

# Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council News

## October–November 2020

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Issue No. 76 · www.stspproca.org  
www.facebook.com/stspproca

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### Priest's Corner

Given the new guidelines for economic recovery established by the Governor and the current situation in Sonoma County in relation to those new guidelines, it is unlikely that restrictions in our county will be lifted before the end of the year. While this is in general terms unfortunate, we are still fortunate in that we continue our church services (albeit, somewhat adapted to the current restrictions) effectively unabated. I find it interesting to note how these restrictions placed upon us by our government required us to serve Liturgy outdoors, yet the fires, which generated so much smoke as to make the air in our area unbreathable, forced us back inside. His will be done! Speaking of the fires—again, glory be to God that none of our parishioners were harmed or seriously affected by them this year, although a number of them were evacuated.

We have adapted well to the coronavirus requirements, and I do ask that we continue the good and safe practices of wearing masks in church, sanitizing our hands before entering, and maintaining a reasonable distance from one another to be sure that our so-far perfect record will not be broken. With this in mind, we will proceed with our annual Christmas Bazaar on the weekend of November 14 and 15. As a precaution, the scope of this year's Bazaar will be significantly less than usual, and we have established a number of precautions and procedures, both for those members of our parish working the Bazaar as well as for all of our guests planning to attend (see page 9).

Finally, I am very pleased with the response to our new Confession procedures, as we now have more of our parishioners coming to Confession and receiving Holy Communion on a weekly basis than in previous years. I have been told by many that the use of the General Confession before a private one has been very helpful—allowing for the “best of both worlds” and a more complete confession. Glory be to God, and I pray this not only continues, but grows.

### *Icon of the Theotokos, Protectress During the Pandemic*

May God continue to bless all of our endeavors, both spiritual and temporal. May He continue to protect our spiritual family from this new disease and every misfortune. If we continue our focus on that, which is truly most important in our lives, I am certain that His mercy will always be with us.

*God bless!*  
—Father Alexander

***May God continue to bless our endeavors, both spiritual and temporal, and protect our spiritual family from this new disease and every misfortune.***

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

- Oct. 1 – Ariadna Baranoff and Arina Posternak
- Oct. 4 – Subdeacon Dimitri Shikaloff
- Oct. 15 – Justina Montano
- Oct. 24 – Zinaida Evaschuk
- Oct. 25 – Fr. Martin Person
- Oct. 31 – Luke Roquemore
- Nov. 1 – John Poluektov
- Nov. 3 – Metropolitan Hilarion
- Nov. 4 – Anna Litvinenko
- Nov. 6 – Alexander Bodulov
- Nov. 8 – Dimitri Voronin and Demitrius Handelih
- Nov. 9 – Capitolina (Kapa) Huhalova
- Nov. 10 – Neonilla Lucas
- Nov. 16 – Protodeacon George Chrebtoff
- Nov. 19 – Paul Saharoff
- Nov. 21 – Michael Bodulov Sr., Michael Bodulov Jr., Michael Chidlowsky, Michael Kirchanski, Michael (Jerrod) Logvy, Michael McPhee, Michael Mogilev Sr., and Michael Mogilev Jr., and Subdeacon Michael Peterson

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

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



## Wedding Announcement

Congratulations to our council member, **Demetrius (Nader) Handelih**, and his fiancée **Eva Salamon** on their engagement. They will be married on November 8 at St. Michael's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, the bride's hometown, on the feast day of St. Demetrius (O.S.) before settling in Sonoma County. May God grant them many years of health, happiness, and His many blessings!



## Has Christ Not Triumphed over Death?

### *Further Reflections on the Spiritually Unhealthy Results of the Pandemic*

While this COVID-19 lockdown has forced everyone to keep social distance from one another, and in my opinion has gone beyond the ridiculous, one thing has become very clear, both to myself, and other Orthodox pastors. And that is that many contemporary people, including many Christians, as well as believing Orthodox Christians, are terrified at the idea of their physical death.

The inevitability of death is particularly difficult to face for most Americans, as we have become a people that eschew traditional funerals, preferring to “celebrate the life” of our loved one while disposing of the body and banning any sign of death from the memorial service—should we even decide to have a service. Yet the awareness of our own eventual death is the very thing we should be thinking about if we want to be prepared for Eternity.

When we live our lives focused on enjoyment, pleasure, and the acquisition of material goods, we enslave ourselves, and can only find freedom in God's love. This love creates perfection and faultlessness, and when we think on your own death we become free to perform every task for God.

