

Please be mindful that Father Lawrence is not available by text, email or phone—except for emergencies or days with a church service—on Mondays. —*Carol Thong, Church Secretary*

The Recycle Bin in the parking lot is for recycle only:

No plastic bags, no plastic wrap (take out of cardboard boxes), no garbage bags or compostable plates.

Please, carefully check items—and what’s inside them—before dumping. Our recycling service will refuse to empty the bin when it its “contaminated” with food and plastic wrap and bags.

Greetings, All. We have some wonderful events coming up in July and need volunteer help if you are available: 1) Our Saint Seraphim Feast Day luncheon on Sunday, July 19th. We need 3–4 servers starting at noon to help out. 2) On Friday, July 24th there will be a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed by a luncheon to say good-bye to our visitors who participated in the Diaconal/Choir Practicum. Serge Anderson is cooking and we need 4–5 servers starting at noon. Thank you in advance for your help, you can text or call or respond by email. —*Daphne Russell, daphnerussell56@gmail.com* or (707) 291-8546.

This is a friendly reminder to pickup your *prosphora* when you arrive to church. Candle desk attendants do not want to disturb your prayers during the service. *Prosphora* that is not picked up by communion time is usually given away. Also, please be aware that there is a credit-card reader at the candle desk, so you can make a tithe, charitable offering or candle donation. We are always happy to help if needed. —*Candle Desk Attendants*

Our thanks to Michael Danford for repairing the lower windows in the Cathedral. The frames have been rotting away for years now. One window done!

The summer feast of our parish, the “Glorification of St. Seraphim of Sarov” is on July 19. We will have a festal Vigil on Saturday, July 18 at 5 PM, with His Grace Bishop Vasily presiding, and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 19 at 10 AM (perhaps we will begin a few minutes early, so please come BEFORE the Bishop arrives at 10 AM or so). The 8 AM early Liturgy will be celebrated in the Protection Church as usual.

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



July 5, 2026

St. Sergius of Radonezh



• RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION, Tone Four:

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse, and elatedly told the Apostles: death is overthrown, Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

• TROPARION OF ST SERGIUS, Tone Eight:

From thy youth thou didst receive Christ into thy soul, O venerable one, and above all didst desire to leave behind the turmoil of the world. Thou didst courageously settle in the wilderness, where thou didst raise children in obedience, the fruits of humility. Thus, as an abode of the Trinity, thou didst enlighten all who approached in faith and didst grant healing to all. O our Father Sergius, pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved!

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Friday, July 3: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy at Fort Ross

- Saturday, July 4: 4 PM, Q&A for Inquirers and Catechumens
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, July 5: 8 AM Divine Liturgy (Protection Church)
9 AM, Choir Rehearsal
10 AM, Divine Liturgy (St. Seraphim)
Noon, Agape Meal
12:45 PM, Church School Teacher Mtg.
- Wednesday, July 8: 5:30 PM, Akathist / 6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., July 9: 7 PM, Online Bible Study w/Fr James
- Friday, July 10: 8 AM, Matins
11:30–1 PM, Confessions

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we welcome you and hope your experience at the Divine Liturgy will be edifying and spiritually nourishing. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join the parish, or would like to speak with Fr Lawrence or one of the other priests, we invite you to fill out a visitor information card and leave it at the candle desk. Please be aware that Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by fasting, prayer and a recent Confession.

Stay until 12:30 on Sunday, July 12, and join in viewing the recent stimulating *Thriving Parish Project* (TPP) Diocesan presentation by Fr. Evan Armatas, host of *Ancient Faith's Orthodoxy Live* podcast. His presentation was based on his book “Reclaiming the Great Commission; A Roadmap to Parish Health.” After the 20 minute video, stick around if you want to discuss Fr. Evan’s ideas on healthy parish growth with Fr. Lawrence and Fr. Daniel and Karla Van Meter, our TPP rep.

Two hundred and fifty years is a span of time sufficient to accumulate both great achievements and grave failures. This nation—like all nations under God—has known the heights of generosity and the depths of injustice; the nobility of aspiration and the tragedy of betrayal. The Church does not pretend otherwise, nor would it serve this nation’s good for her to do so. We bear witness to a God before Whom no nation and no person stands without need of mercy. The promise spoken to Solomon rings out across the centuries with undiminished urgency: “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their

wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (1 Chronicles 7:14) It is in this spirit that we call the faithful of the Orthodox Church in America—and, through their witness, this nation—to repentance: repentance for injustices past and present; for the idols of wealth, comfort, and power that seduce every generation; for the divisions and enmities that tear at the fabric of common life; and for the ways in which we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. A true commemoration of a nation’s founding is not mere self-congratulation; it is a moment of sober examination, of honest confession, and of renewed dependence upon God. The Church does not speak this word from a posture of superiority. We acknowledge our own failures—in charity, in unity, and in the fullness of our witness to the Gospel. We, too, stand in need of God’s mercy. But it is precisely because the Church has known the healing power of repentance that she cannot withhold this word from the world she is called to serve. —*excerpt from the Holy Synod of the OCA*

Dear Parents, I would like to ask you to be watchful over your children before, during and after (especially after) the church services. There are some things that our children should avoid doing while on the parish property: Please, let’s not have children swinging on and climbing our trees. Branches are being broken on the olive trees (a falling child might break something too!). Secondly, please keep your children from picking the unripe figs from the fig tree. Thirdly, absolutely no playing with rocks or piling up little pyramids of rocks on the sidewalks or elsewhere. For the past few weeks there have been piles of rocks near the front of the Protection Church. These are not only unsightly, but are trip hazards and have to be swept away and put back where they came from each week. Fourth, I would also ask you to not let your child move chairs and other fire-pit furniture into the “bush grotto”—perhaps one of our parents would like to bring some small chairs and a table (not plastic, since it will break day one) to put in that area for the kids? And as always, I would remind you, children under the age of 8 or so should be accompanied while going to the rest room, getting food and beverage in the Hall, and on the playground. Please forgive me if any of this sounds restrictive: the parish is a public place, and in addition to things I have listed above, safety is also an issue. As we grow, we have to make adjustments and allowances, of course, while trying to care for our children, our parish grounds, and one another. —*Fr Lawrence*