

- HELPING AT THE FEAST:

Daphne Russell sent a message to the parish Groups online forum the other day asking for help with serving the meal and doing some tidying up afterwards on Wednesday, July 19 after the Divine Liturgy. Tables will need to be moved as well. Daphne can be reached at (707) 291-8546. Other activities: floral arrangements (see Denise or Alejandra); cleaning the floor in front of the iconostasis (see Fr Lawrence); tidying up the church after the Liturgy (no instructions needed). Many thanks to all of you.

- KAZAN SKETE FEAST DAY:

Mother Susanna extends an invitation to all to join them at the Monastery Feast Day of the [Kazan Icon of the Mother of God](#), Friday, July 21. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 10 AM.

- MARRIAGE:

With the blessing of His Eminence Esmee Elisabeta and her long-time and very dear friend Daniel Durrant (baptized here a few years back) will be joined in Holy Matrimony on Tuesday, July 18 (the Feast of St Elizabeth the New Martyr) at 2 PM.

- BRIEF VACATION:

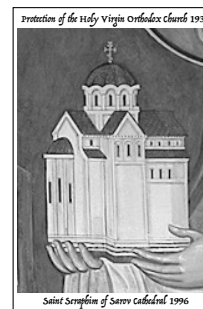
Matushka Ann and I will be visiting her mother in New Hampshire, 7/20–7/28. Fr. Nicholas Carr and Fr. Nicholas Cragle will both be here for any pastoral needs. —*Fr Lawrence*

- REGARDING THE ECUMENICAL COUNCILS:

The Ecumenical Councils are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible. The Orthodox Church's conciliar definitions of dogma have the highest authority, and such definitions always begin with the Apostolic formula: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15: 28). The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church's teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. (see [HERE](#) for more information)

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



July 16, 2023

Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:

Let us the faithful praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

- TROPARION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:

Thou didst descend into hades, O my Savior, shattering its gates as almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save u

- KONTAKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:

The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed

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

the one Faith in the Church. And wearing the garment of truth woven from theology on high, she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, July 14: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Great Vespers for feast of St. Vladimir
- Saturday, July 15: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for Feast of St. Vladimir
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, July 16: **10 AM**, Divine Liturgy (please be prompt)
Noon, Agape Meal
1 PM, Mollieben to the Royal Passion-Bearers
- Mon., Tues, Thurs: 10 AM–1 PM, **St Seraphim Week Activities**
- Tuesday, July 18: 2 PM, Marriage of Elisabeta Esmee Lafleur to Daniel Durrant
6 PM, Vigil for the Feast of St Seraphim
- Wednesday, July 19: 9:30 AM, Greeting His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin for the Feast Day Liturgy
Agape Meal to follow
- *Friday, July 21:* 10 AM, *Divine Liturgy at Kazan Skete for the Monastery Feast Day*
No Confessions here
- Saturday, July 22: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions

• SAINT SERAPHIM WEEK FOR KIDS:

Our annual *St. Seraphim Week for Kids* (think something like *Vacation Bible School*, but much better!) takes place this week, July 17–20, 10 AM to 1 PM each day (except Wednesday, when we have the Festal Liturgy for our parish patron saint). Please sign your child in at the Parish Hall at 10 AM. After that one of our priests will greet the children in the Protection Church for a prayer and a brief lesson. Space is still available for kids and volunteers. Please contact Carmen Anderson, who is organizing the activities for the week. She is at (707) 239-9321 and carmen.lucia.anderson2000@gmail.com

• OUR PARISH FEAST ~ JULY 19:

Our Summer Feast of St. Seraphim, commemorating his glorification (canonization as a saint in 1903, [see here](#)) is celebrated on July 19. A parish feast is like a second Pascha, and beckons the entire congregation to prepare for the feast: by confession and reading about St. Seraphim; by celebrating at the Vigil the evening before; cleaning and beautifying the parish grounds; planning a festive meal in the Hall; cleaning and decorating the cathedral, choir rehearsing. Lots of work, for sure, needing lots of hands. I encourage each of you to prepare for the feast of our heavenly patron. All of this, including preparing for and receiving Holy Communion at the festal Liturgy, is a work of the **Church/Parish community—the Body of Christ**—and not an individualistic and private spiritual matter, in which one considers perhaps to attend, or not to attend. In that sense the parish feast is a family event. Vigil for the feast is Tuesday, July 18 at 6 PM. Liturgy, July 19 at 9:30 AM. We are expecting clergy and faithful from our deanery to join in our celebration, and of course, we are expecting His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, who will arrive at the church doors at 9:30 AM for the vesting and the beginning of the Divine Liturgy. —*Fr. Lawrence*

• PARISH GIRLS:

Parents, please have your girls gather in front of the rectory by 9:20 AM, at the latest, on July 19, in order to escort Vladyka Benjamin to the church before Liturgy with flower petals. Please let Alejandra Wilkerson know if your child is coming.

• GREETING THE ARCHBISHOP:

His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin will be greeted at the rectory by the young girls with their baskets of flower petals, and they will escort him to the church doors at 9:30 sharp on the Feast Day (July 19). We want to be in the Church waiting for our beloved Father-in-Christ. The bishop is returning to the parish, of which he is the ἐπίσκοπος, *episkopos*, literally “overseer,” and we are ALL there to greet him with love. Imagine a beloved father returning home after a long absence, having to wait around for his family members to all show up after him. That would be odd, and in this case, disrespectful and even impious. So, let us joyfully gather before 9:30 and thereby show our love and respect. —*Fr. Lawrence*