Our fallen and imprisoned hearts are in need of liberation, and we long to be inflamed with the love of God. This love of God must engender a love that permeates our very essence and allows us to love every person and every creature. We must wish our hearts burn with love, a love that turns chaos into harmony.

It is Divine energy and Divine strength that would transform us into the beings God intended us to be, deifying and making our very being, whole. This

action of God would bring the chaos of our lives into harmony, and our fear of death would be dissolved and be no more.

Given the promise of eternal life, how can we Christians be afraid of death, afraid of a virus that could serve as the very vehicle to bring us into everlasting life? How can we Christians sit silently while our government issues rule after rule to keep us from the very fountain of Grace that is found in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and the reception of the Life-giving Body and Blood of our Saviour?

We Orthodox Christians must live our lives as much as possible according to the reality that Christ has risen from the dead and has defeated death, trampling down death by death, and we must shine this reality out to others.

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

## Starosta's Corner

The new fence for the entrance to the parking lot is currently being installed, and the gates are being manufactured. There's been a slight delay, as the manufacturer has been evacuated from his shop location due to the fires.

The playground has been rebuilt and filled with fresh woodchips for the children to play on.

The backup generator and transfer switch have been installed so that, within minutes, power to the essential services such as the well, freezers, refrigerators, security system, parking lot lights, and bathroom lights can be restored.

Lastly, our deepest gratitude goes out to Michael Kirchanski, who recently retired from the positions of Financial Manager and Parish Council member, for his many years of service.

—Paul Johnson  
707-696-5566; starosta@sonic.net



## Sisterhood News

Thank you very much to those of you that have been available to put on various lunches/snacks during this pandemic and with great safety measures. We even had the Peterson Family, who did a nice lunch for Katya's 16th birthday. Nice job! We have a wonderful group of ladies that I really appreciate.



Our next holiday for October and November will be the Protection of the Holy Theotokos on Sunday, October 14. Also, we are starting to prepare for our Christmas Bazaar, which will be held on Saturday, November 14, and Sunday, November 15. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Anya Krassovsky, who is scheduling all people at all stations, at 707-291-1073 or kasaak@pacbell.net. We will need people to help set up for the Bazaar. This help is needed not just the days of the bazaar, but also during the weeks before, in the efforts of cooking food items and clean-up after the Bazaar on Monday. There is lots of preparation involved, but many hands make light work.

Preorders for take-and-bake or fried piroshki, baked cocktail piroshki, borscht, and pelmeni can be made online at the church website: [stspproca.org/christmas-bazaar](http://stspproca.org/christmas-bazaar) or by signing up in the church. Preorders will be accepted only until Friday, November 13.

If you would like to help in future Sunday Lunches/Snacks or Holiday Lunches, please contact our Lunch Scheduler, Nadia Stewart, at 925-372-7838 or [nadiastew55@yahoo.com](mailto:nadiastew55@yahoo.com). We have been able to

accomplish these lunches/snacks outdoors during this restricted time under safety measures with success.

While we continue to abide by the restrictions that have been imposed on us, please do not forget our elderly, and our ailing members and shut-ins. Now more than ever, they need to know that we are thinking of them, and they could use our prayers and a reassuring card, phone call, e-mail, delivery of food items, or ride to church. If you know someone who could use support, please contact our Outreach Liaison, Anna Judd, at 707-823-2372 or [annaljudd@comcast.net](mailto:annaljudd@comcast.net). God bless!

—Nadia Stewart, Head Sister  
of the St. Olga Sisterhood

925-372-7838 ♦ [Nadiastew55@yahoo.com](mailto:Nadiastew55@yahoo.com)

Where I'm From

By: Katya Peterson

I am from snow,  
from furs and holy places.  
I am from the never ending of cold.  
(glistening, white,  
Christmas.)

I am from the white trees with black markings  
the Slavic heart

Whose spirits overcome  
with great repentance

I'm from churches and icons,  
from farming and matrosky.

I'm from the troika rides ,  
and the love,

from "vodka" and "dancing"  
I'm from "borscht"

with a dash of sour cream,  
and caviar.

I'm from deep forests and freezing lakes,  
holy men and saints.

From the east my heart  
shines,

the land my home.

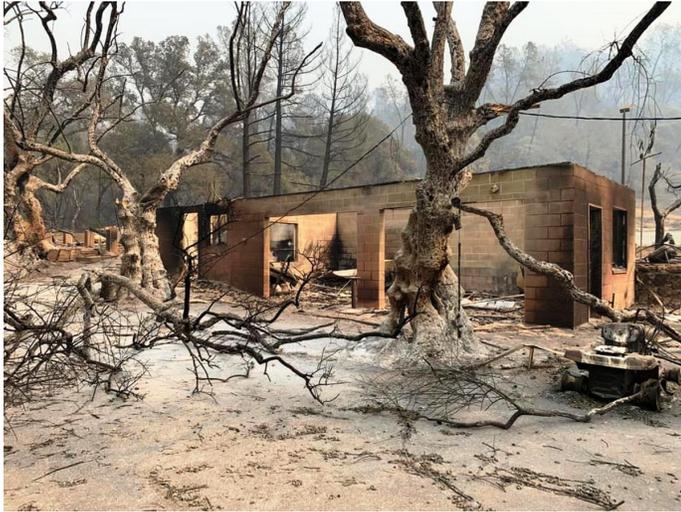
In the corner of my  
room a candle

flickers,  
prayers are said.

I am from those moments--  
everlasting --

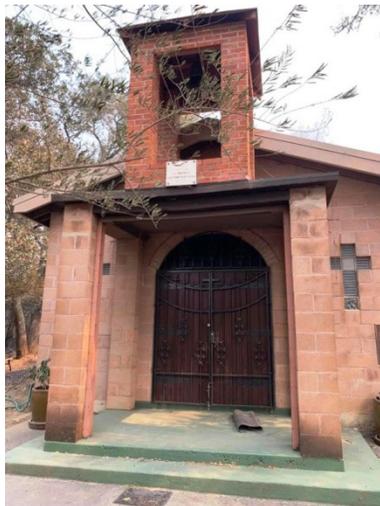
## Miracle of the Holy Great Martyr Demetrius in Calistoga

As flames from the Glass Fire threatened the town of Calistoga, the popular outdoor venue, Macedonian Park, was scorched by fire. This ten-acre site on Lommel Road, near Calistoga Ranch, was largely destroyed by the fire, which broke out on September 27. Usually, at this time of year it would be popular as a venue for weddings, baptisms, and the annual celebration of St. Demetrius's feast day.



After the smoke began to settle from the Glass Fire, which has burned 68,000 acres in Napa and Sonoma counties, a glimpse of a contemporary miracle was apparent. The entire town of Calistoga had been evacuated for over a week, including the Sisters of Holy Assumption

Monastery, and the town was threatened by fire from all sides. The St. Demetrius chapel was built in the early 1950s to honor this patron of Thessalonica, one of the most popular



Christian saints not only in Greece but throughout the Orthodox world. According to a report in the *Napa Valley Register*, the chapel at Macedonian Park is constructed of cinder block with wood beams and wooden pews inside. The other buildings on the property that burned to the ground—the bar, dance pavilion and the caretaker house—were all constructed of the same materials. While looking for evidence of fire trucks having been on the property to help extinguish the fire, George Calligers, a longtime resident of the town, said he found no tire tracks,

water, or mud. He concluded, “God was looking after the church.”



### *Life of St. Demetrius of Thessalonica*

This glorious and wonderworking saint (270–306 AD) was born in Thessalonica of noble and devout parents. Implored of God by childless parents, Demetrius was their only son, and so was raised and educated with great care. Demetrius's father was a commander in Thessalonica. When his father died, Emperor Maximian appointed Demetrius as commander in his place.

As he appointed him, Maximian, an opponent of Christ, particularly recommended that he persecute and exterminate the Christians in Thessalonica. Demetrius not only disobeyed the emperor but openly confessed and preached the Lord Jesus Christ in the city of Thessalonica. When the emperor heard of this he became furious with Demetrius. Then, when he was returning from battle against the Sarmatians, Maximian stopped at Thessalonica to investigate the matter.

The emperor summoned Demetrius and questioned him about his faith.



Demetrius openly acknowledged his Christian Faith to the emperor and also denounced the emperor's idolatry. Maximian cast Demetrius into prison. Knowing what was awaiting him, Demetrius gave all his goods to his faithful servant Lupus to distribute to the poor, and joyfully awaited his imminent suffering for Christ the Lord. An angel of God appeared to him in prison, saying: “Peace be to you, O sufferer of Christ; be brave and be strong!” After several days, the emperor sent soldiers to the prison to kill Demetrius. The soldiers found the saint of God at prayer and ran him through with lances. Christians secretly took his body and honorably buried it. Healing myrrh flowed from the body of the martyr of Christ, curing many of the sick. Soon, a small church was built over his relics.

An Illyrian nobleman, Leontius, was afflicted with an incurable illness. He hastened, with prayer, to the relics of St. Demetrius and was completely healed. In thanksgiving, Leontius erected a much larger church on the site of the old church. The saint

appeared to him on two occasions. When Emperor Justinian wanted to translate the relics of the saint from Thessalonica to Constantinople, flaming sparks sprang from the tomb and a voice was heard: "Stop, and do not touch!" And thus, the relics of St. Demetrius have remained for all time in Thessalonica. As the protector of Thessalonica, St. Demetrius has appeared many times, and on many occasions has saved Thessalonica from great calamity. His miracles are without number. The Russians consider St. Demetrius to be the protector of Siberia, which was conquered and annexed to Russia on October 26, 1581.

—From PeterandPaul.net

We will be serving Divine Liturgy to St. Demetrius on November 8 (O.S.). May he further protect us from all harm and from the destructive power of fires and other natural disasters!

### *Troparion, Tone 3*

*The whole world hath found thee/ to be a great champion amid misfortunes,/ who conquered the pagans, O passion-bearer./ Therefore, as thou didst cast down the pride of Lyaeus/ and didst appoint the bold Nestor for the struggle,// thus, O Demetrius, beseech Christ God to grant us great mercy.*

### *Kontakion, Tone 2*

*He that gaveth thee invincible strength,/ O Demetrius,/ hath dyed the Church in the streams of thy blood,/ and hath kept thy city unharmed,// for thou art its confirmation.*

### **Choir Notes**

*"And above all things, have fervent charity among yourselves.... Use hospitality one to another without grudging." —1 Peter 4:8-9*

During the recent fires, both in the eastern part of Santa Rosa, and earlier, during the Walbridge fire to our north, many of our parish community had to evacuate from their homes. We would like to offer our deep gratitude to those parishioners who hosted some of our evacuees. Our long-time choir member, Rimma Kaliakin (photo below), hosted Misha and Nadya Mogilev and Misha Jr. for the better part of a week while they waited for the all-clear to return to Bennett Valley, and even held a special name's-day dinner for

Nadya. Olga and John Reighard hosted another of our singers, Kira Poluektov, while her family was evacuated from Forestville. And our own assistant starosta, Yura Zaharoff, was evacuated from a hard-hit area of Rincon Valley (thankfully, his home was unharmed) and hosted by Sima and Loretta Wawiliuk. Michael and Patty Kirchanski were also evacuated. In addition, we were relieved to hear that Father Martin and Sarah Person, who were evacuated to Aptos from their home in Boulder Creek during the CZU Complex Fire, are now safely back in their neighborhood, some of which burned nearby. Glory to God that everyone has been safe and sheltered during these recent perilous weeks!



### **Orthodox Community Events**

- **Holy Virgin Cathedral is open for private devotion: Friday through Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m.** Maximum of 10 people inside for up to 15 minutes. Face coverings and social distancing required. 6210 Geary Blvd. San Francisco. If you would like to put up a candle of any size for an upcoming service, please visit [SFSobor.com/donate](http://SFSobor.com/donate). They anticipate being able to open for in-person services soon with restricted capacity.
- **Online Prayer Requests:** Even though the SF Cathedral is closed, services continue, and prayer requests to **St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco** can be submitted online at <http://www.sfsobor.com; St. John; Prayer Requests>. There you may provide a list of names of your relatives and friends for commemoration at the weekly *molieben* to St. John in front of his relics. The *molieben* is served every **Saturday at 4:30 p.m.** and is live streamed at <http://sfsobor.tilda.ws/livestreaming>. Please submit your list by no later than Friday at 3:00 p.m. for the following Saturday. Also, be sure to make a donation to the Cathedral to help them in this time of financial hardship. Or, write a letter to St. John, **c/o Holy Virgin**



