

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 24, 2023



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

TROPARION OF THE ALASKAN MARTYRS, Tone Four:

Today Alaska rejoices and America celebrates, for the New World has been sanctified by martyrdom. Kodiak echoes with songs of thanksgiving, Iliamna and Kenai observe the festival of faith. The apostle and martyr Juvenaly is glorified, and Peter the Aleut is exalted by his voluntary sacrifice. In their devotion and love for the Lord they willingly endured persecution and death for the truth. Now in the kingdom of heaven they intercede for our souls.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

KONTAKION OF THE ALASKAN MARTYRS, Tone Four:

Today Valaam joins Alaska in celebrating this joyous feast, as her spiritual son Juvenaly embraces the New-Martyr Peter with love. Together they suffered for the Lord in America and united the Old World with the New by their voluntary sacrifice. Now forever they stand before the King of glory and intercede for our souls

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Friday, Sept. 22: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Vespers for the *Feast of the Conception of St. John the Baptist*
- Saturday, Sept. 23: 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, Sept. 24: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal / Spiritual Lesson in the Parish Hall
- Tuesday, Sept. 26: 6 PM, Parish Council Meeting here and via Zoom
- Wednesday, Sept. 27: 4 PM, Diaper Bank Distribution
5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga of Alaska
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Sept. 28: 6 PM, St. Seraphim Men's Fellowship Dinner
7 PM, *Online Bible Study* with Fr James

- Friday, Sept. 29: 11 AM, Akathist of the Protection of the Theotokos (Protection Church)
11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, Sept. 30: 5 PM, Vigil of the Resurrection and the Feast Day of the Protection
- Sunday, October 1: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy (Parish Feast), Procession and Festal Agape Meal

We welcome our guests and visitors, and trust that you will have a good experience at the Divine Services—please speak with one of our priests if you have any questions. Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer (Pre-Communion Prayers), fasting and a recent Confession (at least within a month's time). With the fear of God, with faith and with love, draw near.

On October 1 we celebrate our Parish Feast Day, *The Protection of the Holy Virgin*. It is for this feast that our parish was named in 1936, and so, we celebrate the day with a special solemnity, joy and gratitude for the continual intercessions and protection of the Theotokos over us. We are mindful of the sacrifice and faith of those who came before us.

How to celebrate the feast day:

- ✦ Attend the Vigil (or at least a portion of it at least, if you have small children)
- ✦ If you have not made a recent confession, then come and receive the Lord's mercy and peace by your repentance
- ✦ Carry an icon during the Cross Procession following the Liturgy
- ✦ Stay for the Agape Meal, and help out as you can to clean up
- ✦ Learn the *Troparion of the Parish* so you can sing it:

Today we Orthodox people joyfully keep festival,
being illumined by thy glorious coming among us, O Mother of God;
and gazing upon thy most pure image,
we say with compunction:
Shelter us with thy most precious Protection,
and deliver us from all evil,
and pray to thy Son, Christ our God, that he save our souls.

The St. Seraphim Book Club scheduled for this week has been canceled.

The monthly gathering for dinner of the St. Seraphim Men's Fellowship will be on Thursday, September 28 at 6 PM. If you plan to attend, please send a confirmation to Daniel DeCarlo, at (716) 861-4046.

Keep our Catechumens in your prayers: Stephanie and Duke Geoffrion; James, Roxanne and Liliana Weaver; Skylar Skikos, William Rogers, Sadik Bradbury, David Dehnert; Joseph, Jackson, Dallas and Noah Zeni; Gigi Williams, Raymond West, Frances Ann Edmonston. ...*make them worthy in due season of the washing of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins, and the robe of incorruption. Unite them to thy holy, catholic, and Apostolic Church, and number them with thy elect flock, that with us they may glorify thine all honorable and majestic Name...*

Participation at Vespers on Saturday evening can be a wonderful gift of prayerful fellowship to us and an extremely helpful aspect of our preparation for receiving Holy Communion on Sunday. Each Saturday we hear a wealth of deep and inspiring theology sung by the choir, in eight sets of changing hymns, praising the Lord

Jesus Christ for His incarnation, Passion on the Cross, death and resurrection. The Sunday Liturgy is the culmination of what is celebrated, sung about and taught at Great Vespers the night before. —*Fr. Lawrence*



TASKS TO DO

- ➡ Let's keep our parish kids safe from getting stung by yellow jackets (which typically “bug” us this time of year): the traps need to be taken down, cleaned and refilled with bait.
- ➡ After the Agape Meal, please help to clean up outside: collect plates, cups, utensils, clothes, and trash, etc.
- ➡ Dump the outside trash containers into the dumpster.
- ➡ Volunteer to work the live-stream (schedule a time to get a lesson with Timothy or Travis).
- ➡ ✓ Protection Church cleaners: Two people have stepped forward to take care of this. Thank you.
- ➡ Help will be needed at the Diocesan Assembly, Oct. 24-26, with refreshments. Please see Debbie Buse about stocking the refreshments.
- ➡ Replace light bulbs on walkways and on outside of the Protection Church.

Many Thanks to our benefactors: The frescoes of St. Matthew and St. John for the pendentives (area below the dome) have been commissioned. St. Luke and St. Mark still need benefactors (\$15,000 each).

Ever since the Archangel Gabriel first said, “Blessed art thou among women,” to the Virgin Mary, these words of praise have inspired the faithful of the Christian Church to join the Archangel in his prophecy: “from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed” (Lk. 1:45). One of the most mysterious and deep inner feelings of the Orthodox Church is our celebration each October 1 of the feast of the *Protecting Veil of the Mother of God*. In our parish we sing these words from the Feast day hymn almost every Sunday: *Today the Virgin stands forth in the Church and invisibly with the choirs of Saints prays to God for us...* At the festal Vigil and especially the Divine Liturgy, we remember—but more than that—we participate, anticipate, and spiritually delight in—the vision of Our Lady standing forth which was once seen by Saint Andrew, a “fool for Christ's sake” in the Church of the *Blakherni* district in Constantinople, during a military assault on that City on October 1 sometime in the mid-10th century; the blessed Epiphanius his disciple standing beside him said, “Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?” He saw the All Holy Virgin with her Veil held over the City, protecting the people who were gathered in that Church praying fervently for help.

The Protecting Veil of the Mother of God is a vision of the unbreakable and unending bond of the heavenly and the earthly Church—one Body. And it is also a confirmation that until the Coming of our Lord—and the resurrection and healing of all creation—all existence beyond the grave, of the righteous and the saints, is one un- tiring prayer, one ceaseless intercession and mediation in love. When we sing at the funeral and panikhida that “their souls shall dwell with the blessed” this is what we mean. We have become used to imagining that She, the Holy Theotokos, and all the saints, all the deceased, the entire spiritual world in general—are somewhere over there, far away in the heavens, “over the rainbow.” It is unusual and even difficult for us to believe that the Mother of God and all the saints are so close to us that they can pray together with us in our churches. Recall as frequently as you can how near the Theotokos is to us, and to pray to Her with childish simplicity, loyalty and sincere faith, calling out to Her: “Rejoice, O our Joy, protect us from all evil with Thy most precious veil.” Amen. —*Fr. Lawrence*

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 – Feast of the Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and Procession • Festal Agape Meal 	2	3	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Blessed Olga of Alaska • 6 PM, Vespers 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM–3 PM, Home School Workshop • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
8 – Holy Fathers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Baptism of Alvig Elizabeth • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 12:30 PM, <i>Spiritual Lesson</i> 	9	10 <i>Fr. Lawrence in Wash, DC at Metropolitan Council Meeting until Friday</i>	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Blessed Olga of Alaska • 6 PM, Vespers 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James 	13 <i>No Confessions, Fr. Lawrence away</i>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On the True God</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
15 – St. Evthemius the New <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • Mentorship Sessions 	16	17 <i>Fr. Lawrence in Chicago at Clergy Retreat until Friday</i>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Blessed Olga of Alaska • 6 PM, Vespers 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James 	20 <i>No Confessions, Fr. Lawrence away</i>	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On the Human Being</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions • 7:30 PM, <i>Concert Here</i>
22 – St. Averky <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 12:30 PM, <i>Spiritual Lesson</i> • 3 PM, <i>Concert Here</i> 	23	24 <div>Diocesan Assembly 10/24-10/26</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Daily Vespers 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, M.O.M. Diaper Bank • 5:30 PM, Great Vespers 	26 – St. Demetrios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy • 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism: <i>On Sin</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
29 – Martyr Anastasia of Rome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • Mentorship Sessions • 5 PM, <i>Honoring the Saints, potluck dinner</i> 	30	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship with presentation 	NOVEMBER 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Blessed Olga of Alaska • 6 PM, Vespers 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Jesus the Son of God</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions