

The one-year Panikhida for Reader Tom Stephen Pellizzer will be served 5:30 PM, prior to the Vigil for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Friday, September 13.

Abbess Susanna from the Kazan Skete is asking your prayers for the Novice Alexandra, who will have a five-hour operation next Tuesday in SF at 7:30 AM, to remove what seems to be a benign tumor behind a pituitary gland. Thankfully, the surgery will be done in SF by a doctor who specializes in this operation.

Ministry Sunday: It's time again for our various parish ministries to present their work (each have a table at the Agape Meal) on Sunday, October 6th. We have had a *Ministry Sunday* at least twice before in recent memory, but it's been a while, and it's time once again to let our folks know about the wonderful and dedicated work that gets accomplished here by the parish members. Natasha Tennyson has graciously offered to help make arrangements with each of you that coordinate a ministry. She will be in touch, to help out with the initial organization. —*Fr. L*

Fresco work has continued, after a hiatus, with plans to paint the arches in the side aisles—Fr. Patrick and Fr. Moses are hoping to come here every two or three weeks until the aisles are completed. Please excuse the inconvenience of scaffolding and equipment. We expect Anton Daineko to return during the Christmas break. The end is in sight!

God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.” —*Gal. 6:14*

We have been born anew through baptism and restored by the tree of the cross. The passion of the Lord effects the resurrection of our race and its readiness by grace to paradise whence it had fallen by sin freely willed. When Christ provided for us the refuge of his cross, the Lord destroyed the sting of death which was reigning over us. —*St. Benedict of Nursia*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



September 8, 2024

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos



- 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 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS, Tone Four:
Thy nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe. The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from thee, O Theotokos. By annulling the curse He bestowed a blessing; by destroying death He has granted us eternal life.
- KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY, Tone Four:
By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness, Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. And we, thy people freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee: “The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life.”

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, Sept. 6: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, Sept. 7: 1:30 PM, Sisterhood Get-together
5 PM, Resurrectional Vigil and Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
- Sunday, Sept. 8: 9 AM, Making of Catechumens and Baptisms
10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Noon, Agape Potluck/BBQ
- Wednesday, Sept. 11: 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Sept. 12: 7 PM, Bible Study on Zoom
- Friday, Sept. 13: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
5:30 PM, Panikhida for Reader T. Pellizzer
6 PM, Vigil for the Elevation of the Cross
- Saturday, Sept. 14: 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast
(*Fast Day: we fast from meat, dairy, eggs, fish*)
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions

Many Years to our new catechumens: Dylan Estes, Nathan Ziegler, Nicholas Garrett and the young man, James Epstein.

Congratulations to the Newly-Illumined Gavin-John, Corey-James, Jesse and Jaimie-Catherine and her children little Ace-Vladimir, Elliot and Silas. May God bless them and their sponsors.

This weekend we celebrate the *Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos*—and of course it's a *Great Feast*, since it is about the Mother of our Savior. This is also the beginning of the feasts of the Liturgical year, which started September 1. I suppose that feasting is more important than fasting, prostrations and contrition for sins—although without fasting, prostrations, contrition and Vigil, we don't, or can't, nurture a festal spirit within ourselves. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann points out that when we look at this particular birth with spiritual eyes we understand that “the Church is telling us...that every birth, every entrance of a new human being into the world...is a miracle of miracles, a miracle that explodes all routine, for it marks the start of some-

thing unending, the start of a unique, unrepeatable human life, the beginning of a new person.” The Church faithfully and joyfully celebrates—at the Vigil and the Liturgy—this “birth of a little girl in whom are concentrated all the goodness, spiritual beauty, harmony and perfection that are the elements of genuine human nature. In and through this new-born girl, Christ—our gift from God, our meeting and encounter with Him—comes to embrace the world. Thus, in celebrating Mary's birth we find ourselves already on the road to Bethlehem, moving toward to the joyful mystery of Mary as the Mother of God.” —Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *Celebration of Faith*, pg. 25

Dear Parents of St Seraphim's Church-School Kids: We are so excited to start our Church School classes on September 8th! This year we are making some changes. Based on feedback from surveys collected from you and our students at the end of church school in June, we will be offering a more traditional classroom-type of church school for kids in Grades K-6 rather than the Mentor Program. Grades K-3 will be taught by Anastasia Brodeur. Grades 4-6 will be taught by Joe Anderson. Carmen Anderson and I will be back up subs for these classes as needed. As you know, Catie DeCarlo had the vision and brought to fruition the amazing Mentor Program we started last year. From your feedback, and the feedback of the students, we see that Mentorship is best suited for Grades 7-12. Due to the blessing of a growing family for Catie and Dan, Catie is stepping down from overseeing this program for now. Fortunately, Timothy Danford will coordinate the program with help from Reader Andrew Mikrikov. All inquiring and baptized youth who attend St Seraphim are welcome to attend classes. Please stop by to sign your child up for Church School. Registering your child helps us with planning for our classes. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support of our St Seraphim youth! —*Vicky Basch, Church School Director, 707-291-2369*

Looking ahead, in addition to the usual Sunday 10 AM Divine Liturgy, we will ALSO have an 8 AM Divine Liturgy on the second Sunday of each month in the Protection Church.

From September 15-28, Matushka Ann, Denise Pellizzer, Francisco and Vickie Guzman and I will be on a pilgrimage with Fr Ilya from *Orthodox Tours* to the ancient Christian sites of Turkey. Fr Nicholas will be available for any pastoral needs. —*Fr Lawrence*