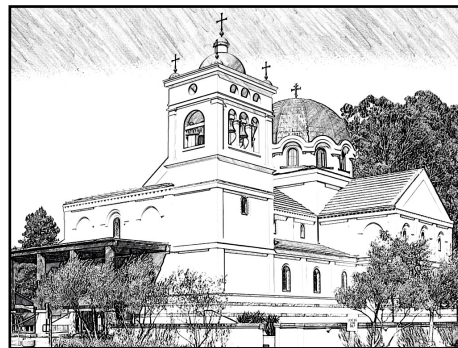


ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, June 23, 2024
Feast of Pentecost



- TROPARION OF PENTECOST, Tone Eight:

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net; O Lover of man, glory be to Thee.

- KONTAKION, Tone Eight:

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity; therefore with one voice we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

Epistle: The Acts of the Apostles 2: 1–11 **Gospel:** John 7:37–52; 8:12

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, June 22: 9 AM, Panikhida only, no Liturgy
5 PM, VIGIL for Pentecost
- Sunday, June 23: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, *Vespers with Kneeling Prayers* to follow immediately
BBQ Agape (meat supplied, please bring a dish to share)
- Wed., June 26: FAST FREE WEEK
6 PM, Daily Vespers
- Thurs., June 27: *No Bible Study*

Archbishop Benjamin and the faithful of Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco will celebrate their patronal feast day on Pentecost. Father Kirill, the Cathedral Dean, invites the Bay Area clergy and faithful to join them at the Pentecost Vigil, Saturday, June 22 at 6 PM. There will be a reception following.

The Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost Day is unique in that it has three lengthy prayers during which we kneel (this will be the first time since Holy Week that we kneel during prayer). These supplications are rich in meaning and inspiration. May the Lord give us all strength, understanding and gratitude as we offer these prayers—letting the words enter into our hearts. “Grant the Spirit of Thy wisdom to my reasoning; give the Spirit of understanding to my folly. Overshadow my deeds with the Spirit of Thy fear, and renew an upright Spirit in my inmost parts. With Thy ruling Spirit make steadfast my fickle mind, so that each day, being led by Thy good Spirit toward whatever is profitable, I may be counted worthy to accomplish thy commandments and to keep always in remembrance Thy Glorious Coming, which searches out our deeds.” —*from the second Kneeling Prayer*

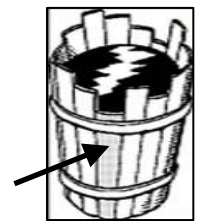
On the Saturday before Pentecost we commemorate and pray for the repose of all departed pious Christians. This commemoration is a participation, here at the end of the Paschal season, that we are alive in the Lord, with none dead in the grave, spiritually renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is a sacred duty, in my opinion—compelled by love for those who have gone before us—to participate in Memorial Liturgies and Memorials in general. A parish that cares for the dead, prays for them actively in *Panikhidas*, at Funerals and on Soul Saturdays, is a healthy, loving parish, concerned for the eternal welfare of its loved ones, and of all mankind. The Paschal season is now ending, so the Church calls us: “Come, rejoice in the resurrection of Christ, remembering that *there is not one dead in the tombs* because of Christ. And gathering together for the Panikhida this Saturday morning—let Jesus Christ, the High Priest, offer us, our loved ones, and our departed ones, to His Father to be sanctified and glorified in the Heavenly Kingdom.” —*Fr Lawrence*

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: As a beginning of our parish’s participation in the **Thriving Parishes Project** of our Diocese, our parish will soon be taking the *Orthodox Natural Church Development* (ONCD) survey. As you may have read from remarks in the weekly announcements, this survey is a tried-and-true way of measuring the health or quality of a church. Archbishop Benjamin has requested that our parish be the first of 20 in the diocese to undertake this survey. An expert trainer in this program will be here at our Parish on **Friday, August 2 at 6 PM** to give our entire membership an overview of the program. He will explain that by using a carefully prepared questionnaire with 30 members of our church, the survey will help us determine the health of our parish in 8 critical areas. These Quality Characteristics are universally used in building healthy churches:

Empowering Leadership, Gift-based Ministry, Fervent Spirituality, Effective Structures, Inspiring Worship, Holistic Fellowship Groups, Need-oriented Evangelism, Loving Relationships

The key in each of these *Quality Characteristics* is the adjective, which can be considered a summary of the six *Life Principles* (see below) as they apply to that characteristic: empowering, gift-based, fervent, effective, etc. Every church has some sort of leadership or worship or structure, but not all emphasize the adjectives at the front of each of these *Quality Characteristics*. Three things can be said with a high degree of certainty: 1) *These are universally valid qualities;* 2) *They can be transferred to our own situation;* 3) *Each of these has a positive relationship with both the quality and the quantitative growth of the church.*

No one single factor leads to growth in churches; it is the interplay of the eight elements mentioned above. This brings us to the topic of the *The Minimum Factor*. Imagine a barrel with eight staves, each representing the eight *Quality Characteristics* mentioned above. The staves in the barrel represent the score of the 8 *Quality Characteristics*. With this analogy, you can only fill the barrel to the level of the lowest stave. So to increase the capacity of the barrel, we must increase the height of the lowest stave. Focusing on the *Minimum Factor* does not mean that we don’t pay attention to the other seven areas. As stated before, all eight characteristics are vitally important to healthy growing churches.



