

# Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council News

## December 2019–January 2020

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### Priest's Corner

With the advent of Nativity Lent, we already hear the joyous refrains of “Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ comes from Heaven, welcome Him!” during the Vigil services, reminding us that the year is coming to an end and a new one is beginning. Lent is always a time of reflection and prayer, but also an opportunity to “take stock” by counting our blessings and seeing where we are on our spiritual paths—especially at the beginning of a new year. While we have experienced some losses and even tragedies this past year, we still have much to be grateful for here in Santa Rosa.

For the second time in three fall seasons, a serious wildfire threatened our community, causing massive evacuations and preemptive power blackouts. Glory be to God that no one was injured, and homes and property in our parish community remained safe. Our long-awaited iconostasis has been installed, marking the beginning of a full-scale renovation and beautification of our church and church property in preparation for its full consecration, scheduled for July 11, 2020. Our Parish Council has laid out plans for an entire list of improvements and renovations to the church interior and exterior as well as plans for major renovations of the church hall and parking lot—all, hopefully, to be completed by next July. The consecration ceremonies will be a major undertaking in and of themselves, requiring the assistance and support of all of our parishioners.

With God's help and a concerted effort by our parish, we will finally be approaching the completion of a project begun over forty years ago. Our founders dreamed of having what we have today and are contemplating in this new year. They, along with the generations that followed, have achieved a great deal toward this goal, and it is up to those of this generation to see this dream come to its full fruition.

May God help us in this coming year—not only in our endeavor to complete these important projects, but most important, to remember to Whose glory and for whose spiritual benefit we are doing this. As long as we give these spiritual goals their proper priority and put our best efforts toward reaching them first and foremost, then God's help will be with us in our temporal endeavors as well: **“Seek ye first the**

***Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these [temporal] things shall be added unto you.”***  
**(Matt. 6:33).**

*God bless! Fr. Alexander*

### ***Congratulations to all our Name's day celebrants\*:***

December 5 – Cecilia Montano

December 6 – Alexander Litvinenko

December 7 – Katherine Huhlov, Katherine Lerke, Katherine Logvy, Katherine Poluektov, Katherine Ramish, Katherine Stewart, and Katherine (Krassovsky) Wolkow

December 9 – George Huhlov and George Shliapnikoff

December 13 – Andrei Kochergin, Andrei Lucas, Andrei Mogilev, and Andrei Rykoff

December 19 – Nicholas Aaron, Nicholas Eldimir, Nicholas Klimenko, Nicholas Litvinenko, Nicholas Lucas, Nicholas Newton, and Nicholas Protopopoff, Jr.

December 22 – Anna Judd

December 30 – Daniel Alva

December 31 – Noah Melake, David Montano, Sarina Tesfamariam, and Sarah Person

January 6 – Eugenia Riccard

January 8 – Joseph Handelih

January 9 – Steven Montano

January 10 – Arsema Tewolde

January 16 – Malachi Campbell

January 25 – Tatiana Hidchenko, Tatiana Khlopoff, Tatiana McWethy, Tatiana Metlenko, Tatiana Nigodoff, Tatiana Pavlow, Tatiana Schneider, Tatiana Shliapnikoff, and Tatiana Volhontseff

January 27 – Nina Russo and Nina Shikaloff

January 31 – Fr. Deacon Athanasius Ferguson

***Congratulations to the parents, godparents, and relatives of the newly baptized Alexander Krenz, who was baptized on October 12, 2019.***

***God grant them Many Years!***

*\*Fr. Alexander asks that you please notify him if we have missed anyone's name's day in our lists. Thank you!*

### *In Memoriam*

With a degree of sadness but, as always, with faith in our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, we note the passing of one of the most active members of our parish, **Evgeniy Piterskih**, who peacefully reposed on November 8, 2019. Zhenya was an active member of the Parish Council, baked proshpora for the Divine Liturgy, baked kulich for the Sisterhood, helped with the pelmeniy group, and was an all-around handyman. He repaired and took care of the grounds, the buildings, and basically anything and everything that needed to be done on our property. Regularly attending church, Zhenya could be found behind the candle counter, helping out there as well. May God grant rest to the soul of His newly departed and truly faithful servant **Evgeniy** and grant comfort and strength to his wife Natasha. Please remember him in your prayers both in church and at home.

*Memory eternal, Dear Zhenya!*

***“I was sick, and ye visited me...”***

***—Matt 25:36***

Please remember our parishioners who are in home care facilities or home bound, especially during the Christmas season. A friendly visit or, when possible, even a phone call, will be most welcome. If you plan to visit one of them, please be sure to call ahead to arrange a most convenient time for them and to get their addresses:

Katya Klimansky	707-869-9327
Mila Pavlova	707-938-1096
Aza (Anna) Kozliuk	707-938-1096
Zinaida Evaschuk	707-546-3511
Valya Ramensky	707-529-7039
Matushka Tamara Wawiluk	707-538-9403
Suzy (Ksenia) Miram	707-538-3667
Luda Tkacheva	707-539-5625
Yura Sokoloff	707-202-4201

### **Stewardship/Membership Reminder**

Tax year 2019 is drawing to a close, so please make sure to fulfill your stewardship donation for the year by the end of December. In an effort to make these contributions easier for our parishioners, the Parish Council has now arranged to have Stewards/Members set up direct deposit, which can debit their monthly or quarterly contributions automatically from a bank account. Many organizations have been using this method for years, making it very easy for their contributors to keep up with their pledges without even worrying about them. Please contact our parish Financial Manager, Michael Kirchanski, for more information on setting this up. And of course, checks

can be submitted in the envelopes provided at the church candle counter or mailed to Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church, 850 St. Olga Ct., Santa Rosa, CA 95407-8077.

*May God bless you for your support!*



### **Holy Tradition Supports the Proper Interpretation of the Bible**

Many evangelical protestants see Holy Tradition as standing in direct contrast to Scripture, as though Tradition is always relegated to “the traditions of men.” However, there are numerous references in Holy Scripture to Holy Tradition. For example, the Gospel of Luke begins: “Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.” (Luke 1:1–4) It must be noted that in this instance, the oral word *preceded* the written word, hence becoming Holy Tradition.

In John 20:30 it is revealed, “Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book,” and in John 21:25, we read, “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” One of my personal favorite passages regarding Holy Tradition is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:15, “So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”

Holy Tradition is not apart from the Bible but supports the proper interpretation of the Bible. Holy Tradition emanates from Christ Himself and is expressed by the Apostles, the Holy Fathers, and the Church. The Fathers, in fact, are the very guardians of the apostolic tradition, for they, like the Apostles before them, are witnesses of a single Truth, which is the Truth of the God-man, Jesus Christ. Since Christ is one, unique, and indivisible, so also is the Church unique and indivisible. The Church is the incarnation of the incarnated God-man, Jesus Christ, and will continue through the ages, and even throughout all eternity.

*With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon  
All-Merciful Saviour Monastery  
Vashon Island, Washington*

## Christmas Bazaar Tradition Continues

In November, our parish joyfully and gratefully held its annual pre-Christmas bazaar, and the results were, thanks to all our volunteers and those of you who attended, crowned with great success. Thank you once again for your support and your friendship. We say that we celebrated this Bazaar gratefully because the October winds were again in evidence, together with the threat of potential power outages imposed by PG&E. We did not know whether or not we would be able to hold the Bazaar, but at the last minute, the winds abated and we were able to go ahead.

Many volunteers participated in the actual setup and serving during the two days, and one of our greatest delights was in seeing our young people manning the work stations selling food and helping out where needed. Many of our volunteers live a great distance from the church—as far as Vacaville and Davis—as well as in San Francisco and throughout Marin and Sonoma counties. They traveled with their parents to lend a hand, and it was a joy to see them behave themselves so courteously and professionally. Now the challenge is to find enough older-generation people to fill the spaces of those who can no longer do so due to illness or, sadly, death. We have lost many who were active in the church, and unfortunately, not enough volunteers are taking their place. If anyone reading this is interested in lending a hand, please let our Head Sister, Nadia Stewart, or any one of us on the Council know, and we will happily welcome you into our family of volunteers.



Our Eritrean sisters also contributed to the success of the Bazaar for the two days with their delicious and freshly made food as well as their incomparable coffee, which they roast and grind fresh and serve in a delicate cup called a *finjal*. In addition, the Zaharoff family contributed shish kebobs and sides, the Mogilev family generously provided the libations at the bar, and the aroma of freshly barbequed meat added to the scents of

our Russian specialties and enticed many to enjoy the culinary offerings.

The Russian imports, jewelry tables, and outside “flea market” tables did a brisk business, and the sisters of Holy Assumption Monastery (Calistoga) were pleased with the sale of their Christmas gifts, which included homemade jams, honey, and many religious items.



