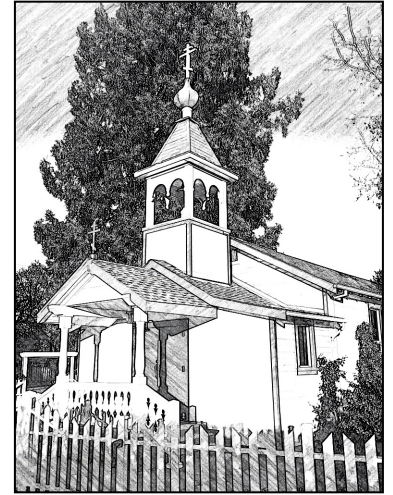


ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ January 25, 2026

New Martyrs and Confessors under Communism and Zacchaeus Sunday



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone Eight:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One; Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings. O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee.

- TROPARION OF THE NEW MARTYRS, TONE FOUR:

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

- KONTAKION OF THE NEW MARTYRS, TONE THREE:

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God unto the ages of ages. Amen."

- Friday, Jan. 23: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
- Saturday, Jan. 24: WALK FOR LIFE in SF — [LINK HERE](#) for more info
5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
- Sunday, Jan. 25: 8 AM, Divine Liturgy
9 AM, Choir Rehearsal
10 AM, Divine Liturgy (Fr. Lawrence in Eureka at St Innocent parish)
11:30 AM, Church School / Agape Meal
- Tues., Jan. 27: 6 PM, Parish Council Meeting, Library
- Wed., Jan. 28: 4 PM, St. Olga Diaper Bank
5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga
6 PM, Vespers
- Thursday, Jan. 29: 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch
7 PM, Online Bible Study with Fr James

EVENTS AND NOTES FOR THIS WEEK

Our Summer Camp is on track for 2026: June 21-27 at the Armenian Camp in Dunlap, CA! To that end, please join all the other parishes in California for an appeal to financially help St. Eugene Camp. Funds from

this collection will go toward funding the cost of counselors. We wish we could pay them all handsomely, but at the very least we should not ask them to pay their own way! Our goal is for every parish in the deanery to contribute to this effort. There is not *one* way, or a right way, to contribute! After hearing from our campers year after year about the profound impact camp has on their spiritual development and well-being, some parishes have transitioned from taking a collection to budgeting a portion of operating income to support St. Eugene Camp. We welcome such intentional planning! What a powerful statement it is when we take from our first fruits to invest in our children and youth. If this seems like a more desirable option than taking a collection, please do not hesitate to do so. Your responses to this appeal, whether in the form of a collection or a previously budgeted amount, can be made out to St. Eugene Camp and mailed to *St. Eugene Camp, c/o Holy Trinity Cathedral, 1520 Green St. San Francisco, CA 94123*. Please indicate on the check that the funds are for Camp Appeal 2026.

As you remember our precious catechumens in your prayers, especially pray for Amanda and her two children Madilynn and Mathias, who will be received by Holy Chrismation on Sunday, February 1 at 9:30 AM. The following week, Feb. 8th at 9:30 AM, we are looking forward to receiving more catechumens, as God wills. And on the first Sunday of Great Lent, March 1, we will have the joy of baptizing Brendan and Kimmy Doonan and Tami Skikos.

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the feast of the *Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors*, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution in Slavic lands. These include the royal Passion-Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history. It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God. In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31). —*from the www.oca.org*

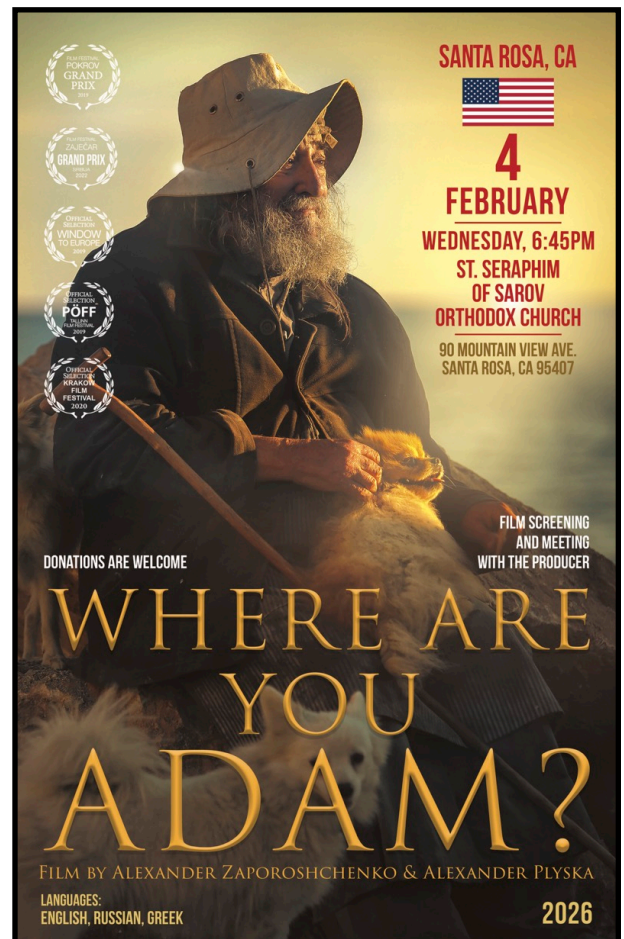
A Hymn for the Feast of the New Martyrs under Communism

Come, O lovers of the martyrs;
Come, let us form a choir as we keep festival and glorify God
on the joyous feast of the New Martyrs of the lands of Russia.
They did not avoid the distress nor fear the prisons.
Exhausted by harsh labors, hunger and cold,
they were put to death by various torments.
Like innocent lambs they accepted death.
And now in the joy of the saints,
they pray to the Triune God for their earthly fatherland.

