

I want to make a public thanks to all who make the live streaming of church services on YouTube and Facebook possible. Thank you from all who sometimes need to stay at home but want to be part of the services. Thank you from those who take care of them. Thank you also from those who need to stand outside. I am especially grateful for all of the work that went into streaming during Holy Week. —*Matushka Ann*

Please come to help in the garden on Saturday. Tasks: dead-heading roses and getting the irrigation systems working properly. I will be working on Saturday morning. Starting around 8:30. Let me know if you can help. Respond to Sender below or text 707 477 0808. —*Matushka Ann*

St. Seraphim Men's Fellowship Dinner: Thursday, June 20 at 6 PM. Please send Daniel DeCarlo a message if you plan to come. Bring your own beverage please.

There will be a Divine Liturgy at the Fort Ross chapel on July 4, 10:30 AM. Bring a hat, umbrella and a folding chair. Pack a picnic to enjoy after the Divine Liturgy.

Archbishop Benjamin, Archpriest Kirill and the faithful of our Diocesan *Cathedral of Holy Trinity* in San Francisco invite all of us to join them for their parish feast day of Pentecost. Vigil at 6 PM and the Divine Liturgy with a festive Procession at 9:30 AM.

Having celebrated the Lord's Pascha and Ascension (June 13), we look forward to the Feast of Pentecost. Pentecost is the crown and fulfillment of Pascha—for it is by the “seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit” in Chrismation that we sinful humans are given “power from on high” (Acts 1–2), in order to live the new life, the Risen Life received in baptism by Christ, to be transformed and become “little christs” — bearers of the Spirit of God. “Out of the heart,” says the Lord Jesus about the Spirit in us, will “flow rivers of Living Water” (John 38–39). Just as Lent preceded and prepares us for Pascha, so the Paschal season prepares us for Pentecost.

PENTECOST CELEBRATION

- **June 22:** 9 AM, Memorial Divine Liturgy (Soul Saturday)
Decoration of the Church in the afternoon
5 PM Vigil for Pentecost
- **June 23:** 10 AM Liturgy and Kneeling Vespers
BBQ provided. Bring a side salad or dessert to share.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



June 16, 2024

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Council



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Six:
The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hades, not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin granting life. O Lord who didst rise from the dead: glory to Thee.
- TROPARION OF ASCENSION, Tone Four:
Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.
- TROPARION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:
Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.
- KONTAKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS, Tone Eight:
The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed

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the one Faith in the Church. And wearing the garment of truth woven from theology on high, she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

- KONTAKION OF ASCENSION, Tone Six:

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake and unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from them that love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: “I am with you, and no one will be against you.”

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 15: 8:30 AM, Gardening: *Roses and irrigation*
3:30 PM, Baptismal Catechesis and final prep
5 PM, Great Vespers & Confessions
- Sunday, June 16: 9 AM, Baptisms
10 AM, Divine Liturgy / Agape Meal
- Wed., June 19: 6 PM, Vespers
6:30 PM, **Parish Council Meeting**, Library
- Thurs., June 20: 6 PM, Men’s Fellowship Dinner
7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James
- Friday, June 21: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions

SUNDAY’S EPISTLE: In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build

you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified...

—Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Today we commemorate the *Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea*, who proclaimed that the One Who brings human beings into the eternal life of God is Himself truly divine and eternal: the only begotten Son of the Father. We believe in “One Lord, Jesus Christ, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father; by Whom (Jesus) all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man...” The Fathers of the Council recognized that even the best angel, prophet, or teacher could not do that, for only One Who is divine and eternal can bring us into the divine, eternal life of the Holy Trinity. That is a key reason why the Council of Nicaea rejected the teaching of the heretic Arius, who did not think that the Son was fully or eternally God. That is why the Orthodox Church has always disagreed with those who seek to reduce Christ to a great religious teacher or moral example, or who view the Kingdom of God as a mere extension of an earthly kingdom of whatever kind. Our salvation comes not merely through instruction or social change, but through the New Adam Who conquers death and ascends to heavenly glory as the God-Man. Even if we know the words of the Nicene Creed by heart, we may still be tempted to turn Christ into a Savior who fits with our preconceived notions about what we would like from a religion. After all, it is much easier to follow a Lord Who serves our own pursuit of pleasure, power, and pride than it is to embrace One Who calls us to holiness in every dimension of our existence. Even as He is fully divine, He is also fully human. He ascended into heaven with a glorified human body. To share in His life is to share in His holiness, in His divine and heavenly life, in ways that make us shine with the divine glory in body, soul, and spirit in the world as we know it. That does not mean becoming less human, but becoming more truly ourselves in God’s image and likeness as He intended us.

May God Grant Many Years to those who will be baptized on Sunday at 9 AM: David Dehnert, Taysa Olga Porto, Skylar Silouan Skikos and his three children, the 3 year-old Shepherd and the twins, Agnes Marie and Shane Kester, born April 9. We congratulate all of them and their families.