We had a chance to see many familiar and dear faces and catch up on the news in your lives and ours. Thank you one and all—old friends and new—for your continuous support and friendship. Without you, we could not do it!

Father Alexander and Father Afanassy conducted docent tours, sharing the story of the incredible journey of our new iconostasis, which drew universal admiration for its awe-inspiring proportions, design, and the beauty of its craftsmanship. It now stands majestically in place of our old, humble iconostasis and is almost finished. It lacks only the completion of the icons, currently in production, to be set within it.

Many of you asked about our holding a Spring Bazaar, which we used to host in happier days when many of our “founding elders” were still with us. Unfortunately, as mentioned, many have gone home to God, and we do the best we can with a diminished group of volunteers to follow in their footsteps. Spring is an extremely busy season for Russian households, when many of us do much baking, cooking, and preparing our homes for the celebration of the Feast of Feasts: Pascha, the Resurrection of our Lord. In addition, our services at that time of year are incredibly prayerful and beautiful, and many of us take every opportunity to attend them. Of course, all these activities reduce the time needed to cook and prepare the food that would be necessary for a Spring Bazaar. We do invite you, however, to consider attending our great celebration of *Maslenitsa* (akin to “Fat Tuesday”

or Carnival, celebrated by other cultures) when we serve fresh *blini* (crepe-like pancakes) with all the trimmings, and our Palm Sunday luncheon, which represents one of only two days in Great and Holy Lent when we are allowed to eat fish. Our Sisterhood usually prepares a strictly lenten but filling lunch



featuring such Russian specialties as *kotletiy* (fish cakes), *vinaigrette* (beet salad), and other dishes. Please keep an eye out for our newsletter and flyers for details. Next year, the Palm Sunday lunch will be held on April 12, 2020, after Liturgy. Please join us and share these wonderful traditions with us!

Once more, God blessed our hard work and crowned it with success for the benefit of our beloved church. And once again, we had the privilege of seeing many old friends, who continue to loyally support our church and all of us. *Bolshoe spasibo* (many thanks) to all of you, without whom this success would not be possible. May God grant that we will see each other soon in 2020. Meanwhile, we all wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and joyful New Year! In the words of Dickens’s Tiny Tim, “God bless us, every one!”

—Lana Logvy



### Starosta’s Corner

We recently held our annual Christmas Bazaar with great success. The setup went very smoothly until we erected the main tent a bit too early, and it was damaged by the 93-mile-per-hour winds that PG&E had predicted would come. But all was not lost, as it was repaired and we moved forward.

The Sisterhood outdid themselves as usual with the delicious food, and our Eritrean ladies serving their outstanding dishes had their most successful year to date. Many thanks to all who helped with the heavy work of setup and takedown, without whom this event would not have been possible.

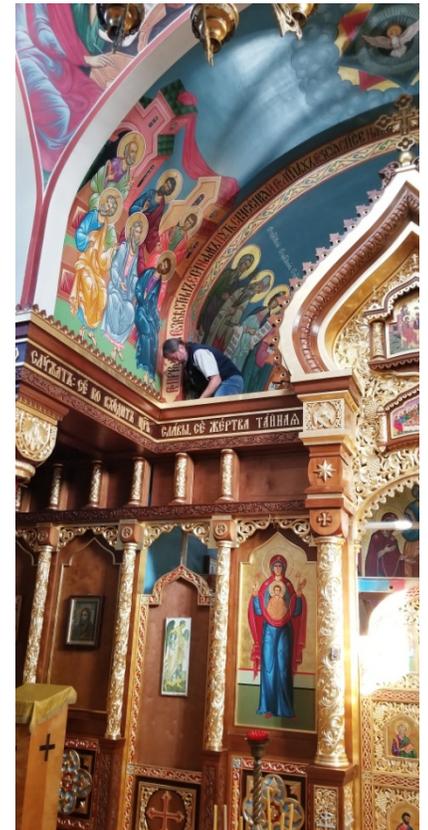
The outside of the hall was just painted, and we are moving ahead with repairing and beautifying the church and surroundings for our big celebration next July.

With regard to the cemetery project, our engineers need to provide an update to our groundcover and proposed water usage plan. Apparently, this is the last concern we need to address with the County officials, who are hoping to schedule our first sit-down meeting with them in February 2020.

Even though our new iconostas has been installed and looks beautiful, we have had to do additional work in the way of bracing it to the walls to keep it steady in case of an earthquake, and because of the excessive weight (2.2 tons), we have had to reinforce the floor. But all the work is coming along, as well as the new icons that are being placed within it as our iconographer, Vladimir Krassovsky, completes them.

