

**Bridges Pregnancy, Clinic and Care Center** of Santa Rosa is having its annual *Baby Bottle Drive Fundraiser*. We have set up a table in the Hall by the porch doors with relevant materials. Please take a look at the information flyer there, and if you are interested and would like to support the effort, please take a bottle with you. The fundraiser runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day! —*Fr Lawrence*

**Please keep** in your prayers those that are homebound: Seraphim Hunter, Kay Houmis, Alex Dean, Mary Peterson, Roz Andronico, and for a brief time, Ilsa Winters. If there are names missing here, please let the office know.

**A full scholarship** is available for someone who desires to attend the *Life School 2026*. Please see Fr. Lawrence.

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



**May 17, 2026**

Sunday of the Man Born Blind



• 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.

• KONTAKION OF THE BLIND MAN, Tone Four:

Being blinded in the eyes of my soul, O Savior, I come unto Thee, O Christ, as did the man who was born blind. And in repentance I cry to Thee: of those in darkness art Thou the most radiant Light.


• KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst 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.

Protection of the Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave, Santa Rosa, CA.  
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## Orthodox LIFE School 2026

LITURGY — INSPIRATION — FAITHFULNESS — EXPERIENCE



Orthodox LIFE School is for Orthodox young adults wanting to know Jesus Christ, the faith, and the tradition of the Orthodox Church in a deeper way.

It is designed to be practical, personal, and interactive. We will participate in the daily monastic schedule of life, both the divine services and various labors; receive talks from clergy, monastics, and Orthodox faithful from various walks of life; as well as serving the community around us. We will particularly address the challenges (and opportunities) encountered in today's world, helping one another take up our cross and follow Christ.

Our speakers include hierarchs, monastics, and parish priests, all to help deepen our life of prayer and challenge us to lives of service.

**When:** June 14-20, 2026

**Where:** Monastery of St. John of San Francisco, 21770 Ponderosa Way, Manton, CA

**Who:** men and women, ages 18–35

**Cost:** \$250 (apply by May 31st)

**Register:** [monasteryofstjohn.org/retreats/](http://monasteryofstjohn.org/retreats/)

**Questions:** contact Brendan O'Neill (541)301-0811  
[lifeschool2022@gmail.com](mailto:lifeschool2022@gmail.com)

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 16: 5 PM, Resurrectional Matins / Confessions
- Sunday, May 17: 8 AM, Divine Liturgy  
9 AM, Baptisms  
10 AM, Divine Liturgy  
11:30 AM, Church School  
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tues., May 19: 6 PM, Matins for Leave-taking of Pascha
- Wed., May 20: 6 PM, Vigil for the Ascension of our Lord
- Thurs., May 21: 9 AM, Ascension Day Divine Liturgy  
6 PM, Men's Fellowship Dinner  
7 PM, Bible Study
- Friday, May 22: *No Confessions this day*

**The Lord is wonderfully blessing our parish:** This Sunday Brian, Ron, Gabriel and Anthony will be baptized at 9 AM. Next Sunday we have the joy of receiving as catechumens Shilo and his wife Orissa and their two-year old girl Lilly; and on Pentecost we will receive Kira Boyd, Antonio and Esmeralda Gonzalez and their children Antonio and Valentina. May the Lord grant them all many blessed years.

**On May 19, Tuesday, at 6 PM,** we will celebrate the last Paschal Matins Service of the year. For the last time this year we will sing “Christ is Risen” and all of the hymns of the glorious day of the Resurrection of the Savior.

**On Wednesday evening,** we begin to celebrate the *Feast of the Ascension of the Lord*. The rising from the dead and ascension to the Right Hand of the Father vindicates and affirms the Lordship of Jesus Christ; it is about the initiation, the *Inauguration* of His reign over all creation. Just before His Ascension Jesus says three key things to the Apostles. **First,** Jesus assures us: “Lo, I am with you, even unto the end of the age.” He is ascended, now our human nature, joined to His, is there, ruling with His Father. Since we are united to Christ the God-Man through holy Baptism and are members of His Body, His ascension is simultaneously *our ascension and our glorification*.

Therefore, St. Paul can further write: “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Col. 3:3) **Secondly,** He says “all power has been given unto Me in Heaven and on earth.” All power: regardless of who claims to be lord, whether it’s Nebuchadnezzar, Caesar, some dictator or demon—whoever claims to be lord—is not. The only thing the fake lords can do is kill and destroy. The One who is truly Lord is Jesus Christ. He has all dominion and authority on earth, and He is active in us through the Holy Spirit, Holy Mysteries, prayer, works of mercy and love. **And finally,** He asks us to teach “all things He has commanded” and to baptize, so that His power of transformation, love, truth and mercy will be made present in us and throughout His creation. The Feast of the Ascension is not a decline from the glory of Pascha. It is, rather, the increase of Pascha, and the joyful revelation of *our* destiny in Christ. However, we also wait for the Day of Pentecost and the renewal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit, without which all this, and Pascha itself, remains external. Let us prepare for both Ascension and for Pentecost, and consider these feasts no less celebrations, no less *incredible* gifts—truly new and unprecedented, no less new beginnings than Pascha. —*Fr Lawrence*

**St. Seraphim Men’s** Fellowship Potluck Dinner will take place on Ascension Thursday, May 21 at 6 PM. We will have a sign up for bringing food to the potluck. See Seraphim Hanley.

**Fr Lawrence and I** are so very grateful to all the members of the St Seraphim family, and for all that was done to make the wedding and the reception last Sunday such a wonderful event. There was an enormous offering of time, care, expense, labor and expertise (and prayer too) that was so generously given by so many of you. It is impossible to thank you all appropriately. From setup to take down and everything in-between, there was much to be done and it all was done with care and love. We are truly blessed to be in a parish that shows such love and support to our family.

—*Matushka Ann and Fr Lawrence*

**It is our parish custom** to go to Santa Rosa Memorial Cemetery on Memorial Day at Noon, this year May 25, to offer prayers for the repose of the souls of those who served in the Armed Forces. Look for the priest with the white cassock, under the trees, in the middle of the cemetery, east side.