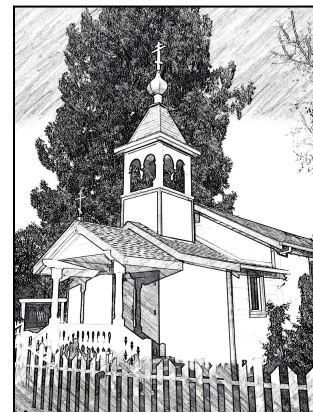


ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

March 30, 2025 - St. John Climacus



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Seven:

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death; to the thief, Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrh-bearers, Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy Disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF ST. JOHN, Tone One:

O John, our father, saint of God, thou wast revealed as a citizen of the desert, an angel in a body and worker of miracles. Through fasting, prayer and vigils thou hast received heavenly gifts of grace, and thou healest the sick and the souls of those that turn to thee with faith. Glory to Him who gave thee strength; glory to Him that crowned thee; glory to Him who through thee grants to all men healing.

- KONTAKION OF ST. JOHN, Tone Four:

Truly the Lord has set thee as a fixed star in the firmament of abstinence, giving light to the ends of the earth, O Father John, our teacher.

- Friday, March 28: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
- Saturday, March 29: 10 AM, Work Party, inside the church
3:30 PM, Catechism—*On the Holy Mystery of Marriage*
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, March 30: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
- Monday, March 31: 5 PM, Holy Unction at Sts. Peter and Paul (*very recent confession required*)
- Tues., April 1: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
- Wed., April 2: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
5 PM, Confessions
6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy / Meal and Spiritual Reading
- Thurs., April 3: 9 AM, Matins with the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (about 2.5 hrs)
7 PM, Scripture Study via Zoom
- Friday, April 4: *No Matins*
11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Matins with the Akathist to the Theotokos

We are honored to welcome this weekend Daniel York, a St. Vladimir Seminary student in his final year and, God willing, soon to be ordained deacon. We invited Daniel to visit us this weekend in preparation for what we hope will be a long term internship here at St. Seraphim for him and his family after the May graduation. The *Intern Apartment* is too small for them, so a parish member has made provision for us to rent a house for the family at a very low rate. Besides, Anton and Ekaterina Daineko, who stay in the apartment, will hopefully be returning sometime in May to continue the painting in the cathedral. Please offer your welcome to Daniel when you see him on Saturday and Sunday. Any questions about all this, don't hesitate to ask. —Fr. Lawrence

The observant Orthodox worshipper will have noticed, looking at the liturgical calendar for the upcoming fifth week of Lent, that there are additional Church Services. The usual Services will be more lengthy, and will challenge our attention. For example, the Wednesday evening Presanctified has more hymns to be sung (you may recall the refrain *Before I perish utterly, save me, O Lord*); and on Thursday, April 3, 9 AM, we sing the [Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete](#) in its entirety, and during the service read the *Life of St. Mary of Egypt*. The week will culminate on **Friday evening at 6 PM**, with the magnificent and joyful *Matins and Akathist* lauding the Theotokos, the Living Ark of God. This Matins/Akathist is important for many reasons, not least of which is because our focus begins to shift from repentance to the events of the Lord's Passion.

During Great Lent, it is the norm for each Orthodox Christian to confess at least once, and certainly again some time prior to Pascha. When a person is at peace and the conscience is purified by the grace of God which comes upon one during Confession, then he is led to participate more deeply—according to one's desire—in the life of Christ. **PLEASE NOTE:** For those over the age of seven who will receive Holy Communion during Holy Week and Pascha, it is a holy obligation—please forgive the terminology, but it expresses the necessity—to make a confession at least once in the weeks before Holy Week. Confessions will not be heard after Holy Wednesday. —Fr. Lawrence

Church Camp registration is now open. See the following: <https://www.steugencamp.org> St. Eugene's Orthodox Youth Camp will be held June 25–July 1, 2023 at the [Armenian camp in Dunlap, CA](#). We look forward to seeing you this summer!