As of January 1, we will no longer be renting out the parish hall for events. We have had a good run, lasting almost ten years, and the extra income generated afforded us the opportunity to take care of many extra projects and saw us through some lean times.

I’d like to thank Vera and Nick Spring for their contributions as members of the Parish Council. They are moving from Petaluma to the Central Valley and will no longer be able to participate in our meetings. We wish them well in their new endeavors.



Last but not least, our long-time parishioner Zhenya Pitserskih passed away on November 8. There will be a forty-day panikhida on Dec 17 at 5:00 p.m., and pominki will be held on Sunday, December 22. Please sign up at the candle counter if you’d like to bring some food to share.

I have many fond memories of Zhenya for all that he taught me, and especially working together for years baking proshpora.

Zhenya was our amateur videographer, always taking videos of so many events, and even taking a video of my wedding here.

He did so much work around the church property quietly and mostly unseen. In addition, he took care of the Russian River church (Our Lady of Kazan) for many years. He was also my dad's fishing buddy. Many times he would call my dad at 4:00 or 5:00 a.m. and say, "Johnny, let's go fishing!" and Dad would respond with "Give me fifteen minutes and I'll be ready." Memory eternal, dear Zhenya!



Fr. Athanasius and Anna's son Sam (photo above, second from left), along with his firefighting crew from Santa Barbara, were in Sonoma County fighting the recent Kincaid Fire in Healdsburg and Windsor. Our gratitude goes out to them for their valiant efforts in keeping the fires from encroaching any further. They had an opportunity to swing by the church and take a couple of photos.

—Paul Johnson

707-696-5566; starosta@sonic.net



## Sisterhood News

Another successful Christmas Bazaar has come and gone, so thank you and well done to all. Again, thank you Larissa Krassovsky for your continued generous efforts and donation of all the proceeds from your Bazaar sales. You are a joy to work with. We were very proud of our Russian and Eritrean food selections, and all were delicious and appreciated by the people who came to support our Bazaar. Our Eritrean ladies are always supportive of our church and did the best ever in their food sales, the proceeds of which they donated to our church. Thank you ladies! Thank you to Andrei and Kon Zaharoff for preparing the shashlik

with their family. Yum! We were also joined again by the nuns of the Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga with their wonderful goodies. Thank you, Sister Marie. Thanks to all who were involved in the food preparation and making the wonderful array of desserts, collected by Natasha Tatsy. The hall was very festive, so thanks go to Anya Krassovsky and her helpers, and Paul and his crew for setting up the time-consuming outside tents and helping with the hall setup. Everyone enjoyed the decorations and food immensely!

Thank you to all who made all these occasions a success and to everyone for their participation in the Sunday lunches and the festal luncheon on Wednesday, December 4, for the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. With your help, may they continue to happen. If you would like to help out on future lunches, please contact me, our lunch scheduler, at 925-372-7838 or nadiastew55@yahoo.com.

Again, never mentioned but always appreciated, our Paul Johnson and Alexei Khlopoff are always on top of things with their baking of proshpora and special breads for the church services. Thank you both!

Our next major holiday will be Christmas, the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Tuesday, January 7. Look for the sign-up sheet for food for our Christmas lunch. We also will need people to help decorate the Church and hall and to donate items for and assemble the Christmas baskets for our ailing members and shut-ins. They could always use our prayers and even a cheerful visit or phone call (see the contact information on page 1). For more information, please contact our Outreach Liaison,



Anna Judd, at 707-823-2372 or annaljudd@comcast.net.

Our next Sisterhood meeting is to be determined at a later date. Our next pelmeniy-making date is also to be scheduled. Thank you to everyone for your continuing support of and dedication to the Sisterhood. God bless!

—Nadia Stewart, Head Sister  
of the St. Olga Sisterhood  
925-372-7838 ♦ Nadiastew55@yahoo.com

### Life of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

*“The truth of things revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, a model of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; therefore thou hast won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty. O Holy Father Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God that our souls may be saved!”*

—Troparion to St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (feast day December 6/19) is famed as a great saint pleasing unto God. He was born in the city of Patara in the region of Lycia (on the south coast of the Asia Minor peninsula) and was the only son of pious parents Theophanes and Nonna, who had vowed to dedicate him to God.

As the fruit of the prayer of his childless parents, the infant Nicholas from the very day of his birth revealed to people the light of his future glory as a wonderworker. His mother, Nonna, after giving birth was immediately healed from illness. The newborn infant, while still in the baptismal font, stood on his feet three hours, without support from anyone, thereby honoring the Most Holy Trinity. Saint Nicholas from his infancy began a life of fasting, and on Wednesdays and Fridays he would not accept milk from his mother until after his parents had finished their evening prayers.

From his childhood, Nicholas thrived on the study of Divine Scripture; by day, he would not leave church, and by night he prayed and read books, making himself a worthy dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Bishop Nicholas of Patara rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained him a reader, and then elevated Nicholas to the priesthood, making him his assistant and entrusting him to instruct the flock.

In serving the Lord, the youth was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith he was like an Elder who aroused the wonder and deep respect

of believers. Constantly at work and vivacious, in unceasing prayer, the priest Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness toward the flock and the afflicted who came to him for help, and he distributed all his inheritance to the poor.

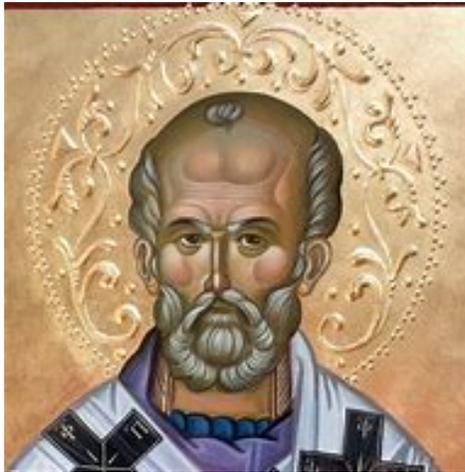
There was a certain formerly rich inhabitant of Patara, whom Saint Nicholas saved from great sin. The man had three grown daughters, and in desperation he had planned to sell their bodies so they would have money for food. The saint, learning of the man's poverty and of his wicked intention, secretly visited him one night and threw a sack of gold through the window. With the money, the man arranged an honorable marriage for his daughter. Saint Nicholas also provided gold for the other daughters, thereby saving the family from falling into spiritual destruction. In bestowing charity, Saint Nicholas always strove to do this secretly and to conceal his good deeds.

The Bishop of Patara decided to go on pilgrimage to the holy places at Jerusalem, and entrusted the guidance of his flock to Saint Nicholas, who fulfilled this obedience carefully and with love. When the bishop returned, Nicholas asked his blessing for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Along the way, the saint predicted a storm would arise and threaten the ship.

Saint Nicholas saw the devil get on the ship, intending to sink it and kill all the passengers. At the entreaty of the despairing pilgrims, he calmed the waves of the sea by his prayers. Through his prayer, a certain sailor of the ship, who had fallen from the mast and was mortally injured, was also restored to health.

When he reached the ancient city of Jerusalem and came to Golgotha, Saint Nicholas gave thanks to the Savior. He went to all the holy places, worshiping at each one. One night on Mount Sion, the closed doors of the church opened by themselves for the great pilgrim. Going round the holy places connected with the earthly service of the Son of God, Saint Nicholas decided to withdraw into the desert, but he was stopped by a divine voice urging him to return to his native country. He returned to Lycia, but yearning for a life of quietude, the saint entered into the brotherhood of a monastery named Holy Sion, which had been founded by his uncle. But the Lord again indicated another path for him, “Nicholas, this is not the vineyard where you shall bear fruit for Me. Return to the world and glorify My Name there.” So he left Patara and went to Myra in Lycia.

Upon the death of Archbishop John, Nicholas was chosen as Bishop of Myra after one of the bishops of



the Council said that a new archbishop should be revealed by God, not chosen by men. One of the elder bishops had a vision of a radiant Man, Who told him that the one who came to the church that night and was first to enter should be made archbishop. He would be named Nicholas. The bishop went to the church at night to await Nicholas. The saint, always the first to arrive at church, was stopped by the bishop. "What is your name, child?" he asked. God's chosen one replied, "My name is Nicholas, Master, and I am your servant."

After his consecration as archbishop, Saint Nicholas remained a great ascetic, appearing to his flock as an image of gentleness, kindness, and love for people. This was particularly precious for the Lycian Church during the persecution of Christians under the emperor Diocletian (284–305). Bishop Nicholas, locked up in prison together with other Christians for refusing to worship idols, sustained them and exhorted them to endure the fetters, punishment, and torture. The Lord preserved him unharmed. Upon the accession of Saint Constantine (May 21/June 3) as emperor, Saint Nicholas was restored to his flock, which joyfully received their guide and intercessor.

Despite his great gentleness of spirit and purity of heart, Saint Nicholas was a zealous and ardent warrior of the Church of Christ. Fighting evil spirits, the saint made the rounds of the pagan temples and shrines in the city of Myra and its surroundings, shattering the idols and turning the temples to dust.

In the year 325, Saint Nicholas was a participant in the First Ecumenical Council. This Council proclaimed the Nicene Symbol of Faith (the Creed), and he stood up against the heretic Arius with the likes of Saints Sylvester the Bishop of Rome, Alexander of Alexandria, Spyridon of Trimythontos, and other Fathers of the Council.

Saint Nicholas, on fire with zeal for the Lord, assailed the heretic Arius with his words and also struck him upon the face. For this reason, he was deprived of the emblems of his episcopal rank and placed under guard. But several of the Holy Fathers had the same vision, seeing the Lord Himself and the Mother of God returning to him the Gospel and omophorion. The Fathers of the Council agreed that the audacity of the saint was pleasing to God and restored the saint to the office of bishop.

Having returned to his own diocese, the saint brought it peace and blessings, sowing the word of Truth, uprooting heresy, nourishing his flock with sound doctrine, and providing food for their bodies.

Even during his life, the saint worked many miracles. One of the greatest was the deliverance

from death of three men unjustly condemned by the Governor, who had been bribed. The saint boldly went up to the executioner and took his sword, already suspended over the heads of the condemned. The Governor, denounced by Saint Nicholas for his wrongdoing, repented and begged for forgiveness. Witnessing this remarkable event were three military officers, who were sent to Phrygia by the emperor Constantine to put down a rebellion. They did not suspect that soon they would also be compelled to seek the intercession of Saint Nicholas. Evil men slandered them before the Emperor Constantine, and the officers were sentenced to death. Appearing to the saintly emperor in a dream, Saint Nicholas called on him to overturn the unjust sentence of the military officers.

He worked many other miracles and struggled many long years at his labor. Through the prayers of the saint, the city of Myra was rescued from a terrible famine. He appeared to a certain Italian merchant and left him three gold pieces as a pledge of payment. He requested him to sail to Myra and deliver grain there. More than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea and provided release from captivity and imprisonment.

Having reached old age, Saint Nicholas peacefully fell asleep in the Lord. His venerable relics were preserved incorrupt in the local cathedral church and flowed with curative myrrh, from which many received healing. In the year 1087, his relics were transferred to the Italian city of Bari, where they rest even now. Saint Nicholas is the patron of travelers, and we pray to him for deliverance from floods, fire, poverty, and other misfortunes. He has promised to help those who remember his parents, Theophanes and Nonna.

## ♪ Choir Notes ♪

On October 2–6, the Twenty-eighth Annual Russian Orthodox Church Musicians' (ROCM) Conference of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia took



ROCM Conference and Archbishop Gabriel Visit  
October 2-6, 2019

place at Holy Epiphany Parish in Boston. Over seventy people from across North America, and even some from Europe, participated in the conference. This year's conference was devoted to the memory of Vladimir Pavlovich Roudenko [late of Burlingame], who for many years served as the director of the Holy Epiphany parish choir. [Sergei and Joanna Chidlowsky and Daniel Alva represented our parish. —*Editor*]

The main theme of the conference was "Continuity and Growth: Ensuring the Future of Liturgical Chant in Our Parishes." The talks and lectures began on October 3 after a short service of supplication, held in one of the conference halls of the host hotel in a nearby suburb. Lectures were delivered for three straight days. Dr. Peter Jermihov was the featured faculty member and choir director. Among the lecturers were experienced church choir directors, musicians, and scholars. Aside from the lectures, there were master classes, workshops, and many rehearsals devoted to learning new music and preparing for the divine services on Saturday and Sunday. On Thursday evening, the Konevets Quartet put on a concert of liturgical and folk compositions. An energetic wave of applause followed every song in the folk program.

His Grace Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and Canada presided over the All-night Vigil and Divine Liturgy. Fr. Andre Papkov, the chair of the Liturgical Music Commission of the Church Abroad, who was unable to come to Boston on account of his health [after suffering a stroke], was commemorated at the Liturgy among the sick. At the services, directors included Peter Jermihov, Andrei Roudenko, Vladimir Krassovsky, Protodeacon Sergei Arlievsky, Laryssa Doohovskoy, Gregory Kotar, Michelle Ganson, N. Schuler, and Nicholas Ganson. The powerful choir sang with inspiration and majesty. The faithful were communed from three chalices. It was joyous to see many young children and youth in church. The conference happened to fall on the Feast of the Conception of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist of the Lord John. Holy Epiphany Church considers every feast of the Forerunner John a sort of parish feast; therefore, the locals embraced the festive archpastoral service on this day with special joy and gratitude to All-merciful God.

The conference concluded with a picnic-style banquet in the church yard, with unseasonably warm weather and no-less-warm a family atmosphere. After the meal, the conference participants were invited for

tea and *zakuski* at the home of the rector, Father Victor Boldewskul, and Matushka Svetlana.

The organizers thank Father Victor, the parishioners, and the Sisterhood of Holy Epiphany for their financial and practical support, as well the ROCOR Fund for Assistance and its donors for a grant that helped subsidize registration costs for all participants in the conference.

*Reprinted from the ROCOR website: www.synod.com.*



### Orthodox Community Events

- **Weekly Molieben to Saint John of San Francisco, Saturdays, 5:30 p.m.** Submit names in person or online. Go to [sfsobor.com](http://sfsobor.com) and click on "St. John" then "Prayer Requests." Submit names online by Friday, 3:00 p.m. **Holy Virgin Cathedral**, 6210 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.
- **The Nomadic Shelter program ("Angels Unawares"):** first Thursday of the month, **January 2**. Guests from the Redwood Gospel Mission will arrive about 6:00 p.m. and depart about 6:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. For any questions, call Michael or Rachel Dovey at 707-799-4117. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa.
- **Redwood Empire Food Bank distribution, second Wednesdays, January 8**, at 5:00–6:00 p.m. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church** parking lot, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-584-9491.
- **Saints Constantine and Helena Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale**, Saturday, **December 14**, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., and Sunday, **December 15**, 12:00–4:00 p.m. Greek Community Center, 1224 Alhambra St., Vallejo.
- Save the dates: **Yolka at Scouts House, January 11;** **Blini at Russian Scouts House, January 26.** 6231 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, 415-876-0564.

#### Meeting Notice:

➤ **Parish Council meetings: Tuesday, December 17 and January 14, 6:00 p.m., in the Admin Building.**

- **Hope and Joy Retreat**, Saturday, **December 14**, 2:00–5:00 p.m. Children will have the opportunity to participate in sporting activities, make cookies and hot chocolate, and engage in a community service project. Lunch will be provided. **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**, 999 Brotherhood Way, **San Francisco**.
- **Ongoing Catechism classes**: “On the Holy Spirit,” Sat., **December 14**, 3:30 p.m.; “On the Church,” Sat., **Dec. 21.**, 3:30 p.m. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-584-9491.
- **Annual Children’s Christmas Play**, “Mary, Did You Know?” written by Matushka Esther Carr, Sunday, **December 15**. Festivities start with St. Romanos’ Akathist of the Nativity at 4:30 p.m. in the Protection Church, then dinner at 5:00, and the play at 5:45. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa.
- **Monthly Byblos Orthodox Book Club**, 3rd Tuesdays in Marin County. Next meeting, **December 17**, 7:00–9:00 p.m., to discuss C.S. Lewis’s *The Screwtape Letters*. Engaging in conversations about truth, meaning, purpose, and life. Contact Anthony Scott at orthodoxconsultant@gmail.com to sign up.
- **Parish Feastday**: Vigil, 6:00 p.m., Mon., **Dec. 24**; Liturgy, 9:30 a.m., greeting of the bishops, Tues., **December 25**. **St. Herman of Alaska Church**, 161 N. Murphy Ave., Sunnyvale. Festal meal to follow at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church.



- **The 2019 St. Herman’s West Conference** for youths aged 15 to 25 will be held in **Los Angeles** at the **Holy Transfiguration Cathedral** and the Hilton Garden Inn, **December 26** (evening) through **December 30** (morning). Theme: “**Conforming the Will of Man to the Will of God.**” Speakers include Archpriest James Baglien and Priest Matthew Harrington. Lectures, panel discussions, service activities, beach volleyball, and sightseeing. Registration is \$299 by check or \$310 online. For more information and the registration form, visit <https://wadyouth.wordpress.com>.
- Monday, **December 31**, 7:00 p.m. **New Year’s Eve Ball, Russian Center of San Francisco** 2460 Sutter St., San Francisco. Celebrate the New Year with an

## CAROLS & CANAPES

AN EVENING BENEFIT FOR  
HOLY ASSUMPTION MONASTERY  
ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE FUND

ST. NICHOLAS HOUSE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE  
DARIO SATTUI & IRINA YARTSEVA, JOHN MERCHANT,  
SUE MAURO, LISA LOCHANKO, AND SARA KOZEL

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evening of music, dancing, and entertainment, hors d’oeuvres, buffet dinner, dessert, and Champagne toast. Tickets are \$100 for members of the Russian Center; senior tickets are \$90; under 21 years, \$75. Send your check to the Russian Center: 2460 Sutter St., San Francisco 94115, until December 27. For tickets and information, call Zoya at 415-794-2301, email [jzharova@russiancentersf.com](mailto:jzharova@russiancentersf.com), or visit [www.russiancentersf.com](http://www.russiancentersf.com).

- **Parish Feast Day of Saint Seraphim (N.S.)**. Services: Vespers and Akathist, Tues. **January 1**, at 5:00 p.m.; Divine Liturgy with His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, Wed., **January 2**, at 9:30 a.m. followed by a festal meal. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa.
- **St. John’s Academy Crab Feed Fundraiser**, Friday, **January 17**. Cocktail hour, 6:30 p.m., Dinner 7:30. Silent auction and raffle. Adults: \$75; under 18, \$60. **Holy Virgin Cathedral**, 6210 Geary Blvd., San Francisco. For reservations, contact Samar Musleh at 415-221-3484.
- **Capella Romana concert, Hymns of Kassiane**. **January 18**, 7:30 p.m., St. Ignatius Church, 650 Parker Ave., San Francisco. Visit [cappellaromana.org](http://cappellaromana.org) for tickets.



- **First Day Fort Ross Guided Tour & Tea.** Wednesday, **January 1**, 2:30–4:00 p.m. Learn the inside stories of Fort Ross, featuring a guided tour through the compound, behind locked doors, including an introduction to surrounding neighborhoods and the Kashia Pomo, Russian, and ranch eras. Following our tour, we will sit down at the samovar for a cup of hot tea. Meet at 2:30 p.m. at the Visitor Center. \$10/person plus California State Park parking fees apply. Tour led by Fort Ross Conservancy’s bilingual (English and/or Russian) guide Hank Birnbaum. For more info, email [hankb@fortross.org](mailto:hankb@fortross.org) or call 707-847-3437. **Fort Ross State Historic Park**, 11 miles north of Jenner on Highway 1. [www.fortross.org/events.htm](http://www.fortross.org/events.htm).

- **Fri., January 24, 6:30 p.m. Orthodox Christians for Life hosts a Baby Shower Benefit to support Alpha Pregnancy Center.** Dinner, dessert, games, raffles, and prizes. Bring an unwrapped baby gift as admission. (Divine Liturgy served at 5:30 p.m.) **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**, 999 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco. RSVP Veronica Ruby: 510-882-7779.



- **Women’s Retreat: Living Orthodoxy Joyfully in the Secular World** with Caroline Langston Jarboe. Sat., **February 1**, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Lunch provided. **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**, 999 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco. Free admission. RSVP by January 29. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yy2o4eby>.

Because Women Deserve Better than Abortion.®

# WALK for LIFE WEST COAST 2020

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

Join fellow Orthodox Christians of all jurisdictions and ages

**Saturday, January 25 • CIVIC CENTER PLAZA • San Francisco**

**Pan-Orthodox Service: 11:30 AM**

**Rally: 12:30 PM**  
**CIVIC CENTER PLAZA**  
**Info Faire: 11:00AM**  
**Saturday, January 25, 2020**

**Walk for Life WEST COAST**  
 A NEW TRADITION. A NEW VOICE.

**Pre-Rally Pan-Orthodox Molieben Service for the Sanctity of Life, Civic Center. 11:30AM (corner of Polk & Grove)**

**Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza, walking down Market Street (2 miles). Ends at Embarcadero Plaza/Ferry Building.**

BART stations at both locations. Ample parking.

Information: Veronica Ruby (510) 882-7779  
 415/658-1793 | email: [info@WalkforLifeWC.com](mailto:info@WalkforLifeWC.com) **WalkforLifeWC.com**



### Our Council Members

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*Thanks to all who contributed photos to this month’s newsletter: Nadia Stewart, Vera Peterson, Paul Johnson, Anna Judd, and Anna Ferguson.*