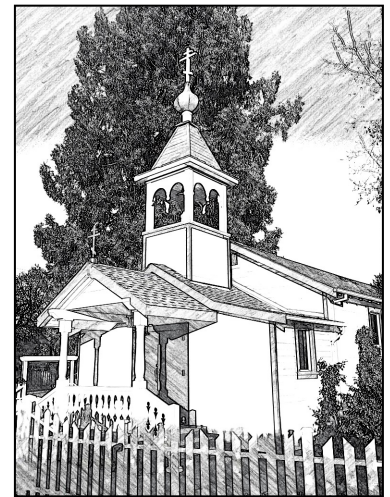


# ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ November 24, 2024

## Post-Feast and the Great Martyr Catherine



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Five:

Let us the faithful praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and to raise the dead, by His glorious Resurrection.

- TROPARION OF THE ENTRANCE, Tone Four:

Today is the prelude of God's goodwill, and the heralding of the salvation of mankind. In the Temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, and she proclaimeth Christ unto all. To her, then with a great voice let us cry aloud: Rejoice, O thou fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

- TROPARION OF ST. CATHERINE, Tone Five:

Let us praise the all-lauded and noble bride of Christ, the godly Catherine, the guardian of Sinai and its defense, who is also our support and succour and our help; for with the Holy Spirit's sword she hath silenced brilliantly the clever among the godless; and being crowned as a Martyr, she now doth ask great mercy for us all.

- KONTAKION OF ST. CATHERINE, Tone Two:

Rouse up now a choir, O ye that love the martyred saints, august and inspired, acclaiming the supremely wise martyr Catherine, who hath proclaimed and preached of Christ in the stadium, and hath trampled the serpent down, and spat on the knowledge of the eloquent.

- KONTAKION OF THE ENTRANCE, Tone Four:

The most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, therefore, the angels of God praise her: "Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!"

### ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, Nov. 22: 10 AM, Funeral for Vladimir Lew Baer
- Saturday, Nov. 23: 11:30 AM, Sisterhood Get together, parish hall  
3:30 PM, Catechism: *On the meaning of Repentance*  
5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
- Sunday, Nov. 24: 9:40 AM, Reception of Catechumens (Michael, Suzanne, Gregory, Natalia, Tyler)  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:30 AM, Church School / 11:30 PM, Spiritual Lesson for teens in the Church  
Noon, POTLUCK Agape meal
- Wednesday, Nov. 27: 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga  
6 PM, Vespers

- Thursday, Nov. 28: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving Day  
5 PM, Dinner in the Hall — **RSVP**
- Friday, Nov. 29: *No Confessions*
- Saturday, Nov. 30: *No Catechism today*  
4:30 PM, Panikhida for Konstantin Sakovich, anniversary of repose  
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions

**The servant of God** Vladimir Lew Baer, a faithful member and indeed a pillar of support for our parish, reposed in the Lord on Sunday afternoon, November 17. Funeral services will be held on Thursday evening at 6 PM (Panikhida) and Friday morning at 10 AM (funeral). *With the saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of Thy servant.*

**It is a great blessing** to receive new catechumens this Sunday at 9:40 AM: Michael and Suzanne (Tim’s parents), Gregory and Natalia and Tyler. Please keep them and all the catechumens in your prayers: AJ and Francine and their children Charlie, Emily, June and Abner; Gabrielle Lily and her son Cyprus Nikolai; Kiel Smits, Dylan Estes, Christopher Best, John Coffey, James Weaver, James Epstein, Nicholas Garrett, Nathan Zeigler, Jeff Boyd and his son Lachlann, Zach and Julie Matz and their children Paisley and Iris. *...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...*

**On Thanksgiving Day**, November 28th the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9:30 AM, and later that day at 5 PM, a Thanksgiving Day Dinner will be held in our lovely parish hall. It’s a joy to celebrate this holiday together, and all are invited. Please speak with John Gilluly if you plan to attend and how you help out with serving or clean up. See the flier for more information.



**One of our Parish Ministries** will have an informational table in the Parish hall each Sunday after the Divine Liturgy for the next few months. This week Stephanie will present us information on “Planned Giving” i.e. wills and such which include the parish. Next week, December 1, Karen will be there to tell us something about what the parish ushers do—which is a critical ministry, considering that the usher/greeter is usually the first person that a guest meets. On December 8th, Daphne will be at the table to speak about how our parish “does hospitality.” All of us are blessed by these ministries, so I appeal to you all, dear brothers and Sisters in the Lord: Do not just walk by the ministry table, but be curious, ask questions, give thanks to God for those who love to serve the Lord and their neighbor. There is no “hard sell” here about participating in this or that ministry. You might be inspired.



**Monthly Confession:** It is an incalculable blessing to receive Holy Communion regularly—indeed, every Lord’s Day. Preparation is essential. We pray, we fast as we can and we make a regular confession, once a month being a good benchmark for those who commune each week. When to make a confession?

- Most Fridays (**see the calendar**), from 11:30 AM–1 PM, no appointment necessary
- On Saturdays, before, during and after Vespers
- Anytime or day (Other than Sundays and Mondays), simply call, email or text

**Many Years** and congratulations to all those in our parish who bear the name of the Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria, whose feast day we celebrate each year on November 24.