The Holy Week and Pascha duties *Sign-Up Sheets* will be posted in the Narthex this coming week. I encourage all of us to share the responsibilities with each other.

The Parish Floral Ministry is pleased to receive your offerings to cover the cost of palms and flowers. An offering plate will be out at the end of the Liturgy for the next two weeks. Questions? See Denise Pellizzer and Daphne Russell, who are very happy to have help in this work.

Upcoming—Retirement Party for His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin: A couple of months back a group of 15 or so parishioners met to discuss having a Glendi party here after Pentecost, a “glendi lite” so to say. It would be something for us and our friends, with live music, dancing and a limited menu. The meeting was called in response to numerous comments—made during our focus groups last fall—hoping for an event in which we could work together and develop a camaraderie. Since that meeting only two people approached me about making the *Glendi-lite* happen. It's a good idea, one that I support. However, circumstances and needs have shifted. We have something much more important to plan for and implement. Our beloved Archbishop Benjamin will be retiring in July, as announced six months ago. We are honored and privileged to host his North Bay retirement party here at our parish hall, 5 PM, on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, June 29. Most likely this will be a catered event, with tickets sold, in order to get a head count. There are many, many things to do in order to make this happen, and I will be calling a meeting soon for those who would like to get involved. —Fr. Lawrence

On Sunday April 6th, towards the end of the Agape Meal, we will be assembling *Blessing Bags* for the homeless. What goes in to the bags (biodegradable bags, not plastic, by the way)? Water, snacks, toothbrush, wipes, comb, energy bar, etc...simple necessities for those in need. Take some bags with you to offer to those who beg for help at our shopping malls, at the arterial road crossings and on our sidewalks. If you encounter someone holding a sign that says “Anything Helps” then they are in need. Better yet, you can buy a few things at the store and assemble some *Blessing Bags* at home. Some parishioners have four or five bags in their cars for the numerous occasions they might encounter those asking for help on any given day. A smile, a kind word and a *Blessing Bag* will most certainly be of help. Denise Pellizzer will be heading up the project.

Liturgical Note: At certain points during Vigil, and also prior to the Divine Liturgy, the deacon or priest censes the iconostasis, the people and—making a circuit—the rest of the icons in the church. While it may seem polite to turn toward the deacon as he goes his way (and in some traditions that is the case), there is actually no need. We remain facing the altar, in prayer, while he censes the icons.

The week after Pascha, referred to as Bright Week, does not conclude the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ, but [continues it daily](#), so that the joy of Pascha does not diminish, but, perhaps might even increase. We will have Paschal services every day of the week, with a change from previous years. Normally our parish celebrates a Paschal Liturgy, Procession and Agape Meal on Bright Monday. This year, our Deanery Clergy are being invited to attend services in other parishes: *Monday*—10 AM, Liturgy at St Nicholas in San Anselmo; *Wednesday*—9:30 AM, Liturgy in at Holy Trinity in San Francisco; *Friday*—9:30 AM, Liturgy **here** at St. Seraphim for the *Feast of the Life-giving Spring*. Apologies to those who really love the Bright Monday celebration here. Let’s see how it goes this year. —*Fr. Lawrence*

The greatest offering we can present to the Lord is our self. We cannot do this without giving up our own will. We learn to do this through obedience, and obedience we learn through practice... Besides fasting we have other teachers to whom we can show obedience. They meet us at every step in our daily life, if we only recognize their voices. Your wife wants you to take your raincoat with you: do as she wishes, to practice obedience. Your fellow-worker asks you to walk with her a little way: go with her to practice obedience. Wordlessly the infant asks for care and companionship: do as it wishes as far as you can, and thus practice obedience. A novice in a cloister could not find more opportunity for obedience than you in your own home. And likewise at your job and in your dealings with your neighbor. —*Tito Colliander, Way of the Ascetics* (PDF available [HERE](#)).

Everyone baptized into Christ should pass progressively through all the stages of Christ’s own life, for in baptism he receives the power to so progress, and through the Commandments, he can discover and learn how to accomplish this progression. To Christ’s conception corresponds the pledge of the gift of the Holy Spirit; to His Nativity the experience of joyfulness; to His Baptism, the cleansing force of the fire of the Holy Spirit; to His Transfiguration the contemplation of divine light; to His Crucifixion, the dying to all things; to His Burial, the dwelling of divine love in his heart, to His resurrection the souls’ life-quickenning resurrection; and to his Ascension divine ecstasy and the transport of the mind to God. —*St. Gregory of Sinai, Philokalia 4.253*

Those who are being prepared for Holy Illumination on Lazarus Saturday need your prayers: Nathan Ziegler, James Epstein; Gabrielle Hamilton and her son Cyprus; Alfredo and Francine (Olga) Mack Jimenez and their children Charlie (Kassiani) Jimenez, Emily Jimenez, Junia Jimenez, Abner (Aurelias) Jimenez; Kiel (Michael) Smit; Jeffrey and Lachlan Boyd; Zachary and Julie Frampton Matz and their children Iris Matz, Paisley Matz; Michael and Susanne Danford; Gregory and Natalie Winter; Katrina Fritschen and her son Leo. *O Lord our God, who dwellest in the heavens, and lookest down upon all thy works, look down upon thy servants, the catechumens who have bowed their necks before Thee, and grant them a light yoke. Make them honorable members of Thy holy Church, and vouchsafe unto them the washing of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins, and the robe of incorruption, unto the knowledge of Thee, our true God.*

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 - St. John Climacus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:30 AM Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, <i>Holy Unction at Sts. Peter and Paul</i> 	April 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 6 PM, Presanctified, Meal to follow 	3 - 5th Thursday of Lent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM–Noon, Matins with the Canon of St. Andrew and the <i>Life of St. Mary of Egypt</i> • 5 PM, <i>Angels Unawares</i> Guests arrive 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No morning service</i> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Matins with the Akathist Hymn 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Death and the Funeral</i> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
6 - St. Mary of Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Divine Liturgy • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 6 PM, Presanctified, Meal to follow 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins 	11 - End of Lent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Matins • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Matins of Lazarus Sat/Baptismal Prep 	12 - Lazarus Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Baptisms • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Decorate Church • 5 PM, Vigil for Palm Sunday/Bless palms
13 - Palm Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and Procession • Noon, Agape Meal • 7 PM, Bridegroom Matins 	14 - Holy Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM, Presanctified Liturgy • 5 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Bridegroom Matins 	15 - Holy Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM, Presanctified Liturgy • 5 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Bridegroom Matins 	16 - Holy Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Presanctified Liturgy 	17 - Holy Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM, Divine Liturgy of Great and Holy Thursday • 6 PM, Matins of Holy Friday 	18 - Holy Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Royal Hours • 3 PM, Vespers of Holy Friday • 6 PM, Matins of Holy Saturday 	19 - Holy Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:30 PM, Vesperal Liturgy for Holy Saturday • 11:30 PM, Midnight Service and the Paschal Matins/Liturgy/Agape
20 - PASCHA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 AM, Paschal Matins/ Liturgy/Agape • 1 PM, Paschal Vespers and BBQ 	21 - Bright Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Paschal Liturgy in San Anselmo, 10 AM</i> 	22 - Bright Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Paschal Hours and Vespers 	23 - Bright Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Paschal Liturgy in San Francisco, 10 AM</i> 	24 - Bright Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Paschal Hours and Vespers 	25 - Bright Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Paschal Liturgy, HERE • Brunch • 6 PM, Paschal Hours and Men's Fellowship Dinner in Parish Hall 	26 - Bright Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Great Vespers/ Confessions
27 - Thomas Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Divine Liturgy • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	28	29 - Radonitsa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Blessing of Graves</i> 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, Diaper Bank • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers • 6:30 PM, Parish Council 	MAY 1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Matins / Confessions

• Holy Wednesday will be the last day for Confessions.