

There are no words capable of expressing our thanks to Archbishop Benjamin and the parish members for the love and support that was shown to Matushka Eleanor and the Margitich family during these last years, and particularly during the final months of her life. His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin came to the rectory immediately upon learning of the death of my mother, as did Fr. Alexander Krassovsky, who came sing a Bright Week Panikhida for her with the family. Thank you to the members of the St. Seraphim Men's Fellowship, who stood at the rectory porch, singing *Christ is Risen*, as Matushka was taken, in a very dignified manner, to the funeral home on Friday evening. A special thanks goes to our *Parish Funeral Ministry Women*, for the care given to her after her repose, preparing her for the funeral. Thank you, Serge, for the magnificent, yet humble, casket. Our thanks also to those who sang and served—by their efforts and prayers we were able to enter into the spiritual experience of *bright sadness* during the beautiful and dignified funeral services, sung so reverently and well, with the joy of Pascha still reverberating within our hearts. The two sermons given, so deep in content and delivered with such love, are now on our parish website and worth listening to many times. Thank you, Fr. Stephan and Fr. Kirill for those profound words. When we returned from the cemetery—on Radonitsa Day itself, we were greeted by those who had decorated the parish hall, and then prepared and served a delicious memorial meal. How abundantly generous you all are! My only regret is that I did not record Fr. Patrick's beautiful eulogy given at the lunch. And last, but not least, thank you for all the profound condolences given to our family. They were, and are, a source of comfort and consolation. Christ is risen! —*Fr Lawrence*

During the Paschal Season we will be serving Resurrectional Matins each Saturday evening at 5 PM (one feels that leaving off the Great Vespers before Matins is a little bit too easy, but...). The “point” of this Matins is to help us, assist us, in joining with the Myrrh-Bearing Women and the Apostles in meeting the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. We hear hymns about the Women going to the tomb, we hear the Gospel account of the resurrection, we sing portions of the Paschal Canon (*This is the Day of Resurrection, let us be illumined, O people, Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord*), the *Angel Cried* and the Great Doxology. Don't miss this wonderful extension of Pascha each weekend. The service is about an hour in length. —*Fr L*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



May 4, 2025

Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-bearers



- TROPARION OF THE NOBLE JOSEPH, Tone Two:
The Noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices and placed it in a new tomb; but Thou didst rise on the third day, O Lord, granting the world great mercy.
- TROPARION OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS, Tone Two:
The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said: Myrrh is meet for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself to be a stranger to corruption, so, proclaim: the Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.
- KONTAKION OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS, Tone Two:
Thou didst command the myrrh-bearers to rejoice, O Christ. By Thy resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, O God. Thou didst command Thine apostles to preach: the Savior is risen.
- KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:
Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst

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Thou destroy the power of Hades. And didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice; and giving peace unto Thine apostles, O Thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 3: 3:30 PM, Q&A for Inquirers and Catechumens, Parish Hall
5 PM, Resurrectional Matins / Confessions
- Sunday, May 4: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Spiritual Lesson for teens/parents
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
- Wed., May 7: 9 AM, *Lesser Blessing of Water* (note schedule change)
6 PM, Vespers
7 PM, Panikhida at *Eggen & Lance* for Sue Koura
- Thurs., May 8: 11:30 AM (check time), Funeral for Sue Koura here at the Church
7 PM, Bible Study online with Fr. James
- Friday, May 9: At *St. Nicholas in Saratoga*, 10 AM, Parish Feast Day

We congratulate our Archbishop Benjamin on the anniversary of his consecration to the Episcopacy, May 1, 2004. Eis Polla Eti Dhespota!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 29, 5 PM for the Retirement Banquet in honor of Archbishop Benjamin, to be held here at our Parish Hall. This will be a catered dinner, with limited attendance (somewhere around 150 max). Get your tickets [HERE](#).

I will be away this Sunday, attending the Consecration of the Church of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers in West Sacramento. As you can see in the monthly calendar, I will also be on a pilgrimage, with Deacon Justin and some close relatives, to Mount Athos, May 12–19. Fr. Nicholas will be here to serve and take care of any pastoral needs.

On this third Sunday of Pascha, the Church sets before us the memory of the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women, St. Joseph and Nicodemus (see Mark 15:43 ff). We also celebrate the institution of the Sacred Diaconate (as we

hear in the reading from Acts 6:1–7). The themes of service, offering, devotion to the Lord and His Church are clearly given to us today in these readings. So, it is only appropriate that first, we give thanks to God for all those who labor here in the many parish ministries with faith, love and diligence for the upbuilding of the Church of God. The parish is a community of those who labor for the glory of God, both in and out of the worship of the Liturgy. Are you involved in any of the parish ministries? Surely, no one is *too busy* or lacks the interest to contribute talent and time to the community. We recall the words of our Savior: *Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

The Gospel states that the apostles were amazed by the word of the women that Jesus was risen. “Yea, and certain women also of our company, who were early at the sepulcher, made us astonished. And when they found not His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive.” Before the Evangelists picked up their pens, before the apostles walked to the far reaches of the Empire with the sermon, before Peter proclaimed the good news to thousands on the day of Pentecost, the myrrh-bearers brought to the apostles the first proclamation, and the first sermon, and the first Gospel. We should also stand before them with astonishment. —*borrowed*

From Mother’s Day to Father’s Day each year, *Bridges Pregnancy Clinic and Care Center* runs its annual **Baby Bottle Blast** fundraising event. This is a great opportunity to take home a baby bottle, fill it with cash, change, or checks. The gifts that are collected in the bottles are then returned to *Bridges* to help them continue to offer their services to families free of charge. You may pick up your bottle on Mother’s Day and return it to church on Father’s Day. If you would rather make a direct contribution, you may go online to *Bridges’ Donor* site: www.friendsofbridges.org/get-involved/financial-partnership. Thank you for your support of *Bridges* in their work of helping mothers and fathers who face unplanned, unsupported, and uninsured pregnancy decisions. Every donation goes to a LIFE-saving mission! Also, as you fill your bottle, please remember to pray for *Bridges* and the mothers, fathers, and babies of Sonoma County. Any questions, please see Nicholas Alva, who is the liaison for this program.