**Mark your calendars** for the Feast Day of St. Nicholas (Vigil, Dec 5 at 7 PM, and Liturgy, Dec. 6 at 9:30 AM), joyously celebrated in San Anselmo at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. This feast is a wonderful way to prayerfully and corporately enter the Christmas season.

**Many priests**, including yours truly, reserve Mondays for a day off (obviously, this is not the case on a feast day, etc.). Calls, texts and emails will generally wait until Tuesday, unless you have a pastoral emergency and need to contact me. In that case, please do call, and I will respond as soon as I am able. —*Fr Lawrence*

**Saturday 3:30 PM catechism** is a bit off-track with dates and topics. Going forward we have the following: Sat. Nov. 23—*On Repentance*; Sat. Dec. 7—*On the Holy Spirit*; Sat. Dec. 21—*On the Church*; Sat. Dec 28—*On the Theotokos*. All are welcome to attend, not just catechumens.

**NOTES FROM A SERMON:** The event of the *Entrance into the Temple of the Virgin* is the sign-post that things were changing before the birth of Christ; the old Temple was passing away; a whole new order of life was arriving, one in which human beings themselves will become the tabernacle of God's Presence. The phrase from Isaiah, that "God is with us" became radically new in meaning, and the Virgin is where the change is to be found: "She is indeed the heavenly Tabernacle" we sing at Liturgy. The impossible is happening: The Son of God, one with the Father and the Spirit, Who dwells in unapproachable light, is preparing to come down to earth, and prepares her in the Holy of Holies of the Temple to become the living temple, the living ark. God will descend to earth, and so He calls His chariot—Mary—into the most heavenly place on the earth: the Holy of Holies in the Temple. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). All of our labors to love Christ and keep His holy word results in an intensifying of the Divine Presence within us, which is renewed each time we confess and commune. "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and my Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him" (St. Jn. 14:23). Today our Virginal Mother calls us to imitate her and to be fit Temples of God. Today the Virgin calls us her children to follow her lead. She calls us to consecrate ourselves more and more to her Son. God's presence within us is the governing feature of our life. —*Fr Lawrence*

**Angels Unawares** is a program run by the *Redwood Gospel Mission* (RGM), in which Sonoma County church communities provide a meal and a place to sleep every night of the month for those who are unhoused. Our parish partners with the RGM, and welcomes those in need *usually* on the first Thursday of each month. Come out to greet and serve our guests (usually less than 20) on **Thursday, December 12 at 5 PM**. Please speak with Sadik Bradbury to let him know you will assist him with prep and serving.

**Holy Trinity Cathedral** in San Francisco (Van Ness and Green Sts) will host the annual Pre-Nativity Retreat on Saturday, December 14. The speaker this year will be Peter Bouteneff, Professor of Dogmatics at St. Vladimir Orthodox Seminary. Look for the flier and additional information, coming soon.

# PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

# DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 – Philaret the Almsgiver</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy <i>No Church School today</i> • Noon, Agape Meal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 – St. Barbara</b> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to the Great Martyr Barbara • 6 PM, Vespers	<b>5</b> <i>7 PM, Vigil for St. Nicholas, San Anselmo</i>  <i>8 PM, Cantiamo Concert</i>	<b>6 – St. Nicholas Day</b> <i>9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy St. Nicholas, San Anselmo</i>  <i>8 PM, Cantiamo Concert</i>	<b>7</b> • 3 PM, Play Practice • 3:30 PM, Catechism, <i>On the Holy Spirit</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
<b>8 – 362 Martyrs in Africa</b> • 8 AM, Divine Liturgy/ <i>Protection</i> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers	<b>12</b> • 5 PM <i>Angels Unawares</i> guests arrive • 6 PM, Vigil for St Herman of Alaska	<b>13 – St. Herman</b> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy  <i>No Confession</i>	<b>14</b> <i>Pre-Christmas Retreat at Holy Trinity Cathedral in SF</i> • 3 PM, Play Practice • 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
<b>15 – Holy Ancestors of the Lord</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • <b>5:30 PM, Christmas Akathist, Children’s Play and dinner</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers • 6:30 PM, Parish Council	<b>19</b> • 5 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Prefeast Vespers	<b>20</b> • 11:30 AM– 1 PM, Confessions • 5 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Prefeast Vespers	<b>21</b> • 3:30 PM, Catechism, <i>On the Church</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
<b>22 – Sunday before Christmas</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal • 1:30 PM, Prefeast Vespers	<b>23</b> • 8 AM, Prefeast Matins • 5 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Royal Hours for Nativity	<b>24 – Christmas Eve Fast</b> • 11:30 AM, Vesperal Liturgy for Christmas • 6 PM, Matins of Christmas	<b>25 – Christmas</b> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for Christmas	<b>26 – Synaxis Theotokos</b> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy	<b>27</b>  <i>No Confessions</i>	<b>28</b> • 3:30 PM, Catechism, <i>On the Virgin Mary</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
<b>29 – 14,000 Holy Innocents</b> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy <i>No Church School today</i> • Noon, Potluck Agape Meal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> • 5 PM, Vespers for the Feast of St Basil and Circumcision of Christ	<b>1 – St. Basil/Circumcision</b> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy with prayers for the New Year • 6 PM, Great Vespers with Akathist to St. Seraphim	<b>2 – St. Seraphim Day</b> • 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy and Festal Lunch	<b>3</b>  <i>No Confessions</i> • 6 PM, Royal Hours for Theophany	<b>4 – Prefeast of Theophany</b> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions