

Parish Celebration. In the consciousness of the Orthodox Church, the parish (“altar”) feast day carries a significance second only to Pascha. Our parish of the Venerable and God-bearing Father Seraphim of Sarov celebrates two feast days each year, January 2 and now, the Feast of his Glorification on July 19 (canonization in 1905). At 6 PM on Thursday July 18 we will celebrate the festal vigil. On Friday, July 19, at 9:30 AM we will welcome Archbishop Benjamin and His Grace, Bishop Gerasim from Fort Worth, and begin the Liturgy with the ordination, after the Cherubic Hymn, of Deacon Josef Candelario to the Holy Priesthood. We expect many of our area clergy to join in our celebration and festal meal following. —*Fr Lawrence*

Vespers or Vigils on Saturday evening is the beginning of the celebration of the Lord’s Day—Sunday—which is the foretaste of the coming in glory of Christ, the inauguration of the *Day without evening*, and the resurrection of the dead, which we profess each time we say the Creed: “I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come.” Saturday evening Vespers is all about that coming, all about the Incarnation, teachings, Passion, death and Resurrection from the dead. What we do in worship concerns days and times—and Saturday evening Vespers is the prelude and opening to Sunday Liturgy. A *Sunday Only* attendance means that one misses out on the celebration, in prayer, of the teaching of the Church and the Good News of the Kingdom. Saturday Vespers also provides us with an opportunity to make a regular confession and to prepare ourselves for receiving Holy Communion. It would be good if all of us made this sacred time a priority for worship at least a few times a month. —*Fr Lawrence*

It is with sorrow yet with hope in the resurrection that we received news of the repose of Chrysostomos (Chris) Parks, a former member of our parish. For the last few years Chris had been attending services at the Monastery of St Gregory of Sinai in Kelseyville (Fr. Moses was his godfather at the baptism). A panikhida for his repose will be announced soon. Last week I also received news of the repose of Lydia Dimitriev, mother of Maria and Elizabeth Dimitriev. May their memory be eternal. Since I was out of the country and with the upcoming DVP, the funeral will be served at Sts Peter and Paul by Fr. Alexander Krassovsky.

Next Sunday, July 21, we have the joy of two baptisms: Emily Lizzio (getting married in Michigan in August) and Ray Elijah West’s father, William. Please come to pray for them.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



July 14, 2024

Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Two:
When Thou didst descend to death, O Life-Immortal, Thou didst slay hades with the splendor of Thy Godhead; and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of Heaven cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.
- 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 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.

Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa
707-584-9491 • LMargitich@sbcglobal.net • saintseraphim.com

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat. July 13: 5 PM, Great Vespers /Confessions
- Sun., July 14: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Agape Meal
Q&A with Catechumens
- Tues–Thurs. July 16–18: Diaconal Vocations Practicum. See below
- Thurs., July 18: 6 PM, Vigil for St Seraphim of Sarov
- Fri., July 19: 9:30 AM, Greeting of Hierarchs and the Divine Liturgy for the Feast

The Orthodox Church in America will hold the Diaconal Vocations Practicum (DVP) here at our parish July 16–19. We are deeply honored to host this event, now for the third time. We expect about 35 Deacons, Subdeacons and Deacons-to-be, plus staff and some family, at the three-day training program, July 16–19. The participants will arrive on Monday, July 15 in the afternoon for registration and refreshments and enjoy a 5 PM BBQ here on the Hall porch, followed by a brief prayer service. Most of the participants will be staying at a hotel in the area. The rest of the schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, July 16 and Wednesday, July 17: Divine Liturgy at 8:30 AM in **both** churches; breakfast here; sessions; lunch; more sessions; **Vespers at 5 PM**; dinner here and more sessions.
- Thursday, July 18: Divine Liturgy at 8:30 AM in **both** churches; breakfast here; sessions; lunch; more sessions; Vigil for St. Seraphim at 6 PM, with Archbishop Benjamin and Bishop Gerasim from Fort Worth
- Friday, July 19: Festal Liturgy for the Feast of St. Seraphim at 9:30 AM with the Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Deacon Josef Candelario; Festal Lunch; Vespers for Prophet Elijah in the afternoon, TBA.
- Saturday, July 20: 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy for the Prophet Elijah.

Debbie Buse will be coordinating all the refreshments and meals. Be part of the team of offering hospitality to our guests. Please speak with Debbie about what you might be able to do (cleaning, food prep, serving, etc.).

—Fr. Lawrence

We are honored to welcome at the Sunday Divine Liturgy Protodeacon Fr. Vitaly Permiakov, the Professor of Liturgical Theology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in NY. Fr Deacon has come out west to teach at the DVP this week. Please give him a warm welcome.

Also show a warm welcome to Deacon Dave and Dina Marie Thompson from St. Tikhon's Seminary, serving as summer interns with Holy Cross parish in Sacramento. Deacon Dave and Dina and their three children are here to help out with the DVP and are staying in the Intern Apartment this week and next.

The Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of our beloved former intern Deacon Josef Candelario will take place on Friday at the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Seraphim. Vigil for the Feast, our parish feast, will be celebrated on Thursday, July 18 at 6 PM, and the Divine Liturgy Please keep him and Effie in your fervent prayers as they both prepare for this awesome event.

What is a “healthy parish?” Is our parish “healthy?” How do we know...how does one measure such a thing? How can we find out? Should we find out? As part of the *Thriving Parish Project* grant that our Diocese received, His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin has asked our parish to be the first, out of twenty others, to address the questions above. **On Friday evening, August 2**, come learn more about this important area of parish life and ministry during an evening presentation on *Orthodox Natural Church Development*, or ONCD with Father Jonathan Ivanoff. We have been asked by our Archbishop, to undertake, over the next two years, a journey of parish self-discovery using ONCD and learn what makes our parish “healthy” as well as “unhealthy” — more importantly, we'll learn what we can do to ascertain the steps we can take to address that. This endeavor needs all the members of our parish to participate, at least at the introduction on Friday, August. 2. Come and see what it is that we might accomplish. For more info on this, see the announcements from [a few weeks back, HERE](#).

All Christians agree that it is our solemn duty to love our enemies. But how can we ever hope to reach this godlike condition if we cannot even manage the far less lofty goal of loving God's friends, the saints, and His blessed Mother? The path toward a deep and abiding love is not the path of diminishing everyone but Christ, but of exalting them *because* of Christ.

—Fr. John Cox