

**A Church New Year Resolution:** Might I suggest that each of us plan to humbly, prayerfully and kindly invite and bring one person—just one person a year to church. Let’s say that we have 100 dedicated supporting parish members that invite one person a year. *Youth:* please invite others as well. Believe me, I ask people all the time, every week, “please visit...” etc. It’s going to take a year, more or less, for someone to accept that invitation. Let’s each one of us plan to invite that one person a year. Maybe 100 of us will offer that invitation. Next year there will be 200 people offering an invitation. The following year 400, the next 800. Of course, if and when that happens, at some point along the line we will begin a new mission. No, this is not about numbers; it’s about sharing the Good News, it’s about courage, it’s about living the faith with enthusiasm and it’s about love for your neighbor. It’s about sharing your love of God and what He had done in your life.

**Vespers spiritually takes us** through God’s plan of salvation—by means of hymns, psalms, the Gospel, dark and light: we hear about the creation, the Fall from Paradise, the prophecies and the preparation for the coming of the Messiah, His Incarnation, signs, teachings, warnings, His Passion, death and of course, His Resurrection from the dead and the glorious “robe of majesty,” the Ascension, the gift of Pentecost, the gift of Holy Baptism, and even the Glorious Coming, which we await, yet even now taste beforehand in the Church. All this is part of Saturday evening Vespers (the same holds for Matins on Sunday). Saturday evening Vespers is there to include and invite the worshippers into the message of salvation and as a preparation for receiving Holy Communion on Sunday.

**Church School and Mentorship** begins on Sunday, September 8. Last year, all our youth were invited to be part of the newly-established Mentorship Program. This year, we will offer two tracks:

Church School will be for K-6th Grade, and Mentoring for 7th–12th. Church School classes will be held immediately after the Divine Liturgy. Our teachers this year are Anastasia Brodeur (K–3rd), Joseph Anderson (4th–6th), with Carmen Anderson and Linda McKee helping out as backups/assistants. For questions regarding Church School, please speak with Vicky Basch, who will be the coordinator.

Mentors and Mentees will meet twice a month, on their own jointly agreed schedule, some on Sunday and some on other days. For questions regarding Mentorship, please speak with Timothy Danford.

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



## September 1, 2024

### Church New Year



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:  
When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.
- TROPARION OF THE CHURCH NEW YEAR, Tone Two:  
O Creator of all creation, Who hast placed the times and seasons within Thine own authority, bless the crown of this year with Thy goodness, O Lord, and keep our rulers and Thy flock in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, and save us.
- KONTAKION OF THE CHURCH NEW YEAR, Tone Four:  
O Creator and Master of time and all the ages, O God of all who art transcendent in essence: grant blessing for the course of this year, and in Thy boundless mercy save those who worship Thee and cry out in fear: O Redeemer, grant to all a fruitful year. salvation.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, August 31: 5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, Sept. 1: 9 AM, Baptism (infant)  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
Noon, Agape Meal
- Wednesday, Sept 4: 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga  
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Sept 5: 7 PM, Online Bible Study
- Friday, Sept 6: 11 :30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, Sept 7: 5 PM, Vigil for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
- Sunday, Sept. 8: 9 AM, Baptisms  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:30 AM, Church School / Mentorship  
Noon, BBQ / Reception for the Newly-Illumined and beginning of Church School

**Congratulations and Many Years** to Suzy Bahta and her husband Jemal Osman on the baptism of their daughter, Nia Jemal, Sunday at 9 AM.

**Keep in your prayers** those preparing for Baptism at 9 AM on September 8: Corey James Lee, Jesse Pell, Gavin Carter, as well as Jaimie Rooney and her three children. Also on that day, Nick Garret, Nathan Ziegler and Dylan Estes will be made catechumens. ...*make them worthy in due season of the washing of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins, and the robe of incorruption. Unite them to thy holy, catholic, and Apostolic Church, and number them with thy elect flock, that with us they may glorify thine all honorable and majestic Name...*

**I have been invited** to attend the *Service of the Consecration* of the Church of the Annunciation in Santa Maria on Saturday, September 7th. I will leave home Friday morning (Fr. David Lowell will hear confessions here on Friday) and I'll return sometime on Saturday evening. —*Fr Lawrence*

**The Church New Year** is a blessing that allows us the time for renewal, for reflection on our priorities, and for repentance if we have somehow lost sight of our “first love” — the conviction that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. And if our commitment to Christ has somehow melted

away into directions that do not necessarily lead to life, “now is the acceptable time” to renew our commitment to our Lord and His Church. —*Fr Steven Kostoff*

**September 8th:** To celebrate the *Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos*, which is the first feast of the Church New Year, the Baptisms that morning, and the first class of the Church School, we will have a BBQ after the Divine Liturgy. Joseph Zeni will grill chicken and *tri tip*—everyone else is asked to bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, etc. to share (chips and popcorn are not side-dishes).

**I would like to address** all believers of Our Church of Christ. Don't be afraid of anything. Stand firm in your love for God. Keep the purity of the Holy Orthodox Faith, it is the way that leads man to God! Love each other, be patient with each other, help each other. Evil will pass, and good will live forever. If we will endure everything, live in love to all and among ourselves, then no evil will conquer us. God is a God of power, and evil has no power. We will live with God - and we will be joyful, happy and blessed. I know that our church of Christ will last till the end of the world because the Lord has said the gates of hell will not prevailed against Her. Do not be afraid, because we are in the church founded by Christ, not people. —*Metropolitan Onuphry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church*

**Spiritual life**...requires what is traditionally called recollection, the capacity to turn all one's faculties inward, away from the world, there in one's heart to unite and consecrate them to God in meditation and prayer. Recollection is the stage of preparation for prayer that precedes concentration. But as we have seen, the new media [internet] push man's faculties in the opposite sense, always outwards toward the world. They are dispersed by a stream of discordant nagging that cuts the soul in pieces, and destroys the unity and identity of the inner man. —Jean Claude Larchet, *New Media Epidemic*

**When the soul** is separated from the body at death, it leaves the confines of temporal time. There is no longer any opportunity to change the orientation of one's free will. We simply continue onward, in an endless 'present moment,' forever tending toward whatever direction we have freely chosen—either toward God, or away from Him. —*Professor Harry Boosalis*