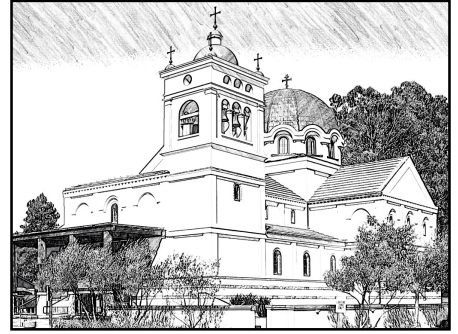


# ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 28, 2024



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF THE CONSECRATION, Tone Four:

As Thou hast shown forth the splendor of the firmament on high, together with the beauty of the holy habitation of Thy glory here below, O Lord, do Thou confirm the same unto ages of ages, and accept our prayers continuously offered therein unto Thee: Through the Theotokos, O Life and Resurrection of all.

- KONTAKION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Four:

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hades, and as Master, He has risen on the third day!

- KONTAKION OF THE CONSECRATION, Model Melody: "On this day..."

The Church is shown to be a many-lighted heaven that doth shine a guiding light upon all them that do believe; wherein while standing, we cry aloud: Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.

## **ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK**

- Friday, July 26: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions  
7 PM–2 AM, All-Night Vigil (Vespers, Matins, Divine Liturgy) for the Feast of Saint Panteleimon the Great Martyr and Healer
- Saturday, July 27: 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, July 28: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
Noon, Agape Meal
- Wednesday, July 31: 6 PM, Matins for the Feast of the Procession of the Precious Cross  
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Thursday, August 1: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast  
7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr. James
- Friday, August 2: 6:30 PM, Presentation of the *Orthodox Natural Church Development* Program by Fr Jonathan

**Epistle, Romans 10:1-10.** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant

of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Gospel, Matthew 8:28-9.** When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

**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. Some of you may think that this type of program is from the business world, and not appropriate for Church. First, let's give it a chance before critiquing something we are not familiar with. ONCD is an assessment of parish life, a way of gathering information. It offers us a way to understand that information. And further, with the help of a moderator (who will lead numerous parish-wide small group discussions) we can examine together how that information will help us strengthen specific areas of of parish life that need it. For more info on this, see the announcements from [a few weeks back, HERE](#).

**What's going on here lately:** Many thanks to those who are managing some of the projects around the parish. Our Archbishop Benjamin will be moving in to the *Home of Mercy* next door very soon. In preparation for that move, the fence next to the Hall has been opened up. Our contractor will construct a bridge over the ditch and a path across the front of the Parish Hall to make easy access to the church. To remind you, the *Home of Mercy* belongs to the Diocese, to be used as a retirement place for retired clergy and clergy wives. The Archbishop is not yet retiring. He's moving here now because the two-story house at the Cathedral in SF is too difficult to navigate considering his physical condition.

Also this week, beautiful cabinets were installed by *Anderson Quality Woodworking* upstairs in the Church for altar server vestments and icon stand covers. We are extremely grateful for this, as our hangings and vestments

were not only not well protected from dust, but what we had was taking up a huge amount of space.

A thanks to John Gilluly, who spends considerable time keeping the courtyard fountain clean and in working order—last week he installed a new pump.

Thank you to Ted Dechant for coming early on St. Seraphim day to fix the fuse of the septic pump (that had tripped sometime last week).

This week our parish internet was upgraded with all new equipment. Since 2020 Tim Danford has kept it working, investing a great deal of his own time and finances. But the system we had was installed by the late George Barsi and Tom Pellizzer back in 2014 or so (maybe earlier). Since then technology has changed a great deal, so an upgrade was necessary.

Upcoming next week, our tile guy Kainan Sandoval, will put the gold tile (like we have already) on the ceiling beams in the two aisles to finish that area off.

This weekend we welcome Father David and Matushka Elaine Lowell, who will be attached to St. Seraphim Cathedral. Having retired from many years of faithful and fruitful service in the Diocese of the West (as well as many years at Raphael House in SF) they are moving to an apartment in Petaluma. Their coming here is a wonderful blessing for me—since I love Fr David and Elaine so much—and for our parish. Please give them a warm St. Seraphim welcome.

**August is a month of joyful feasts.** All months have many feast days of saints, and some of the Theotokos and the Savior. But, the feasts in August are perhaps more solemn and greater than most months. We begin to fast on August 1 in preparation for the Feast of Dormition—the *Falling asleep of the Theotokos*—on August 15. This is a usual fast from dairy, eggs and meat products.

On August 1 we celebrate the Feast of the *Procession of the Precious Cross* and on the same day, we commemorate the *Maccabean Martyrs* of the Old Testament—this is the Orthodox celebration of Hanukah—in a way.

On Sunday, August 4 at 9:15 AM, we will serve the *Lesser Blessing of Water* since we have run out. The Feast of the *Transfiguration of Christ* is August 6, with the blessing of fruit (each family should bring a large basket of fruit to be blessed) and the blessing of the vineyard.

August 10th is the Feast of the *Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Lawrence of Rome*, but for that I will go to the St. Lawrence parish in Felton to celebrate with them.

Then we come to the “summer Pascha” of Dormition on August 15. The Vigil will be served **here** on Wednesday, August 14 at 6 PM. However, this year **we will not have a Liturgy here** on the Feast, but will celebrate with the Sisters of the Monastery of the Assumption (Dormition) in Calistoga at 9 AM.

Later in the month we have the commemoration of the Hieromartyr St. Alexander Hotovitsky on August 20—with a Molieben at 9 AM that day.

And finally, on August 29, we commemorate the Beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist John with Vespers the evening before and the Divine Liturgy on the day itself. This is a strict fast day.



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



# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

## AUGUST 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Jan 28 – Consecration Anniv.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul> <i>(Men's Fellowship trip to SF for Liturgy and bulgama)</i>	29	30	31	August 1	2	3
		<i>Fr Lawrence in Calistoga for Confessions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Matins for the Feast of the Procession of the Cross</li> <li>• 7 PM, Parish Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Matins for the Feast of the Procession of the Cross</li> <li>• 7 PM, Parish Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> </ul>	<b>No Confessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, <i>Orthodox Natural Church Development</i> Talk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, <i>Workshop for the Church Health Team</i></li> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers and Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>4 – Seven Sleepers of Ephesus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:15 AM, Lesser Blessing of Water</li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• Poduck Agape Meal</li> </ul>	5	<b>6 – Transfiguration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, blessing of fruit and vineyard</li> </ul>	7	8	9	<b>10 – St. Lawrence</b> <i>Servies at St. Lawrence Parish in Felton, CA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>11 – Post-Feast of Transfiguration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• 11:45 AM, <i>Spiritual Lesson for parish youth</i></li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	12	13	14	<b>15 – Dormition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IN CALISTOGA, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy</b></li> <li>• 6 PM, Men's Fellowship Dinner</li> </ul>	16	17
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 PM, Vigil for Dormition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online</li> </ul>	<b>No Confessions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4:30 PM, One Year Panikhida, D. Durrant</li> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>18 – Post-Feast of Dormition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>9 AM, Baptisms</b></li> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	19	20	21	22	23	24
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Moleben to St. Alexander Hotovitsky</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers</li> <li>• 6:30 PM, Parish Council Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions</li> </ul>
<b>25 – Apostle Bartholomew</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> <li>• Noon, Agape Meal</li> </ul>	26	27	28	<b>29 – Beheading of St John</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 AM, Divine Liturgy</li> </ul> <b>Fast Day</b>	30	31
	<i>Fr Lawrence in SF for Diocesan Meetings</i>	<i>Fr Lawrence in SF for Diocesan Meetings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 PM, Diaper Bank</li> <li>• 6 PM, Vespers for the Feast of the Beheading</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 PM, Bible Study with Fr. James, online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions</li> </ul>