

- A SHORT SERMON:

...throughout all the centuries of Christianity there have been in the Church heroic members, young people of both sexes, who by the grace of God have kept their souls pure and intact, and have dedicated to the honor of God the noblest attribute of their human life, namely, an untarnished purity of soul and body. Such persons have had the courage and such unbounded confidence in God's assistance that, although living in the world and its dangers, though threatened by the cravings of their own individual passions and by the temptations of the devil, yet they have succeeded bravely in preserving this treasure even in a frail earthen vessel, have carried it uninjured through life's long journey here below, and have finally presented it to their Lord... May Christ fill your heart and more than compensate you for the fleeting, transient, worldly love that you have laid down at His feet. The eternal Judge will find you waiting like the wise and prudent virgins who all through life carry in their hands the pure oblation of love and the burning light of good example. Therefore, faithful to the end, He will invite you to the eternal wedding feast in heaven. —*St. Sebastian of Jackson and SF (+1940)*

- M.O.M. DIAPER BANK:

Distribution of diapers and other necessities will take place on Wednesday, June 28, from 4–6 PM. The initials **M.O.M.** stand for the righteous and saintly *Mother Olga Michael of Alaska*, since it is with her intercessions before the Lord that those helping out with the Diaper bank do their work with hopes to expand our outreach to mothers and mothers-to-be in need.

- SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

The *St. Seraphim Week for Kids* (our version of a “vacation bible school”) is being organized by Carmen Anderson to take place July 17–21. Daily schedule here at the church will consist of a morning prayer at 10 AM sharp, followed by a brief spiritual lesson with one of the priests, then crafts, games, snacks, folk dancing (?), music, and a wrap-up prayer about 12:30 PM. We welcome kids ages 5–12. The *Feast of St. Seraphim* will be celebrated during that week, with the Vigil at 6 PM on Tuesday, July 18, and the Liturgy at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, July 19. Registration forms will be available at the Candle-desk in the next few weeks.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



June 18, 2023

Sunday of All Saints of Russia and America



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

- TROPARION OF ALL SAINTS of RUSSIA & AMERICA, Tone Eight:

As a beautiful fruit of the sowing of Thy salvation, our land doth offer Thee, O Lord, all the saints that have shone in it. By their prayers keep the Church and our land in peace, through the Theotokos, O Most Merciful One.

- KONTAKION OF ALL SAINTS, Tone Three:

Today the choir of saints who pleased God in the lands of Russia and America stands forth in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. With

them the angels glorify Him, and all the saints of the Church of Christ keep festival, and together they pray to the Eternal God for us.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 17: 9:30 AM, *Life's Emergencies Workshop*
5 PM, Great Vespers and Confession
- Sunday, June 18: 9:40 AM, Hours
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tuesday, June 20: Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship
- Wednesday, June 21: 6 PM, Vespers
6:30 PM, Book Club
- Thursday, June 22: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, *Feast of St. Alban*
6 PM, St Seraphim Men's Fellowship Dinner
7 PM, Online Bible Study
- Friday, June 23: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- Saturday, June 24: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions

• ALL SAINTS OF RUSSIA AND AMERICA—HOLINESS MONTH: Today Orthodox Christians in Greece are keeping the memory of all the Greek Saints, while Romanians celebrate their Romanian Saints, the Bulgarians, the Bulgarian Saints, and so forth. Our parish, our diocese and the OCA in general (with some exceptions) are children of the Russian Orthodox Church, brought to North America in 1794. Therefore we celebrate the saints of Russia, and of course, those that shone forth in America. We are still infants in the realm of sainthood, here in America—nevertheless, we count twenty-two officially glorified saints of America, meaning those that have liturgical services composed for their commemoration. There are others yet to be glorified, for example, Matushka Olga of Alaska, Metropolitan Leonty, Bishop Gerasimos (Papadopoulos), Ivan Smirennikov, Father Roman (Braga). The revelation of a saint happens in a

humble way, without fanfare and internet chatter. We prayerfully and patiently wait for God to reveal saintly men, women and children to the world. We can reflect on the fact that all Orthodox Christians are called to live saintly lives, to cultivate—with God's Grace—the holy virtues of faith, love, meekness, humility, and the rest. All of us in the Church are *called out*, and the word for Church in Greek, *ecclesia*, refers to those of the world who have “been called” — called to glorify God in their lives, to radiate His love and forgiveness to everyone, to set worship of the Holy Trinity as the first and essential task, to follow the commandments, to become holy and to love others with the gift of divine love. Although we ourselves may lack resolve and vision, we in the Orthodox Church do not lack examples of holy men, women and children, not only throughout the world, but here in our parish. For a list of North American saints, and those holy men and women yet to be glorified see the following website: <https://arizonaorthodox.com/saints-north-america/>

• ST. SERAPHIM MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER:

Dear gentlemen of the parish: Please let Daniel DeCarlo know by TUESDAY if you plan to attend the dinner on Thursday, June 22 at 6 PM. Daniel can be reached at (716) 861-4046. We had hoped that Fr. Paul Hamner, our former parishioner and now serving at St. Paul Orthodox in Las Vegas, would offer us a reflection on his seminary years. However, he is unable to be with us that evening. Thankfully, Joseph Anderson has agreed to offer a brief history of our parish. We have some very interesting photos as well to show.

• FEASTS OF JUNE:

Two important liturgical celebrations are coming up. The first feast is the birthday of St. John the Baptist and Forerunner, with Vigil on Friday, June 23 at 6 PM, and the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, June 24 at 9 AM. The Lord praised St. John as the “greatest of those born of woman” and so we are eager to praise him too and ask his heavenly intercessions as we walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. How wonderful to be invited to celebrate the birthday of the holiest man that ever lived. The second feast, and the end of the Apostles Fast, is that of Sts. Peter and Paul, the foremost of the Apostles. Great Vespers will be served on Wednesday, June 28 at 6 PM, and the Divine Liturgy on Thursday, June 29.