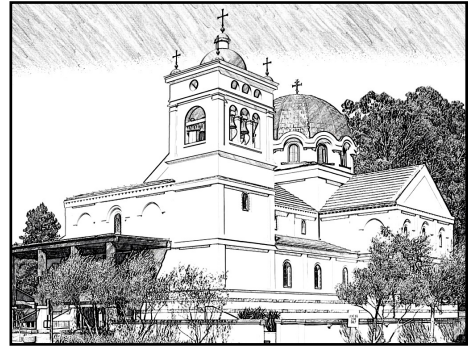


# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Sunday of the Raising of the Paralytic

May 26, 2024



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; for the Lord has shown strength with His arm; He has trampled down death by death; He has become the first-born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hades, and hath granted the world great mercy.

- KONTAKION OF THE PARALYTIC, Model Melody "On This Day":

As of old Thou didst raise up the paralytic, O Lord God, by Thy God-like care and might, raise up my soul which is palsied by diverse sins and transgressions and by unseemly deeds and acts, that, being saved, I may also cry out: O Compassionate Redeemer, O Christ God, glory to Thy dominion and might.

- KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades. And didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the Myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice; and giving peace unto Thine apostles, O Thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat., May 25: 5 PM, Resurrectional Matins / Confessions
- Sunday, May 26: 9:45 AM, Reception of Catechumens  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:45 AM, Agape Meal  
Mentorship to follow
- Monday, May 27: Noon, Pankhida for Memorial Day at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery
- Tuesday, May 28: 6 PM, Vespers for Mid-Pentecost
- Wed., May 29: 9 AM, Liturgy and Blessing of Water for the Feast of Mid-Pentecost  
4 PM, Diaper Bank Distribution  
5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga  
6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., May 30: *No Bible Study*
- Friday, May 31: 11:30 AM–1:30 PM, Confessions

**We have the great blessing** to receive three young men as catechumens on Sunday prior to the Divine Liturgy: Nathan Ziegler, from Windsor, who is a firefighter in Mendocino County, John Coffey

and Kiel Smits, both HS students in the area and friends with Thomas Winowich. We had expected to also make Gavin Carter a catechumen with them, but there was the death of his father in Kansas, so he will be received the following week. —*Fr Lawrence*

**It is our parish custom** to go to Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery on Memorial Day (this year on May 27) at Noon to offer prayers for the repose of the souls of those who died in defense of this country. I usually set up an icon table at the east end of the cemetery, under a tree. Same place as the last five years. Look for the priest in the white cassock. —*Fr Lawrence*

**The Diaper Bank** distribution takes place this coming Wednesday afternoon. Please speak with Linda McKee to help out.

**The Sundays of Pascha**, building upon Lent, invite us to enter more deeply into the mystery of our salvation, the mystery of the Life in Christ. Pascha, Thomas Sunday and the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers together focus our attention on the Good News—the Gospel—of Christ’s death and resurrection which led directly, by baptism, to our freedom from the power of death and sin. Jesus is the Lord and Savior, because He defeated in His death and resurrection, the wicked powers of evil which enslaved us.

This Sunday, the Gospel will give us the account from [of the healing of the Paralytic, John 5](#) (we have a fresco of this miracle, so we can *see* the story). Ponder these words by Metropolitan Nikolaos, Metropolitan of Mesogaia and Lavreotiki, from his book *When God Is Not There (2018)*:

God manifests Himself in our life in secret and spiritual ways ... The world we live in is the world of the fall, and death is inherent to it. If we do not die today, we shall tomorrow. Even if today Christ raises us up as he did Lazarus, in a short while we shall depart from this world. If we do not depart as a result of illness or a terrible accident, we shall depart in some other way. God’s presence is meant to give us an awareness of salvation—not of health, power or endless life in this world, but the longing for immortality, the expectation of eternity. It is meant to give us the awareness that even if we are in pain, even if we are sorely tried, even if we are being unjustly treated, even if we are perhaps deprived of the immediacy of the divine presence in the way our reason demands or our physical needs require it, we are able to experience the warmth, the sense and the experience of His spiritual presence in our life. What do our difficulties and ordeals count for when we experience Christ within us, when we have Christ near us, when we feel that we are in His embrace! The supreme moment of the divine presence was when the Lord experienced utter abandonment on the Cross—it was impossible for God to be absent at the moment when the divine economy was being accomplished. So it is the same with us: God’s presence is absolute and perfect in our trials and tribulations, just at the moment when the sense of abandonment by Him is most intense. It is impossible for God to be absent from our salvation. Ultimately, the world is not the one that we see but another world that exists and that we have to discern. Then we shall glorify God for the rich blessings He gives us: for the possibility not so much of gaining our health (we shall lose that at some point), nor of escaping some threat to our life (that too will come to an end), but above all of enjoying our salvation—the possibility for us too to become partakers and members of the Kingdom of God eternally, and to see our God and Savior “face to face.” ❀

**The Veneration of the Cross** on the third Sunday of Lent marks the halfway point of Great Lent. So the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, a.k.a. Mid-Feast, marks the halfway mark to Pentecost (fifty days from Pascha to Pentecost). [Click here](#) for a short explanation of this feast. We will have the Divine Liturgy with a Blessing of Water—in the Protection Church—at 9 AM on Wednesday to mark the Feast.

**It is a commandment of the Lord** not to judge (i.e. condemn) others for sins we see. Of course, we


should have discernment about right and wrong, good and evil, beautiful and ugly, true and false and whatever is in-between but we do not condemn others that we may see in a sinful state. Here's what St. Dorotheos of Gaza wrote (6th century. [See this video](#)): "... A man can know nothing about the judgments of God. God alone is the One who takes account of all and is able to judge the hearts of each one of us, as He alone is our Master. Truly it happens that a man may do a certain thing (which seems to be wrong) out of simplicity, and there may be something about it which makes more amends to God than your whole life; how are you going to sit in judgment and constrict your own soul? And should it happen that he has fallen away, how do you know how much and how well he fought, how much blood he sweated before he did it? Perhaps so little fault can be found in him that God can look on his action as if it were just, for God looks on his labor and all the struggle he had before he did it, and has pity on him. And you know this, and what God has spared him for, are you going to condemn him for, and ruin your own soul? And how do you know what tears he has shed about it before God? You may well know about the sin, but you do not know about the repentance."

**In the Divine Liturgy**, the Nicene Creed is introduced by the Deacon with these words: "Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us love one another that with one mind we may confess: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in essence, and undivided!" I believe it to be the case that the Creed is not rightly confessed (or believed) except it is done with love for one another. Indeed, how can we confess the mystery of God (Who is love) if we do not have love? —*Fr. Stephen Freeman*

**Plastering of the dome arches** and pendentives continues for another week. This plastering will provide the base for Anton Daineko to paint on. We hope to see him here by August or September, TBD. We thank the All-Holy Lady Theotokos, and the original builders, for the church of the *Feast of the Protection*, where we can gather for the Divine Liturgy in the meantime. While this plastering is taking place, we took the opportunity to have the carpets in St Seraphim professionally cleaned and washed, and the chandeliers taken down, clean, sand-blasted and powder-coated at local shop.

**As indicated in the Annual Meeting Booklet**, the John Hartman Bequest of \$840,000 given to our parish has allowed us to restore our icon/special projects/building funds to their proper balance (Martin can give you that dollar figure), and set aside some of the funds to cover the cost of frescoes which have not been commissioned. For example, we have three benefactors for the frescoes on the four pendentives (\$15,000 each given for Sts. Matthew, Luke and John), but the parish will use the Hartman Bequest for St. Mark and the arches. We are also able to invest some of that Bequest (about \$400K) in [OCCIF](#), an Orthodox investment fund which loans funds for the building of Orthodox Churches. We will gain the interest on that money while helping other parishes grow. —*Fr Lawrence and the Parish Council*

Saint Seraphim Cathedral presents



## A Weekend with St. John Chrysostom

*Dr. David C. Ford  
& Dr. Mary Ford*


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Dr. David will speak about St John Chrysostom, his life and teachings. Dr. Mary will speak more generally about helps for the spiritual life, focusing especially on positive and negative thoughts.



**When:**  
Friday, June 7th, **7 PM to 8:30 PM**  
Saturday, June 8th, **10 AM-3 PM**

**Cost:**  
**\$15**, includes Friday and Saturday,  
and lunch on Saturday



**Dr. David C. Ford** received his Ph.D. in Church History and Historical Theology from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Currently he is Professor of Church History at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA.

**Dr. Mary Ford** received her Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Kent, Canterbury, England. She was Associate Professor of New Testament for 33 years at St. Tikhon's Seminary in South Canaan, PA.

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26 - Paralytic Sunday</b> • 9:45 AM, Receive Catechumens • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Mentoring • Noon, Agape Meal	<b>27 - Memorial Day</b> • Noon, Panikhida at Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery	<b>28</b> • 6 PM, Vespers for Mid-Pentecost	<b>29 - Mid-Pentecost</b> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Water • <b>4 PM, Diaper Bank</b> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers	<b>30</b> No Bible Study	<b>31</b> <i>Fr Lawrence in Eureka for Vespers and Saturday Liturgy</i>	<b>JUNE 1 - St. Justin Martyr</b> • 5 PM, Resurrectional Matins/Confessions
<b>2 - Samaritan Woman</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Spiritual Lesson • Noon, Agape Meal • 4 PM, <i>Cantiamo Concert</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers	<b>6</b> • 7 PM, Bible Study	<b>7</b> • 11:30 AM-1 PM, Confessions • 7 PM, <i>Intro to St. John Chrysostom with Drs. David and Mary Ford</i>	<b>8 - Retreat</b> • 10 AM-3 PM, <i>Retreat, On St. John Chrysostom</i> • 5 PM, Resurrectional Matins/Confessions
<b>9 - Blind Man</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> • 6 PM, Matins of the Leavetaking of Pascha • <b>7 PM, Choir Dinner</b>	<b>12</b> • 6 PM, Vigil for Ascension	<b>13 - Ascension</b> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension of Christ • 7 PM, Bible Study	<b>14</b> <i>No Confessions today</i>	<b>15</b> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
<b>16 - Holy Fathers</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers • 6:30 PM, Parish Council	<b>20</b> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to St. Seraphim • <b>6 PM, Men's Fellowship Dinner</b> • 7 PM, Bible Study	<b>21</b> • 11:30 AM-1 PM, Confessions	<b>22 - Memorial Saturday</b> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 5 PM, Vigil for Pentecost
<b>23 - PENTECOST</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and Kneeling Vespers • 12:30 PM, Potluck Agape  <i>Fr Lawrence and campers depart for Church Camp</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Fast Free Week</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> • <b>4 PM, Diaper Bank</b> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers	<b>27</b> • 7 PM, Bible Study	<b>28</b> • 11:30 AM-1 PM, Confession • 6 PM, Great Vespers for the Feast of Sts Peter and Paul	<b>29</b> <i>Liturgy for the Feast of St. John of SF at Holy Virgin Cathedral</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
<b>30 - Synaxis of the Apostles</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal	<b>31</b>	<b>July 1</b>	<b>2</b> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers	<b>3</b>	<b>4 - Fort Ross Pilgrimage</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy at Fort Ross, Picnic	<b>5</b> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions