

## TASKS TO DO

- ➡ The pear, fig and apple trees near the Protection Church need care from someone who knows how to prune fruit trees—which is a special skill. Please speak with Father Lawrence if you have experience with this, or know someone that we might ask.
- ➡ 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.
- ➡ Help is needed on Sundays after the Agape Meal to collect plates, cups, utensils, clothes, and trash, etc.
- ➡ Clean Protection Church—every two weeks is sufficient (see Fr. Lawrence).
- ➡ Volunteer to work the live-stream (see Timothy or Travis).

**Ted Dechant** will be forming a *Department of Parish Maintenance* (DPM) to help us keep on top of things. A seven acre property with seven facilities/ dwellings needs lots of loving care. Ted will be asking some of you to help out with various projects, as he is able to organize them. Stay tuned.

**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, Frances Ann Edmonston. ...*make them worthy in due season of the washing of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins, and the robe of corruption. 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 of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

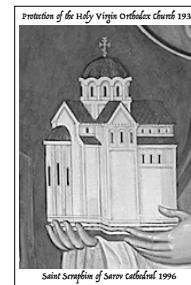
**A special presentation** is planned for the Senior Lunch on Tuesday Sept 19. Lunch will feature a 30 minute presentation by Catherine Ostling on

“Symbols in Christian Art.” We will start with the presentation at noon. Catherine is Professor Emeritus at SRJC where her art history students gave her glowing reviews. —*Karla Van Meter, Senior Lunch Coordinator*



# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



## September 10, 2023

### Post-feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos



#### • 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 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS, Tone Four:

Thy nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe. The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from thee, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse He bestowed a blessing; by destroying death He has granted us eternal life.

#### • KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY, Tone Four:

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. And we, thy people freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: “The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life.”

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## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Sept. 9: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, Sept. 10: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
Noon, Agape Meal  
12:30 PM, *Spiritual Lesson* in the Hall
- Wednesday, Sept. 13: **6 PM, Vigil for the Elevation of the Cross**
- Thursday, Sept. 14: **9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast**  
(*Fast Day: we fast from meat, dairy, eggs, fish*)  
7 PM, Bible Study on Zoom
- Friday, Sept. 15: No Confessions today
- Saturday, Sept. 16: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions

**This weekend we are in the period** of the *Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos*—of course it's a *Great Feast*, since it is about her, and the beginning of feasts of the Liturgical year, which started September 1. We are also marking the Sunday in preparation, so to say, for the next feast, which is that of the *Elevation of the Precious Cross* on September 14. These feast days are proof that Orthodoxy is not just about fasting, prostrations, contrition for sins and being downcast about our fallen state! It's about rejoicing! The Feasts, especially this first one is especially joyful. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann points out that when we look at this particular birth with spiritual eyes we understand that "the Church is telling us...that every birth, every entrance of a new human being into the world...is a miracle of miracles, a miracle that explodes all routine, for it marks the start of something unending, the start of a unique, unrepeatable human life, the beginning of a new person." The Church faithfully and joyfully celebrates—at the Vigil and the Liturgy—this "birth of a little girl in whom are concentrated all the goodness, spiritual beauty, harmony and perfection that are the elements of genuine human nature. In and through this new-born girl, Christ—our gift from God, our meeting and encounter with Him—comes to embrace the world. Thus, in celebrating Mary's birth we find ourselves already on the road to Bethlehem, moving toward to the joyful mystery of Mary as the Mother of God. —Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *Celebration of Faith*, pg. 25

**This Sunday we begin** our Mentorship Program with the first of the *Spiritual Lessons*—to be offered to all in the Parish Hall at 12:30 (after lunch is

well underway). These *Spiritual Lessons* are required for children which have registered for the Mentorship Program, are strongly encouraged for mentors, and are open to the rest of the parish. These will be family-oriented talks. The other two or three Sundays, children meet in three age-level groups along with their mentors. Groups are not to exceed ten people (five children and five adult mentors). Children and mentors discuss age-appropriate topics:

- Biography and story for the youngest (age 7-10)
- Apologetics and living the Faith for teens (age 13-17)
- A little of both for preteens (age 10-13)

To hear a synopsis of the program, which was presented to those present at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 20, go to the link [Brief remarks on Christian Education: Mentorship](#) at our Parish Website.

**The latest news** from Anton Daineko, is that he and his wife Ekaterina will return to Santa Rosa to paint at Christmas time. We had hoped they would return to us in November, but there are other obligations to complete. The plan will be for Fr. Patrick to prepare the drawings of Sts. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John on the pendentives (the triangles under the dome) for Anton to paint. Fr. Patrick will continue his work in the aisles and north transept. Of the four saints, only St. Luke has been commissioned. Each pendentive/saint fresco will be \$15,000. The four arches will be painted with decorative patterns, and they will be \$6,000 per arch.

Now is the time to reserve a fresco in memory of a beloved family member, or simply as a generous gift to the Parish. Please see me if you are interested in commissioning such a prominent and important fresco. —Fr. Lawrence

