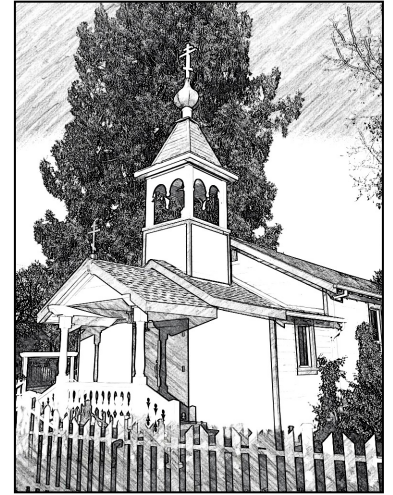


ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ January 28, 2024

Synaxis of the New Martyrs of the Russian Lands



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

- TROPARION OF THE NEW MARTYRS, Tone Four:

O ye holy hierarchs, royal passions-bearers and pastors, monastics, men, women and children, ye countless new-martyrs, confessors, blossoms of the spiritual meadow of Russia, who have borne fruit for Christ in your endurance: Entreat Him, as the One that planted you, that He deliver His people from godless and evil men, and that the Church of Russia be made steadfast through your blood and suffering, unto the salvation of our souls.

- KONTAKION OF THE NEW MARTYRS, Tone Two:

O ye new passion-bearers of Russia, who have with your confession finished the course of this earth, receiving boldness through your sufferings: Beseech Christ Who suffered for you, that they who pray to you in the hour of the testing of their faith may receive the gift of courage. For ye are witnesses to us who kiss your feet, that neither tribulation, prison nor death can separate us from the love of God.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, Jan. 26: 11 AM, Akathist of the Protection
11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, Jan. 27: 3:30 PM, Q&A for Catechumens and Inquirers (Parish Hall. Child-care provided)
5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, Jan. 28: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
12:30 PM, Spiritual Lesson on *Reading the Scriptures*
- Tuesday, Jan. 30: 5 PM, Hosting *Angels Unawares* (shifted from Thursday)
- Wednesday, Jan. 31: 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Feb. 1: 6 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the *Meeting of the Lord in the Temple*
- Friday, Feb. 2: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast (in the Protection Church)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY

Brethren: When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. — *Colossians 3:4-11*

At that time a lawyer asked Jesus a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?’ If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore. — *Matthew 22:35-46*



Confessions: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Friday, Jan. 26 in St Seraphim. For those who are receiving Communion weekly, as we should, we prepare by a recent confession, prayer, fasting, and attendance at Great Vespers on Saturday evening. Confessions are heard before, during and after Vespers on Saturday, and by appointment.

Dear friends in Christ: Please mark your calendars: Our parish will gather after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 4, for our Annual Meeting. A booklet is ready for you to take this weekend. This booklet has financial reports, the proposed budget for 2024, a list of ministries and activities with reports on each and some proposed programs for the coming year. Bring a bag lunch, since we don’t serve an Agape Meal that day. The meetings general run about an hour and a half. We intend for the meeting to be a time of fellowship and mutual support. — *Fr Lawrence*

Might I suggest that each of us take the opportunity to humbly, prayerfully, kindly bring one person, just one person a year to church. Stats tell us that if you ask enough, one will come. Let’s say that we have 100 dedicated supporting parish members that invite one person a year. *Youth:* please invite others as well. Believe me, I ask people all the time, every week, “please visit...” etc. It’s going to take a year for someone to accept that invitation and say, as one of our inquirers told me yesterday: I knew I wanted to become a catechumen at my very first Divine Liturgy, to be baptized here. Invite one person a year, each of us here. Let’s just round it down to 100 of us. Next year there will be 200. The following year 400, the next 800. Not about numbers, it’s about sharing, it’s about courage, it’s about living the faith with enthusiasm and it’s about love for your neighbor, to witness to your love of God. — *Fr Lawrence*

Church Camp is on track for 2024—June 24 through 29 at the Armenian Camp in Dunlap, CA! If you have children in your parish who attend St. Eugene Camp, then you know that Summer 2023 once again

proved to be not just a lot of fun, but also an invaluable experience of coming together as Orthodox Christians in fellowship and common worship. Please join all the other parishes in California in **holding a collection for St. Eugene Camp on Sunday, January 28th (New Martyrs and Confessors)**. Funds from this collection will go toward funding the cost of counselors. We wish we could pay them all handsomely, but at the very least we should not ask them to pay their own way! —*Fr. Andrew Smith, Camp Coordinator*

From the New Martyr, Priest Sergei Mechev, Moscow, Spring, 1931: The judgment of God is taking place upon the Russian Church. It is not by coincidence that the external aspect of Christianity is being taken away from us. The Lord is punishing us for our sins, and thereby is leading us towards a cleansing. What is happening is unexpected and incomprehensible for those living by the standards of the world. Even now they still strive to bring everything down to an external level, attributing everything to causes which lie outside the Church. Yet, those who live for God have had everything revealed to them long beforehand. Many Russian ascetics not only foresaw these dreadful times, but also witnessed about them. Our Lord is calling us to accept a new form of salvation. Many churches built by the hands of man, filled with many treasures, were kept open for centuries. At the same time many temples not made by human labor [cf. 2 Cor. 5:1] were in a terrible state of decline and left unused. Now that the churches built by man's labor are being destroyed, in the repentant yearning for them are raised temples built by the hands of God. The flames of humble martyrdom are beginning to be ignited in all places, especially in the inaccessible regions. Hungry, impoverished, frozen, isolated from the world, on the barren earth, in the snow or in roadside cabins, without coffins and the sacred rites—are dying priests, monks and faithful laity. In the contrite temples of departing souls, prayers are raised for the entire Church, which has fallen to the love of the external. The rites and customs mean more than the spirit of the Church, which is not finding in itself, even in these times of distinct tribulations, the healing tears of contrition. Sparks of enduring confession are lit everywhere, from the Arctic Ocean to the scorching desert. In repentant weeping are praying those people who, through endurance of tribulations, have opened the temples of their hearts and who have been banished from serving in the temples of God! Let us enter, beloved ones, into the cells of our souls, into the temple of our spirit, consecrated unto the Lord at the moment of our Baptism and sanctified by Him at the time of our first Communion. This temple of ours—no one can ever destroy it, except we ourselves. In it there is both priest and penitent. Its *Table of Oblation* is our heart, and upon it we can always with our tears consummate the great mystery of repentance. It is difficult for us who have let our invisible temple grow desolate, living by the visible church, accept from the Lord a new way of salvation. Let us cry and weep, not with tears of despair, but with tears of repentance, accepting all as what we deserve. Is it not the Lord Who sends this? Have not the more diligent from among us long ago taken to this path? Whether this is for a long time or is permanent—only the Lord knows. The visible side of Christianity is leaving us. Let us stand aright, let us stand with the fear of God.

Today we celebrate the memory of the New Martyrs of the Russian Lands (Russia, Ukraine, Galicia, etc.) during Soviet times. This [link will provide you](#) with more than adequate information about the New Martyrs. [Archpriest Sergei Sveshnikov](#) tells us that “the way of following Christ is always the way of cross-bearing. The road to Pascha always passes through Golgotha. Christ went along this road; the first Christians chose this road, and the saints followed after them, generation after generation. The Holy New Martyrs and Confessors were not only an incarnation of the entire treasure of Christian tradition, but were also exactly worthy imitators of the first Christians. Let us recall that the first work of the infant Church was not leadership by hierarchs, nor monasticism, nor lofty theological thought, but martyrdom and confession. It is precisely the first martyrs and confessors that laid the foundation on which the fruit-bearing tree of Christ’s Church flowered. And it is precisely with this rock of faith, with this apostolic leaven that the holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia unite us.”

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan. 28 - New Martyrs of Rus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 12:30 PM, Spiritual Lesson on <i>Reading the Scriptures</i> 	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, <i>Angels Unawares (sleeping only)</i> • 7:30 PM, Zoom Mtg for Mentors 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers 	February 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, <i>Angels Unawares</i> • 6 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the <i>Meeting of the Lord</i> 	2 - Meeting of the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy and blessing of candles (Protection Church) 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
4 - Post-Feast of the Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Bring your own lunch <p style="text-align: center;">12:30 PM, Parish Annual Meeting</p>	5	6	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy (Greatmartyr Theodore) • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM-1 PM, Confessions in Protection Church 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
11 - Righteous Theodora <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 12:30 PM, Spiritual Lesson 	12	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 6 PM, Men's Fellowship Dinner (and clean up!) • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM-1 PM, Confessions in Protection Church 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
18 - Zacchaeus Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • Mentorship 	19	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers • 6:30 PM, Parish Council Mtg 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM-1 PM, Confessions in Protection Church 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism: <i>On Holy Baptism</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
25 - Publican and Pharisee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 12:30 PM, Spiritual Lesson 	26	27 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Fr. Lawrence in Portland for Mission Parish Retreat</div>	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, Diaper Bank • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online 	March 1 NO CONFESSIONS	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism: <i>On Holy Chrismation</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions