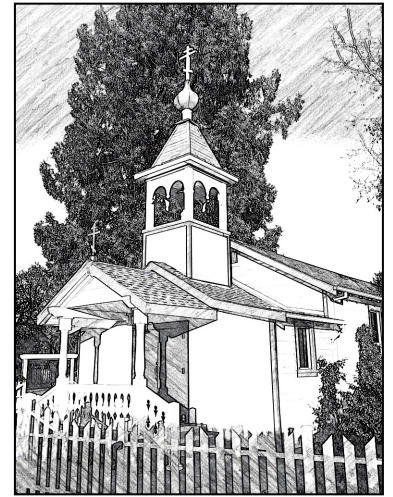


ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ August 27, 2023

Venerable Father Moses the Black*



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord hath shown strength with His arm; He hath trampled down death by death; He hath become the first-born of the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of hades, and hath granted the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF ST. MOSES, Tone Five:

Thou didst abandon the Egypt of the passions, O Father, and with fervent faith thou didst ascend the mount of the virtues, and didst take the Cross of Christ upon thy shoulders; and being glorified in godly works, thou didst prove to be a model for monastics, O Moses, summit of the fathers. Do thou pray unceasingly with them that our souls find mercy.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the prophets and patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 26: 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, August 27: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, August 28: 6 PM, Great Vespers for the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Forerunner
- Wed., August 30: 9 AM, *Green Mountain Singers Rehearsal in Church*
4 PM, Diaper Bank Distribution
5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga of Alaska
6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., August 31: *Fr Lawrence at Calistoga Monastery all day hearing confessions*
- Friday, Sept. 1: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Akathist “Glory to God For All Things” commemorating *Liturgical New Year and thanksgiving to God for the creation*

* **August 26 is properly** the Feast of our Venerable Father Pimen the Great of Egypt. See [HERE](#) for his life. We will be commemorating today instead another African saint, our Venerable Father Moses the Black of Scetis, also called “the Ethiopian.” His life is [HERE](#). A fresco of St Moses—for the pillar by the Protection icon—was commissioned many years ago, and we are praying to see it painted sooner than later. Keep in mind this is NOT the feast of the Prophet Moses, who is commemorated on Sept. 4.

Sayings of Abba Moses: † If a man does not put himself in the attitude of a sinner, his prayer will not be heard before God.” A brother said to him, “What is a sinful soul?” And the elder said, “Every one who bears his own sins, and does not consider those of his companion.”

† If we are on the watch to see our own faults, we shall not see those of our neighbor... To die to one’s neighbor is this: To bear your own faults and not to pay attention to anyone else wondering whether they are good or bad. Do no harm to anyone, do not think anything bad in your heart towards anyone, do not scorn the man who does evil... Do not rail against anyone, but rather say, ‘God knows each one.’ Do not agree with him who slanders, do not rejoice at his slander, and do not hate him who slanders his neighbor.

Love of the Theotokos and Saints: On Monday, August 28 we will celebrate Vespers for the Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, the Forerunner of the Savior. This is not an obscure and little-celebrated saint, but the one that the Lord Jesus said is the greatest among those born of woman—the Lord’s cousin, and baptizer. I encourage all of us to look forward to this feast, plan to come and enjoy the spiritual fruits of it. We might measure the health of a parish by the beauty of the services, splendid icons, charitable work for the poor, financial stability—all these are good and blessed. It’s my belief, however, that a more spiritually focused indicator of good health in a parish is the love that the faithful have for the Theotokos and the Saints, expressed by the participation—attendance—at their feasts. The rhythm of our Christian life is set by these feasts. As we draw near to the close of the Church Year (the New Year begins Sept. 1), let each of us consider how practically, fervently and truly we express our love for the Theotokos and the Saints. Let’s plan ahead. —*Father Lawrence*

John Gilluly and Matushka Ann have started work on checking the irrigation systems. It involves checking the emitters that go to each plant. As there are quite a few plants to check, and it is a big task. Come on out to help. Instruction will be given. Work will begin this Saturday, August 26 and next, Sept 2. Starting early—at 8:30 AM—to beat the heat.

Bible Study with Fr James will begin again on Thursday evenings at 7 PM, via Zoom. The first session will be on Sept. 14. There will be no session on Sept. 21, but after that it will proceed without interruption.

All of the actions of asceticism – fasting, vigils, etc., have the single purpose of cleansing and healing the heart. Sadly, we often give greater attention to what we are eating (or not eating) than the things that are eating *at* our hearts. St. Basil said, “It does you no good to abstain from meat and to then devour your brother.” We are lulled into a form of complacency by our culture’s exaltation of “objective” knowledge. We fail to notice that, even in very mundane things, dark musings, such as anger and resentment, can affect our performance. Driving angry can be as distracting as texting. We are not compartmentalized beings—with some objective monitor operating independently of the state of our heart. The healing of the heart can be a difficult work. Its wounds can be quite old and deep. Resentments can easily grow from mere insults into a world-view. The handful of commandments given to us by Christ easily serve as a short guide to mending the heart. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (*Matthew 5*). This, I suspect, is the form of *theosis* that not many imagine. The love of enemies is not a moral matter—rather, it describes a state of being. It is nothing less than a crucified life. As Christ forgives His enemies from the Cross, He reveals the full depth of His divinity. Just as the Father makes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, so