This Sunday is also known as *Zacchaeus Sunday*, since we read Luke 19 about the encounter the tax-collector Zacchaeus has with Jesus Christ. This particular Sunday is the first “signal” that we are approaching the

beginning of Great Lent. Those with the slightest familiarity with the Church’s liturgical cycle know that we are now **five Sundays and four weeks away from the Lenten season**. In the Gospel we heard last week, the Blind Man receives his sight, and he sees and follows Jesus. His prayer was persistent, as should be ours with the desire to see Christ in the heart. Today’s Gospel continues that essential theme. Fr Alexander Schmemmann made the following remarks: “Zacchaeus wanted to see Christ; he wanted this so much that his desire attracted the attention of the Lord Jesus. Desire is the beginning of everything. As the Gospel says, ‘Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also’ (Matthew 6:21). Everything in our life begins with desire, since what we desire is also what we love, what draws us from within, what we surrender to. We know that Zacchaeus loved money, and by his own admission we know that to get it he had no scruples about defrauding others. Zacchaeus was rich and he loved riches, but within himself he discovered another desire, he wanted something else, and this desire became the pivotal moment of his life. This Gospel story poses a question to each of us: what do you love, what do you desire—not superficially, but deeply? ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock,’ the New Testament says (*Revelation 3:20*). Do you hear this quiet knock? Desire. The soul taking a deep breath. The little man, Zacchaeus, with his eyes to the ground focusing on earthly desires, encounters Christ and now ceases to be little as his victory over himself begins. Here is the start, the first step from exterior to interior, toward that mysterious homeland which all human beings, unknown often to themselves, long for and desire.”

Why Consider a Legacy Gift to St. Seraphim: As we reflect on the blessings of our lives and the role the Church has played in shaping our faith, values, and community, many of us are moved to give back in meaningful ways. One powerful way to do this is through a Legacy Gift—a planned gift made through your estate plan or will to benefit your church and its ministries for generations to come. Continue your faith journey beyond your lifetime by leaving a Legacy Gift which allows you to make a lasting impact on the spiritual life of your parish. Your gift helps ensure that worship, outreach, and pastoral care will continue to thrive for future generations. Your Legacy Gift can support the areas that have meant the most to you during your life. A Legacy Gift is more than a financial donation—it is a *testament to the values and faith you’ve lived by*. If so moved to make a Legacy Gift, please contact Fr. Lawrence.



The movie *Where are You, Adam?* will be shown here on Wednesday, Feb. 4th. It is being brought by one of the creators of the film, the Orthodox Deacon Alexander Plyska. He will bring a projector and a large screen. I am asking for help with setting up the Hall the evening before for the best possible viewing. —Fr Lawrence

Our Parish Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, Feb. 1 after the Liturgy (bring a sack lunch). This is the time and place where we get a picture of what is behind parish finances, ministries, parish council and the activities of the past year, and when we can plan for the future. Don’t miss it! These meetings take about 1.5 hr. An Annual Meeting Report Booklet is available, either hard copy or online [HERE](#).

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 – Publican & Pharisee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Divine Liturgy • 9:30 AM, Chrismation of <i>Amanda, Madilynn and Mathias Henko</i> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 12:15 PM, ANNUAL MTG. 	2 Feast of the “Meeting of the Lord” transferred to Sunday this year	3	4 – Fast Free Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to St. Olga of Alaska • 6 PM, Vespers • 6:45 PM, Movie <i>Where Are You, Adam</i> 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, <i>Angels Unawares</i> guests arrive • 7 PM, Online Bible Study 	6 – Fast Free Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM– 1 PM, Confessions 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Retreat in Calistoga</i> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Holy Baptism</i> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
8 – Prodigal Son <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Divine Liturgy • 9:30 AM, Catechumens • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, Agape Meal 	9	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Vespers 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Men’s Fellowship Potluck Dinner • 7 PM, Online Bible Study 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM– 1 PM, Confessions 	14 – Memorial Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Holy Chrismation</i> • 4:45 PM, Panikhida • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
15 – Last Judgement/Meatfare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Divine Liturgy • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • 11:30 AM, Church School • Noon, BLINI LUNCH 	16 <i>We begin to abstain from meat and meat-products</i>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30 PM, Parish Council Meeting 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist • 6 PM, Pre-Lenten Vespers 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Pre-Lenten Vespers • 7 PM, Online Bible Study 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM– 1 PM, Confessions 	21 – Departed Monastics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On the Eucharist</i> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
22 – Forgiveness Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Divine Liturgy • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 1 PM, Vespers with the Rite of Forgiveness 	Clean Week/Lent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Lenten Matins • 7 PM, Great Compline/Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Lenten Matins • 7 PM, Great Compline/Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Canon of St. Andrew of Crete • 4 PM, Diaper Bank • 6 PM, Presanctified, Meal to follow 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Lenten Matins • 7 PM, Great Compline/Canon of St. Andrew of Crete 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM, Presanctified and Canon to St. Theodore the Recruit, Blessing of Koliva 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On Holy Confession</i> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
March 1 – Sunday of Orthodoxy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Divine Liturgy • 9 AM, Baptisms • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Procession with icons • Noon, Agape Meal 	2	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Lenten Matins 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Lenten Matins • 6 PM, Presanctified, Meal to follow 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 AM, Lenten Matins 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM, Presanctified 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noon, Sisterhood Mtg • 3:30 PM, Catechism <i>On the Priesthood</i> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions

• On Mon. Feb. 15 we begin to fast from all meat and meat products until Pascha. On Monday, Feb. 23 we begin to fast from dairy and eggs until Pascha.