

for life, for your family, for the future, but that you should not be self-centered, self-absorbed, practicing self-preservation. Remember Christ's own teaching that God's commandments can be summed up in two precepts: love God and love your neighbor. This is what the rich fool ignored. He mentions no one but himself. —*borrowed*

What is expected of contemporary Christians, as members of Christ's Church, is neither aloof diagnosing of spiritual "illness" nor pronouncements of the "ruination of the world," nor panicked anathematizing of "this world" and the apostasy of modernity, but a responsible witnessing of the Truth of God-Man Christ, and an unmasking of all the anthropolatric [worship of man] ideologies, falsities, misconceptions and injustices through the love of Christ. The basis of Christian witnessing in the modern world must be a liturgical love for that world, a love prepared to sacrifice for the life of the world, instead of a dualistic puritanism that, from the heights of its righteous self-satisfaction, abhors the "world (that) lieth in wickedness" (1 John 5,19) and anathematizes it, hating, along with sin, the sinners themselves, contrary to the example of Christ, Who came into the world for the sake of the sinners, to call them to repentance. —*Patriarch Irenei of Serbia.*

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PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



November 19, 2023

Prophet Obadiah and the Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea



• TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrh-bearers, 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.

• KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hades is bound, while the prophets rejoice and cry: the Savior has come to them that have faith. Enter, ye faithful, into the Resurrection.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Nov. 18: 3:30 PM, Catechism, *On Repentance*
5 PM, Vespers and Confessions

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- Sunday, Nov. 19: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
12:30 PM, *Spiritual Lesson* in Protection
- Monday, Nov. 20: 6 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the Entrance
- Tuesday, Nov. 21: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast (Protection)
6 PM, **Parish Council Meeting** (Library)
- Wednesday, Nov. 22: 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Nov. 23: **9:30 AM**, Divine Liturgy, Thanksgiving Day
5 PM, Thanksgiving Dinner in the Hall, *RSVP*
- Friday, Nov. 24: *No Confessions*
- Saturday, Nov. 25: 3:30 PM, Catechism, *On the Holy Spirit*
5 PM, Vespers and Confessions

We welcome Protodeacon Michael and Matushka Mary Wusylko from Pennsylvania. Protodeacon Michael is on the Board of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, is a medical internist working in hospice care and serves at the St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral in Allison Park, PA. Matushka Mary is the head of the Women's Philanthropy at the Cathedral. Please join me in welcoming them to our parish. During the Agape Meal Fr. Deacon Michael and Matushka Mary will offer some remarks about the work at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

The Feast of the beloved Saint Nicholas is on December 6. The celebration will take place at the Parish of St. Nicholas in San Anselmo (Vigil Dec. 5 at 7 PM, Liturgy Dec. 6 at 9:30 AM. All are invited to attend.

The Eucharistic Liturgy is the perfect way we have to give thanks to God (*Eucharist* means "thanks"), and it is given to us "for the life of the world." It is most appropriate that we gather on the holy national day of Thanksgiving to serve the Liturgy. Let us prepare for Holy Communion, and at the Divine Liturgy—which is so joyous, majestic, venerable and yet so humble—give thanks to God for all things. When you gather at the table later in the day to share the meal of Thanksgiving, let each one spend a moment more offering thanks for the blessings that our Savior has given us. If you plan to attend the Thanksgiving Dinner in the Hall on Thursday, please let John Gilluly know **as soon as possible**. —*Fr. Lawrence*

We ought all of us always to give thanks to God for the gifts of soul and body that He bestows on us. These include wealth, so that one can perform acts of charity; poverty, so that one can endure it with patience and gratitude; authority, so that one can exercise righteous judgment and establish virtue; obedience and service, so that one can more readily attain salvation of soul; health, so that one can assist those in need and undertake work worthy of God; sickness, so that one may earn the crown of patience; spiritual knowledge and strength, so that one may acquire virtue; weakness and ignorance, so that, turning one's back on worldly things, one may be under obedience in stillness and humility; unsought loss of goods and possessions, so that one may deliberately seek to be saved and may be helped when incapable of shedding all one's possessions or even of giving alms; ease and prosperity, so that one may voluntarily struggle and suffer to attain the virtues and thus become dispassionate and fit to save other souls; trials and hardship, so that those who cannot eradicate their own will may be saved in spite of themselves, and those capable of joyful endurance may attain perfection. All these things, even if they are opposed to each other, are nevertheless good when used correctly. —*St. Peter of Damascus, Philokalia*

May the Lord bless those who recently made an offering of wine for the Divine Liturgy and olive oil for the *lampadas*. In case others might be interesting in also making an offering, for the chalice we use wine from the Monastery in Calistoga, and for olive oil we use *Kirkland* brand "refined olive oil and 15% Extra Virgin, from Costco. Works best.

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

God owns everything. You might hear a priest say at the graveside before a burial these words: *The earth is the Lord's and the fulness there, the world, and those who dwell therein.* (Ps 24:1) They remind us that we cannot take our wealth with us beyond the grave. Our blessings are given to us to use for the benefit of others in this world. God is the true owner of everything...The message of the Gospel is not so much that you should never make provision