<b>22 – Prefeast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>	<b>23 – Prefeast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 AM, Matins</li> <li>• 11:30 AM–2 PM, Confessions</li> <li>• 6 PM, Royal Hours</li> </ul>	<b>24 – Christmas Eve</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM, Nativity Vespers</li> <li>• 5 PM, Festal Matins</li> </ul>
<b>25 – CHRISTMAS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>	<b>26 – Synaxis Theotokos</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>	<b>27 – St. Stephen Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy <i>in San Anselmo</i></li> </ul>	<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers, Feast of St. Basil and the Circumcision of XC</li> </ul>

• On Sunday, January 1 at 5 PM, we will celebrate *Great Vespers and the Akathist for the Feast of St. Seraphim*. On Monday, January 2, we will greet His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, at 9:30 AM, for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.