There is something which we can call the *All-by-Itself-Principle*. The secret of growing churches does not consist in pushing or pulling the church in human strength and efforts—but in releasing and developing the potential God himself uses to build his church. Then growth occurs all by itself! This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts, and grows; though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, and then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come (Mark 4:26-29). The church is

designed by God to grow, so growth happens automatically if we remove the obstacles that prevent growth. Growing churches use this growth principle.

Process:


- 1) Come to the presentation on Friday, August 2 at 6 PM to hear Fr. Jonathan Ivanoff explain the entire program. It's important that as many of our parishioners as possible attend.
- 2) The parish rector will appoint six parishioners to serve as the *Church Health Team* who will receive training on Saturday, August 3, beginning at 10 AM. Going forward, the *Health Team* will assess the survey (mentioned above), and address our *Minimum Factor*, and set relevant goals.
- 3) The *Health Team* will organize small focus groups of parishioners—led by a diocesan moderator (someone who knows how to keep a meeting going)—with the goal of analyzing and discussing the results of the survey and finding ways to grow. Hopefully, the entire parish will be involved in these small focus groups.

Matushka Ann will be visiting her mother and family from June 24–July 2. I will be away at Church Camp from June 23–29. Fr Nicholas will be available for all pastoral needs and services, and all church services will be held as posted.

Friday Nicholas be reached at (707) 318-5391. —*Fr Lawrence*

Since 1925, the faithful from Bay Area parishes have made a pilgrimage to [Fort Ross](#) on the observed Independence Day Holiday. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the Fort Ross chapel on Thursday, July 4, at 10:30 am. Pack a picnic to enjoy after the Divine Liturgy.

The Saint Seraphim Men's Fellowship has organized a retreat at the Monastery of St. John in Manton, for fathers and sons, per the flyer. Speak with Joseph Marino to secure a spot. The Men's Fellowship has also organized a trip to Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco for the 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Giants ball game. Speak with David McKee (707) 322-9778. There are still some slots available.



**The men* of the Parish
are invited to a Retreat at the
Monastery of St. John of
San Francisco
Manton, CA.
Thursday, July 11–Sunday, July 14**

To sign up for the retreat, or for questions regarding transportation, contact
Joseph Marino at 707-331-4030 josephmarino@gmail.com

Dress Code: Loose-fitting jeans/slacks, long-sleeved shirt

Personal things to bring: Clothes for work and church, water-bottle, hats for outside, alarm clock, flashlight, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.

** Teens with their dads are encouraged to come with their fathers*

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 30 – ALL SAINTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal 	1	2	3	4 – Fort Ross Pilgrimage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM, Divine Liturgy and Picnic at the Fort <i>Fr Lawrence in Scotland, 7/4–7/12 for Monastery Church Consecration</i>	5 <i>No Confessions today</i>	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions
7 – All Saints of America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal 	8	9	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Bible Study 	12 – Sts. Peter and Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Hierarchical Liturgy for Parish Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions
14 – Holy Fathers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal 	15 – Diaconal Vocations Afternoon welcome and BBQ for participants in the <i>Diaconal Vocation Practicum</i>	16 – Diaconal Vocations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy in both churches • 5 PM, Vespers 	17 – Diaconal Vocations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy in both churches • 5 PM, Vespers 	18 – Diaconal Vocations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy in both churches • 6 PM, Vigil for St Seraphim of Sarov 	19 – St. Seraphim Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy/Ordination of Dn Josef Candelario to Priest • Festal lunch 	20 – Prophet Elijah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy • 5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions
21 – Prophet Ezekiel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Baptism of Emily Lizzio • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal 	22	23	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers for St. Anna, Mother of the Theotokos 	25 – St. Anna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Men's Fellowship Dinner • 7 PM, Bible Study 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30–1 PM, Confessions • 8 PM, <i>Byzantine Chant Vigil and Liturgy for St. Panteleimon</i> 	27 – St. Panteleimon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions
28 – Consecration Anniversary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal <i>(Men's Fellowship trip to SF for Liturgy and ballgame)</i>	29	30	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Matins for the <i>Feast of the Procession of the Cross</i> • 7 PM, Parish Council 	August 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast • 7 PM, Bible Study 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30–1 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Orthodox Natural Church Development Talk 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Workshop for the Church Health team • 5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions