

Today's Epistle—Romans 6:18–23: ...having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ☩

Gospel, Matthew 8:5–13: At that time, when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

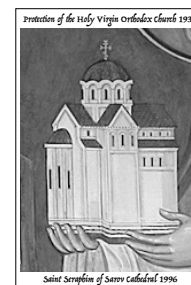


Weekly offerings, special gifts and charity can be given online at the Parish website using the QR code.



ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



July 21, 2024

Holy Prophet Ezekiel



- 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 hell, and has granted the world great mercy.
- TROPARION OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL, Tone Two:
As we celebrate the memory of Thy Prophet Ezekiel, O Lord, through him we beseech Thee to save our souls.
- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Three:
On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.
- KONTAKION OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL, Tone Four, Model Melody:
O divine Ezekiel, as God's true prophet, thou foretoldst unto all the Incar-

nation of the Lord, the Lamb of God, and Creator, the Son of God, the Eternal made manifest.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, July 19: 9:30 AM, *Feast of St. Seraphim*. Greeting of Hierarchy, Divine Liturgy and the ordination of Dn Josef
Festal Meal / Conclusion of the DVP
- Saturday, July 20: 9:30 AM, *Feast of the Prophet Elijah*, Divine Liturgy
5 PM, Vespers and Confessions
- Sunday, July 21: 9 AM, Baptisms
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Meal
- Wednesday, July 24: 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga
6 PM, Vespers for St Anna
- Thursday, July 25: 6 PM, St. Seraphim Men's Fellowship Dinner (byob), Parish Hall
7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James
- Friday, July 26: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
7 PM, All-Night Vigil, Feast of St. Panteleimon

Axios and Many Years: Our parish is honored and blessed to host the ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Deacon Josef Candelario, our former intern, on the feast of St. Seraphim. Please keep him and Effie in your fervent prayers.

Many thanks to those who provided the wonderful, loving and lavish hospitality during the DVP week: three meals a day for three days, a veritable parade of snacks and refreshments, and help with anything that was needed. Special thanks to our Hall manager, Debbie Buse, who put together a splendid crew of cooks, cleaners, shoppers and helpers.

May God grant many years to Emily Xenia Lizzio and William Joseph West (Ray's dad), who will be baptized on Sunday, July 21 at 9 AM.

The Saint Seraphim Men's Fellowship will gather for dinner in the Parish Hall this coming Thursday at 6 PM. Bring your own beverage. Please let Daniel DeCarlo, at (716) 861-4046, know that you plan to attend.

The Men's Fellowship has also organized an outing for next Sunday, July 28: Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral in SF and a Giants game. We have four (4) tickets remaining at \$33 each. Speak with David McKee for more information. He can be reached at (707) 322-9778.

On July 21 we commemorate the memory of the Holy Prophet Ezekiel. The OCA website has the following information: There are two significant elements in the vision of the prophet: the vision of the temple of the Lord, full of glory (Ez. 44:1-10); and the bones in the valley, to which the Spirit of God gave new life (Ez. 37:1-14). The vision of the temple was a mysterious prefiguring of the race of man freed from the working of the Enemy and the building up of the Church of Christ through the redemptive act of the Son of God, incarnate of the Most Holy Theotokos. Ezekiel's description of the shut gate of the sanctuary, through which the Lord God would enter (Ez. 44: 2), is a prophecy of the Virgin giving birth to Christ, yet remaining a virgin. The vision of the dry bones prefigured the universal resurrection of the dead, and the new eternal life bestowed by the Lord Jesus Christ. The holy Prophet Ezekiel received from the Lord the gift of wonderworking. He, like the Prophet Moses, divided the waters of the river Chebar, and the Hebrews crossed to the opposite shore, escaping the pursuing Chaldeans. During a time of famine the prophet asked God for an increase of food for the hungry. Ezekiel was condemned to execution because he denounced a certain Hebrew prince for idolatry. Bound to wild horses, he was torn to pieces. Pious Hebrews gathered up the torn body of the prophet and buried it upon Maur Field, in the tomb of Sim and Arthaxad, forefathers of Abraham, not far from Baghdad. The prophecy of Ezekiel is found in the book named for him, and is included in the Old Testament.

Dear Brothers and Sisters: We will be taking an offering this weekend for the *Redwood Gospel Mission City Kids Back To School Festival*. We have contributed to this worth-while event for over a decade. Your offerings go toward backpacks and school supplies for kids, and can be made at church or online. [THIS LINK](#) gives the details of the event. Thank you for supporting our local kids that need assistance! —*Your sister in Christ, Denise Anna*

The Fathers did not ask for many words. They received one spiritual word, left for the desert, and lived for many years with that word. They attempted to put it into practice and they were nourished by it. We say, and we want to hear, lots of words, but we do nothing to put them into practice. When someone talks a lot, he becomes spiritually weak. —*St. Sophrony of Essex*