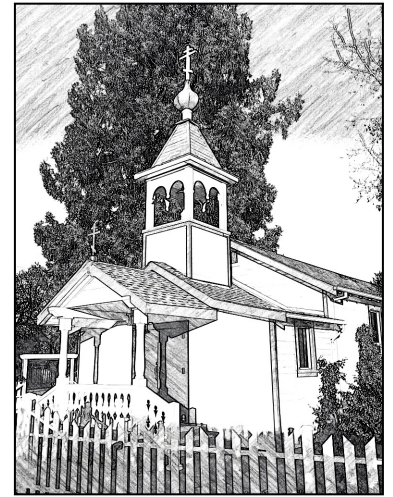


# ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, January 1, 2023

The Feasts of St. Basil the Great and  
the Circumcision of Jesus Christ



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF THE CIRCUMCISION, Tone One:

Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision in the flesh that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

- TROPARION OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT, Tone One:

Thy sound hath gone forth into all the earth, which hath received thy word. Thereby thou hast divinely taught the Faith; thou hast made manifest the nature of all things that be; thou hast adorned the ways of man. O namesake of the royal priesthood, our righteous Father Basil, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

- KONTAKION OF THE CIRCUMCISION, Tone Four:

Now the Lord of all that is doth undergo circumcision, in His goodness cutting off the sins and failings of mortals. He this day doth give salvation unto the whole world; and the hierarch and bright daystar of the Creator now rejoiceth in the highest, Basil the wise and divine initiate of Christ.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Dec. 31: 5 PM, Great Vespers for the *Feasts of the Circumcision of Christ and St. Basil the Great*
- Sunday, Jan. 1: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great / *Vasilopita* blessing  
5 PM, Great Vespers/Akathist for the Feast of the *Repose of St. Seraphim*
- Monday, Jan. 2: 9:30 AM, Greeting of Archbishop Benjamin, Divine Liturgy for the *Feast of St. Seraphim*
- Wednesday, Jan. 4: 6 PM, Royal Hours for Theophany
- Thursday, Jan. 5: 11:30 AM, Vespersal Liturgy and *Blessing of Water*  
6 PM, Matins for the Feast
- Friday, Jan. 6: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy, *Blessing of Water at Steelhead Beach, weather permitting, 1 PM*

- Saturday, Jan. 7: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Baptismal Catechesis
- Sunday, Jan. 8: 9 AM, Baptisms  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:30 AM, Church School  
Noon, **Potluck Agape Meal**  
12:30 PM, Live-scan for parish workers (See John Gilluly or Dc. Josef)

- GRATITUDE:

I am confident that I express the sentiment of the entire parish in saying *THANK YOU* to all those who made the Christmas feast days so wonderful: to our Choir Master Nicolas and the Singers for the many services and beautiful chanting all week long; to Denise and her decorating team for adorning the temple so beautifully; to the Clergy and the Altar Servers who attend to the service of the Lord so well; to those who worked the Candle Desk and greet those who come to the Service; to Matushka Esther and the Readers for chanting the many Scriptural lessons; to the Sacristans for keeping our lamps lit; to Timothy and Andrew who manage the livestream for who need it. And, thank you to the entire congregation for the loving, attentive and generous support you offer to make this parish a special place. —*Asking your prayers, Fr Lawrence*

- PROSPHORA/COMMEMORATION BOOKLETS:

Please update and renew your commemoration booklets for 2023 at the Candle Desk.

- THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST:

St. Luke records for us that on the eighth day following the Nativity, the New-Born Child was circumcised and also given the name Jesus, in obedience to the Jewish tradition, instituted by God with Abraham (see [HERE](#) for more on that). Even so today, we have a brief ceremony for the naming of a newborn child on the eighth day after birth. We read in St. Paul that baptism, superseding, or rather fulfilling and completing this practice—which was the sign of the covenant with God—was to be understood as a spiritual circumcision in Christ (Col. 2:11-12), the cutting away of sin, a “circumcision of the heart.” This much is Scripture. History tells us that the Church *Feast of the Circumcision and Naming of Christ* was fixed for the first day of January from the mid-6th century at the latest. By this time, most of the major themes in the theological interpretation of the event have crystallized. Firstly, St. Paul’s interpretation is clear: circumcision and baptism differ in outward form, but they agree in effect. The sacrament of the New Testament, as of the Old, is a sign—the seal—of a covenant between God and His chosen. In St. Cyril’s wording, the Christian faithful “like Abraham, receive the spiritual seal (*sphragis*, in Greek), being circumcised in baptism by the Holy Spirit.” Circumcision as the cutting away of a piece of flesh was only a sign of what was to come with Jesus Christ and the Holy Mystery of Baptism. Some doctors still do it for infants, but it’s not a Church practice. The second main theme on this Feast is from St. Augustine. Where the Greek Fathers continued to interpret Old Testament circumcision essentially as a token of initiation into Abraham’s covenant with the Lord, St. Augustine declared it to have been an instrument of grace for the remission of Original Sin.

### Orthodox Sacred Arts Series

**Part Four:** Russian Orthodox Sacred Music

**Speaker:** Nicolas Custer



**Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 5 PM**

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

Email [STS.Y2AM@gmail.com](mailto:STS.Y2AM@gmail.com) for any questions!

“Instituted amongst the people of God...[circumcision] availed to signify the cleansing, even in infants of the original sin...just as baptism...from the time of its institution began to be of avail for the renewal of man.” It was this ruling which thenceforth prevailed in Western Christianity. A third constant in Patristic writings is the Circumcision of Christ conceived as continuous with his work of redemption. Since the debt incurred by the sin of Adam cannot be met by Adam’s spiritual bankrupt descendants (that’s us), Christ’s blood is the ransom his Circumcision becomes, as it were, a first installment, a down payment on behalf of mankind. It is because Christ was circumcised that the Christian no longer needs circumcision. In the words of St. Ambrose of Milan: “Since the price has been paid for all after Christ...suffered, there is no longer need for the blood of each individual to be shed by circumcision. —*borrowed and edited*

## UPCOMING

- Thurs., Jan. 5: 5 PM. We host the *Angels Unawares* (formerly called *Nomadic Shelter*). Come and help serve your brothers and sisters a meal and offer some hospitality. See Michael Dovey for more information
- January 5 & 6: **Theophany Services**—Please note that we will bless water on the Eve of Theophany at the Vespertal Liturgy (11:30 AM, January 5). Bring a container to take some Holy Water home. We are also planning to do the *Outdoor Blessing of Water* on Theophany, Jan. 6, after Liturgy, at Steelhead Beach (weather permitting) near Guerneville about 1 PM
- January 8: God willing, Stefan Perez and Paulina Zeni will be baptized on Sunday, January 8, at 9 AM, before the Divine Liturgy.
- House blessings: The Tradition of the Church is for us to have our homes blessed each year, sanctifying them, dispelling the “residue of sin” built up over the last year with the Water of the Feast of Theophany. A sign up list is posted in the Narthex. A List showing “who and when” I will be visiting for house blessings will be posted in the Narthex this coming week. Here’s a [What To Expect](#)
- January 8: The Candelarios depart for Seminary on Jan. 10. Please come to the Sunday Agape Meal on Jan. 8, following the Liturgy, to say goodbye.
- January 19: A Senior Brunch will follow the Divine Liturgy on Thursday, Jan. 19. All seniors and retired folk welcome to attend. Liturgy begins at 9:30 AM, ends about 11 AM
- January 21: [Walk for Life](#) in San Francisco. Transportation to the *Walk* being arranged now. We are expecting Fr Josiah Trenham and about 50 youth from St. Andrew’s Orthodox Church in Riverside to come up on Friday, Jan. 20, to sleep in the Hall, the Sunday School rooms and the Rectory. We will caravan with them to Holy Trinity Cathedral in SF for a 9 AM Divine Liturgy and from there go to the Civic Center for the *Walk*. After the *Walk* we return here for Vespers and a BBQ on Saturday evening
- Sun. Jan. 22: 12:30 PM, Parish Council Meeting (moved from Jan. 15)
- Sun. Feb. 5: The Parish Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 5 at 12:30 PM. The report booklets will be distributed by Sunday, Jan. 29.

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 – St. Basil/Circumcision of XC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy <i>No Agape Meal</i></li> <li>• 5 PM, Vespers and Akathist for Feast of St. Seraphim</li> </ul>	<b>2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Seraphim, <i>Archbishop Benjamin to preside</i></li> <li>• Agape Meal</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 – Prefeast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Royal Hours</li> </ul>	<b>5 – Strict Fast</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM, Vesperal Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water</li> <li>• <b>5 PM, Angels Unawares</b></li> <li>• 6 PM, Matins for the Feast</li> </ul>	<b>6 – Holy Theophany</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 1 PM <i>Outdoor Blessing of Water at Steelhead Beach near Gueneville, weather permitting</i></li> </ul>	<b>7 – St. John the Baptist</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>8 – Sun after Theophany</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Baptisms</li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:45 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, <i>Potluck Agape Meal &amp; Farewell for Candelarios</i></li> </ul>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>12 – Martyr Tatiana</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James</li> </ul>	<b>13</b> <i>No Confessions due to House Blessings</i>	<b>14</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>15 – St. Paul of Thebes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:45 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> <li>• 7 PM, Book Club</li> </ul>	<b>19 – St. Mark of Ephesus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy/Senior Brunch</b></li> <li>• 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James</li> </ul>	<b>20</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions</li> </ul>	<b>21</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noon: Walk for Life in San Francisco</b></li> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>22 – New Martyrs of Russia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:45 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> <li>• <b>12:30 PM, Parish Council</b></li> <li>• 5 PM, <i>Sacred Arts Talk: Russian Sacred Music</i></li> </ul>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> </ul>	<b>26 – St. Xenophon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James</li> </ul>	<b>27</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions</li> </ul>	<b>28</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 AM, Baptism</li> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>29 – Zacchaeus Sunday</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:45 AM, Church School</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> <li>• 1 PM, Vespers for the Three Holy Hierarchs</li> </ul>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord</li> </ul>	<b>2 – Feast of the Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy and blessing of candles</li> <li>• 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James</li> </ul>	<b>3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions</li> </ul>	<b>4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions</li> </ul>