

• GLORIFICATION OF THE PRIEST-MARTYR ALEXANDER:

The Orthodox Church in America commemorates the Glorification (canonizing) of the New Martyr Alexander Hotovitzky, on December 4th. Read the account of his life and martyrdom [HERE](#). He was born in Russia in 1872, graduated from the St. Petersburg Theological Academy in 1895 and went to New York City to serve as a missionary. He was ordained priest in San Francisco in 1896, and served under then Bishop Tikhon (later Patriarch). Through Father Alexander's efforts, Orthodox parishes were established in New York Philadelphia, Yonkers, and Passaic as well as other large and small towns throughout North America. He left America in 1914, and served in Helsinki and then Moscow. After the Bolsheviks took power, he was arrested numerous times and sent to prison camps, and eventually released. In the fall of 1937, the New Martyr Alexander was arrested again—a majority of oral reports testify to his death as a martyr. The Orthodox Church in America, on whose territory Protopresbyter Alexander served as a priest until 1914, venerates him as a passion-bearer, whose life as a confessor ended with sufferings for Christ. The place of his burial is unknown.

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 by December 1st so we can prepare accordingly!

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



December 4, 2022

St. Barbara, St. John of Damascus



- 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 ST. BARBARA, Tone Eight:
Let us honor the holy Barbara, for the most honored one broke the snares of the enemy and was delivered from them like a bird, with the help and aid of the Cross.
- TROPARION OF ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS, Tone Eight:
O instructor of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and purity, beacon for the whole world, O John most wise: by thy doctrines thou hast illumined all. O harp of the Spirit, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.
- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:
By raising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam; Eve exults in Thy resurrection; and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One.

Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa
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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Dec. 3: *Advent Retreat at Holy Trinity in San Francisco*
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, Dec. 4: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon AM, Agape Meal
12:30 PM, **Parish Council Meeting**
5 PM, Sacred Arts Presentation
- Monday, Dec. 5: 7 PM, *Vigil for St. Nicholas in San Anselmo*
- Tuesday, Dec. 6: 9:30 AM, *Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas in San Anselmo*
- Wednesday, Dec. 7: 6 PM, Vespers
6:30 PM, Catechism: *On the Holy Spirit*
- Thursday, Dec. 8: 5:30 PM, *Angels Unawares Guests arrive*
6 PM, Akathist to Sts. Joachim and Anna
7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James via Zoom
- Friday, Dec. 9: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions

• 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.

• 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.

• MEETING CHRIST:

When our children are young, they come to church and pray with their parents. Great Lent, Pascha, Christmas, house blessings, and so forth are important events and spiritual markers, and draw a person into the rhythm and life of the Church. However, a personal meeting with the Lord Jesus Christ is essential, because without that there’s no solid foundation for a *living* faith in Jesus Christ. A Russian Orthodox priest and his wife describe this for us. They say: “The Church cannot keep a person only through its customs, traditions and way of life, without an inner experience. And in order for him to survive this he should live with the awareness that something must happen, something awaits him. He must experience a ‘meeting’ and ‘fall in love.’ Any teenager understands that you need to meet a special person, fall in love and get married. It’s no coincidence that God’s relationship with Israel and the human soul in general is like a marriage between a bride and a bridegroom. The image of love and marriage for a person’s relationship with God is very important and easy to understand. The Lord is like our Church Bridegroom, and our soul is like a bride. We must meet the Lord, fall in love, enter into marriage—a ‘marriage covenant’—join the union with Christ, and say that it is for life: ‘My soul is Thine.’ And be faithful. Of course, temptations will last a lifetime....As the Samaritan woman was told: *Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world*” (Jn. 4:42). —*Borrowed*

• WINTER HOLY WEEK:

Starting on Tuesday, December 20, we will have morning and evening services in preparation for Christmas. Each day the hymns offer us a spiritual banquet, as they melodiously wind their way through the prophecies of the coming of the Messiah. In these services we set time aside in order to learn how to rejoice that our God is born of a Virgin for our salvation: *Prepare thyself, O Bethlehem! O Eden, be now opened! The most holy one cometh to give birth! Let the heavens be glad! Let all leap for joy! Who is our rich Life cometh in the magnitude of His mercy the manger and the cave, assuming the poverty of Adam without change or confusion.* —a hymn of Vespers on Dec. 23