Christ shines the light of His love on the whole of humanity (“who know not what they do”). There is no union with the crucified Christ that is not also a union in such love. The same observation can be made regarding Christ’s teachings on generosity and kindness. In His person and in His teachings, we see revealed the very heart of God. —Fr. Stephen Freeman, from his [BLOG](#)

Fr Alexander Schmemmann wrote the following regarding Christian Education: “As a general rule, children like to be in church, and the instinctive attraction to and interest in church services is the foundation on which we must build our religious education. When parents worry that the children will get tired because services are long, they usually subconsciously express their concern not for their children, but for themselves. Children penetrate more easily than adults into the world of ritual, into liturgical symbolism. They feel and appreciate the ‘atmosphere’ of worship. The experience of the ‘Holy,’ of that ‘*mysterious tremendum*’ which is at the root of all religion—the feeling of an encounter with Someone who is beyond daily life—is more accessible to children than it is to us....How many...have devoted their lives to the service of God and consecrated themselves to the Church because, from their very childhood, they have treasured their love for the house of God and the joy of liturgical experience. Therefore, the first duty of parents and educators is to ‘Let the children come...and do not hinder them’ (att. 19:14) from attending Church.” We have two difficulties with Fr. Alexander’s words. The first, as a parish we could be bringing our children to more services other than Sunday. The second difficulty: Fr. Alexander couldn’t have foreseen that the use of the internet and media would fragment our spiritual attention and train us to expect constant and quickly changing stimuli. Then, the spiritual world that Fr. Alexander is writing about becomes inaccessible. “Let the children come to me...and do not hinder them” is a call for us to limit and monitor the use of media for ourselves and our children. The inner world of prayer and the soul, its needs and ways of being, are crushed and exhausted by the noise of the digital world. Jean-Claude Larchet writes: “...as we have seen, the new media [cell phones, tablets, internet, etc] push man’s faculties in the opposite sense, always outwards toward the world. They are dispersed by a stream of discordant nagging that cuts the soul in pieces, and destroys the unity and identity of the inner man.” Let me recommend, as we look for remedies, Larchet’s book called [***The New Media Epidemic: The Undermining of Society, Family, and Our Own Soul***](#). I encourage all of us to read or reread this important book on how to maintain a healthy soul in a digital world. —Fr L

UPCOMING: Our parish will host the Annual Diocesan Assembly, October 24–26. The Assembly is the yearly gathering—united in faith with our Archbishop Benjamin—of clergy and lay delegates from all the parishes and institutions in the Diocese. We can expect about 120 folks to be with us for those two and a half days. The task of our parish will be to provide hospitality for the delegates by serving refreshments and meals. We will have Vespers on Tuesday, October 24 at 5 PM, again the next evening at 5 PM for the feast of the Holy and Great Martyr Demetrios of Thessaloniki. The Festal Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated the following morning—Thursday, October 26. My hope is that many of our parish members will be present for these services. A brunch will follow Liturgy with wrap-up meetings. Special guests include Bishop Alexei of Alaska and the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, Archpriest Alexander Rentel. You’re asking yourself: *What can I do to help, to put our best foot forward as a parish?* A sign up sheet will be available on Sunday in the Narthex, and I will be soliciting help with it in the Hall during the Agape Meal. —Fr Lawrence

M.O.M. DIAPER BANK

The parish diaper bank, named after Matushka Olga Michael—*M.O.M. Outreach*—and asking for her prayers—will take place on Wednesday, August 30 at 4 PM. Call Catie DeCarlo at (707) 703-9516 for information on how the distribution will take place.

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 – Ven. Pimen/Moses of Scetis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Great Vespers with Litya 	29 – Beheading of St John <i>Strict Fast Day</i> <i>Parish Feast at Christ the Saviour in SF</i>	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, Diaper Bank • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers 	31	SEPTEMBER 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Akathist <i>Glory to God</i> for Church New Year/Creation 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, Wedding Rehearsal • 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
3 – St. Anthimus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:40 AM, Reception of Catechumens • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 3 PM Wedding 	4	5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vigil for the Nativity of the Theotokos 	8 – Nativity of the Theotokos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 	9 – Sts. Joachim and Anna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
10 – Sunday before the Cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 12:15 PM, <i>Lessons in the Faith</i> (Parish Hall) 	11	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vigil for the Elevation of the Cross 	14 – Elevation of the Cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross / Strict Fast • 7 PM, Bible Study 	15 <i>No Confessions</i>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
17 – St. Sophia and Daughters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 3 PM, Wedding (out of town couple) 	18	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noon, Senior Lunch 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Parish Council Meeting, Parish Hall 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Great Vespers, Feast of St. John 	23 – Conception of St. John <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
24 – Protomartyr Thekla <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 12:15 PM, <i>Lessons in the Faith</i> 	25	26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, Diaper Bank • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers • 6:30 PM, Book Club 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Men's Fellowship Dinner • 7 PM, Bible Study 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 AM, Akathist to the Protection of the Theotokos • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vigil for the Feast and Confessions
OCTOBER 1 – Protection Feast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and Procession to Protection Church • Noon, Festal Agape Meal 	2	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, <i>visit of Healdsburg School students</i> 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Bible Study 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	7 <i>Home School Workshop here</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions