

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ November 26, 2023

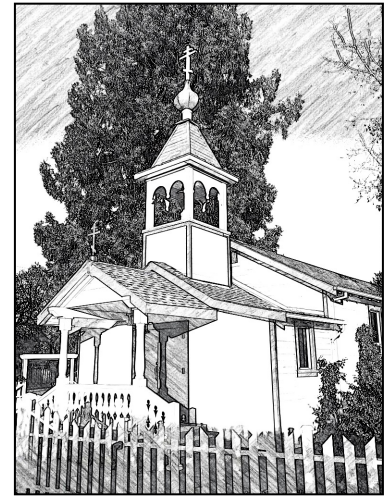
St. Alypius the Stylite

- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

By raising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam; Eve exults in Thy resurrection; and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O Greatly Merciful One.



- Saturday, Nov. 25: 3:30 PM, Catechism *On the Holy Spirit* — we will meet in the Protection Church
5 PM, Great Vespers of the Resurrection
- Sunday, Nov. 26: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal, with a brief report by Dana Ames on the Diocesan Assembly
- Wed., Nov. 29: 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga of Alaska / 6 PM, Great Vespers for the *Feast of St. Andrew the First-Called* in the Protection Church
- Thursday, Nov. 30: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy/Litya for the Repose of Konstantin Sakovich, *Protection Church*
Evening Concert by Cantiamo
- Friday, Dec. 1: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions in the Protection Church
Evening Concert by Cantiamo
- Sat., Dec. 2: 10 AM, Advent Retreat in SF at Holy Trinity Cathedral
3 PM Diaper Bank Distribution
5 PM, Great Vespers of the Resurrection

EVENTS AND NOTES

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.

Holy Trinity Cathedral in SF has will host the annual Advent Retreat on Saturday, December 2. Please mark your calendars! The retreat master this year is Fr. Andrew Morbey, Dean of St. Mary's Cathedral in Minneapolis, Minnesota (and former Rector of our parish in Santa Rosa). Father's topic is *Why Institutional Church, Anyway?* He will share insights from St. Theoleptos of Philadelphia, a teacher of St. Gregory Palamas, on why we should be in the Church and in Church. The day begins at 10:30 AM and Vigil that Saturday will be at 4 PM. Register at holy-trinity.org/events

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. ...*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...*

The response for the Nightingale Project was super! Thank you for your generosity and support of this charity. A special thanks goes to Lydia Nicholson for making it so easy to contribute; we have never been this prepared this early! For those of you who didn't have the opportunity to donate we would like to include a gift card to Safeway. You can write a check to the church and earmark it for *Nightingale* or put cash in envelope with nightingale written on it or use the iPad in the Narthex and donate under charity and write nightingale in notes. We will be assembling the gifts on Sunday December 10th after Liturgy. We will be set up on the picnic tables near our storage bay. Thanks to all for your support whether it be financially or prayerfully. — Denise Pellizzer

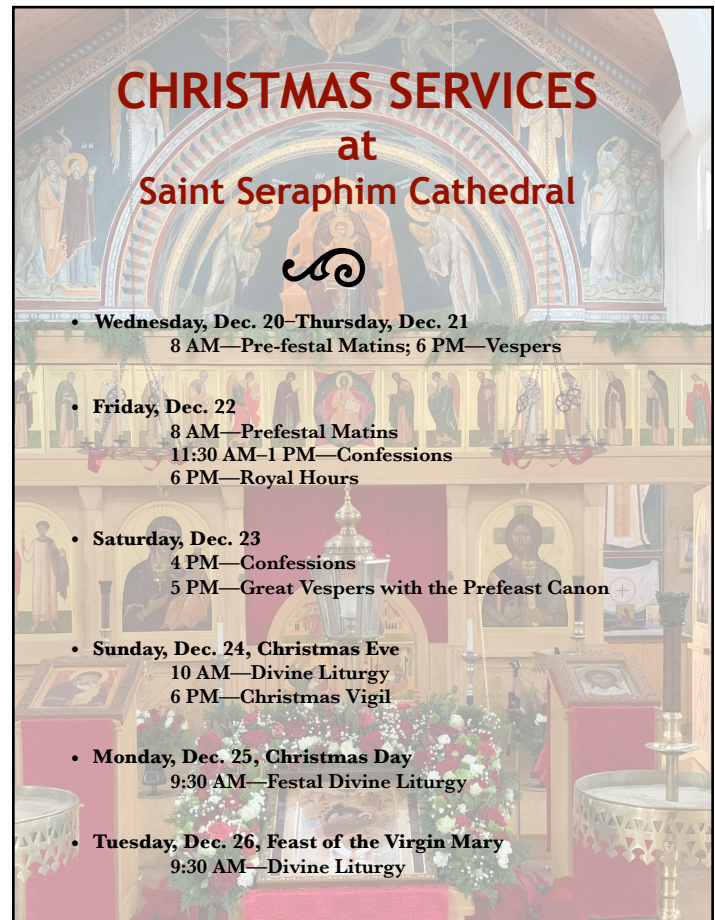
Our Savior gives us some very simple tasks to do, which He receives as gifts of honor from us. Among those tasks is visiting the sick and shut-ins. Please set aside some time to fulfill this Gospel commandment (see Matt. 25) by visiting: George Kielczynski at *Summerfield Rehab* on Summerfield Rd; Carol Stewart at *Santa Rosa Post-Acute* on Hoen Ave; Nilus Veenis (call ahead at 707-526-2284; Seraphim Hunter (707) 481-0007; Jean Elizabeth Share at 707-584-7411; Deanna Panages (call George at 707-996-2681). There are others—contact me if you can help out. —Fr Lawrence

On Thursday, December 7th and again on January 4th, the parish will welcome guests coming with the Redwood Gospel Mission ***Angels Unawares*** project (formerly *Nomadic Shelter*). We expect maybe twenty or so needy homeless folks—for which we will

provide dinner and a warm and safe place to sleep. *Angels Unawares* is a program in which the Redwood Gospel Mission of Santa Rosa has partnered with thirty local church communities—each taking one night a month for the next four months—to provide a safe place for prescreened homeless folks (some of them women and children) to be brought by the Mission for the night. Arrival is expected about 5 PM, departure about 6:30 AM.

Volunteers are needed help prepare and serve dinner. Please contact Michael Dovey at (707) 799-4117 if you can help.

Is there anything more familiar in Christianity than the Christmas story? The child in the manger, the shepherds watching their flocks, wise men from the East, and angels singing, “Glory to God in the Highest!” There is something that warms the heart in the familiar. It is safe. It shelters. It is sort of like home. Certainly,



CHRISTMAS SERVICES
at
Saint Seraphim Cathedral

• **Wednesday, Dec. 20–Thursday, Dec. 21**
8 AM—Pre-festal Matins; 6 PM—Vespers

• **Friday, Dec. 22**
8 AM—Prefestal Matins
11:30 AM–1 PM—Confessions
6 PM—Royal Hours

• **Saturday, Dec. 23**
4 PM—Confessions
5 PM—Great Vespers with the Prefeast Canon

• **Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve**
10 AM—Divine Liturgy
6 PM—Christmas Vigil

• **Monday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day**
9:30 AM—Festal Divine Liturgy

• **Tuesday, Dec. 26, Feast of the Virgin Mary**
9:30 AM—Divine Liturgy

there is a place for this aspect of the Christmas experience. The gentleness of the Mother and Child, the simplicity of the shepherds, the piety of the wise men, and the radiance of the angels soften our souls in the midst of the harsh winter of this life. And yet, where we grow as human beings, where change and transformation take place, is not in the familiar, but in the startlingly new, in the strangeness that alters our perspective about ourselves and about our world. Mothers can see this as their children explore the world. Psychologists have written much on this topic. But most importantly, this is something that the Nativity of Christ should do for us all. For the Church fathers, what happened in Bethlehem of old was “the only new thing under the sun” (*Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*, book 3). Looking upon the events recounted by the holy evangelists, the response of the Christian that brings forth change is given in the hymnology of the Church: “I behold a strange, most glorious mystery! Heaven—the cave! The cherubic throne—the Virgin! The manger—the place where Christ lay, the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song!” (*Ninth Ode of the Canon* for the Nativity of the Savior). Everything is much more than the familiar. It is a mystery that is glorious and strange, blinding and unfamiliar, radiant and new. Nothing is precisely as it seems, but incomparably more profound, infinitely more holy, and indescribably more divine than anything the human mind can grasp. God becomes man. For our sakes, the pre-eternal God is born a young child. All the rules of logic, all the rules of the creation, all the rules for all things human melt before the fire of divinity that burns, but does not consume, that is majestic, yet humble, and that is our salvation. The Christmas story is not meant to just warm our hearts. It is meant to enflame us with divine love, to cause us to embrace the humility of Christ and become humble ourselves, to embrace the impossibility of the union of heaven and earth and to become earthly angels and heavenly men and women. It

YOU ARE INVITED TO A CHRISTMAS PLAY
PRESENTED BY THE ST. SERAPHIM YOUTH

THE STORY OF THE VIRGIN, JOSEPH
AND THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

5:30 PM—Kontakion of Christmas by St. Romanos, in the Cathedral
6 PM—Dinner in the Parish Hall
6:45 PM—Christmas Play and Caroling

should fill us with boldness in an inhospitable world, spontaneity to look and see where the young child is laid, and a readiness to follow the star of Christ’s truth wherever it may lead us. All of this is possible if we but humble our hearts and seek to worship Christ, praying that He gives us new eyes to behold, not just the familiar story, but the strange and glorious mystery of God becoming a child, so that we who are in so many ways still children might become gods by grace, coheirs in Christ’s heavenly kingdom. A strange, most glorious mystery, indeed! —*Bishop Alexei of Alaska, from [Ancient Christian Wisdom](#)*

Thank you, Mentors: For offering your time on Sundays to be a guide, friend and a sympathetic ear to your mentee. Most of our parishioners are probably not aware that for the six or so months of the program the mentors must quickly eat their lunch at the Agape Meal, so by 12:20 or 12:30 PM, they can either meet together with the children or, on alternate weeks, attend a Spiritual Lesson in the Protection Church. This means missing the fellowship that other parishioners enjoy for half of the Sundays of the year, and this is neither convenient or easy. Mentors have entered into the realm of pastoral work, which always entails a sacrifice of one’s time for the benefit of someone else—a redefinition of what is and is not convenient. God willing, there will be many blessings in return for the time given. Thank you, dear Mentors. —*Fr. Lawrence*

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal with a report on the Diocesan Assembly <i>No Spiritual Lesson</i>	27	28	29	30 – Sts Andrew/Sebastian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (Protection Church) • 7 PM, Bible Study • 8 PM, <i>Cantiamo Concert</i> 	1	2
3 – Prophet Zephaniah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, POTLUCK Agape • Mentoring 	4	5	6 – St. Nicholas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, <i>Liturgy for St. Nicholas / San Anselmo</i> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers 	7 – St. Ambrose of Milan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, <i>Angels Unawares</i> • 7 PM, Bible Study 	8 – Conception of Theot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 AM, Akathist to Sts. Joachim & Anna No Confessions	9
10 – Martyr Menas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 12:30 PM, Spiritual Lesson 	11	12	13 – St. Herman of Alaska <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers 	14	15	16
17 – Ancestors of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • Mentoring • 5:30 PM, <i>Kontakion, Dinner, Christmas Play, Carols</i> 	18	19	20 – Prefeast of Christmas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Prefeast Matins • 6 PM, Prefeast Vespers 	21	22 – Strict Fast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Prefeast Matins • 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Royal Hours 	23
24 – Sunday before Christmas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 6 PM, Festal Matins 	25 – CHRISTMAS DAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Festal Divine Liturgy 	26 – Synaxis of the Virgin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 	27 – St. Stephen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, <i>Liturgy in San Anselmo</i> <i>No Vespers today</i>	28	29	30
31 – Sts. David, James, Joseph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, POTLUCK Agape • 5 PM, Vespers for the Feast of Circumcision/Basil 	JANUARY 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feasts of the Circumcision and St. Basil • 5 PM, Vespers 	2 – Repose of St. Seraphim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Seraphim 	3	4	5 – Strict Fast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 AM, Vesperal Liturgy, Water Blessing • 6 PM, Matins for Theophany 	6 – THEOPHANY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy and outdoor Water Blessing (<i>location to be determined</i>) • 5 PM, Vespers