**Cathedral, 6210 Geary Blvd. San Francisco CA 94121.** Postal only. No e-letters please.

- **Ancient Faith Radio** offers **online audio and video programming**, 24-hour Internet Orthodox talk, music radio programs, live call-in shows, podcasts, and an extensive list of downloadable Orthodox content. Listen on your computer or mobile device at <https://www.ancientfaith.com>.
- **Study of the Book of Isaiah:** Fr. James Jorgenson of St. Seraphim's Church will guide study through selected chapters on **Wed. evenings**, beginning on **October 14, at 7:00 p.m.** Sign in at the following Zoom address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91396360506?>
- **Redwood Empire Food Bank** distribution continues, and now takes place twice a month, **second and fourth Wednesdays (Oct. 14 and 28, etc.) at 3:45–5:30 p.m. St. Seraphim Orthodox Church** parking lot, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-584-9491. Please contact Lydia Nicholson if you'd like to volunteer: [lydiaddg@gmail.com](mailto:lydiaddg@gmail.com).
- **Church School at St. Seraphim's Orthodox Church** has begun its fall semester. If you would like to enroll your children in this hybrid Zoom/in-person instruction, please contact Gloria Collins at [Gypsybootsie@sonic.net](mailto:Gypsybootsie@sonic.net). Classes are organized into pre-K, Grades 1–3, Grades 4–5, Grades 6–8, and high-schoolers.
- **Catechism classes are ongoing on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m., St. Seraphim Orthodox Church**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa. Please contact Father Lawrence if you or someone you know would like to participate: [lmargitich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lmargitich@sbcglobal.net).
- **Nativity of Christ Orthodox Church, Novato**, Livestreaming of the **Paraklesis (Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos)**, in English and Greek, **Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.** Go to <https://www.nativityofchrist.org/services-live-stream> to log on.

- **Online presentation by Father Anthony Roeber**, Professor of Church History at St. Vladimir's Seminary. **November 14, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Topic: **“Sts. Martin and Philip on the Nativity Fast.”** Visit [holyassumptionmonastery.com](http://holyassumptionmonastery.com) for links to the Zoom, website, and Facebook call-in instructions.
- His Grace, **Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa**, will speak on **“Walking to Bethlehem: Spiritual Preparation for the Feast of the Nativity.”** Saturday, **December 12, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Visit [holyassumptionmonastery.com](http://holyassumptionmonastery.com) for links to the Zoom, website, and Facebook call-in instructions.
- **Holy Assumption Monastery** in Calistoga is live-streaming their services, which are also archived on their Facebook page. Daily services include Matins at 5:30 a.m., Sixth Hour at 12:30 p.m., Vespers at 6:00 p.m., and Compline at 7:30 p.m. Visit [facebook.com/holyassumptionmonastery](https://facebook.com/holyassumptionmonastery) for an up-to-date schedule and archived videos.

*Abbess Melania would like to report that after being evacuated due to the Glass Fire (to St. John of Shanghai Monastery in Manton, CA), she and the sisters thank you all for your prayers: “Thanks be to God we are back home and the monastery is in good shape. Please continue to pray for the firefighters and all affected by the fires. Thanks again!”*



## A Dispatch from the Oregon Fire Lines

Dear faithful,

I wanted to share an inspiring story in the midst of all the destruction and tragedy. As most of you know, we have a property just outside of Ashland where we are planning to build our new church. Earlier this year we finished building a perimeter fence, which parishioners stained. Right now we are having contractors working on extending the sewer line and to give our property sewer access. When the raging Alameda fire approached our church property, the contractors had only minutes to get out (our neighbor ran out to warn them of the approaching inferno). They pulled their machines and equipment onto our property, and parked them by the Cross which has been planted where the Altar will stand in the future, and they got out safe.



The fire destroyed everything in its path. Our neighbors' houses to the east and south were completely destroyed. Our neighbor to the north was protected by our wood fence, which (apparently thanks to the stain we used) worked as a fire-retardant wall, keeping the flames back.

Our entire seven-acre property is burned and charred black, except the area right around the Cross, where icons of Christ and the Mother of God have been planted! There is a circle of completely unburned grass around the Cross, where the contractors' equipment stands almost completely undamaged! The other thing untouched was the sign at the bottom of the property saying "Future home of Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church." Thanks be to God!

—In Christ, Fr. Andreas Blom  
Rector, Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church

*Father Andreas is asking for donations for his parishioners and neighbors, who are rebuilding their homes and lives after the devastating fires in their area. To donate, please make your check payable to Diocese of the West (OCA), and mail to "Fire Fund, c/o Archangel Gabriel Mission, PO Box 823, Ashland, OR 97520."*



## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS and PROCEDURES

### *For this Year's Christmas Bazaar*

In order to protect our volunteers and guests from any possible COVID-19 spread, the following precautions and procedures will be implemented:

- 1) All volunteers will be required to wear masks and gloves while working their respective stations. These items will be provided or they can bring their own.
- 2) All guests will be required to wear masks both indoors and out. Masks will be provided if a guest does not have one. The only exception is while they are seated in one of our outdoor dining areas and eating. Indoor dining is not contemplated at this time.
- 3) There will be hand sanitizer stations at all entrances to the hall, the outdoor bazaar, and the church. There will be a sign posted at each station requiring that all guests sanitize their hands before entering.
- 4) There will be a team of volunteers whose job it will be to bus the outdoor dining tables and



sanitize them after a guest leaves and before another sits in that location.

- 5) We will monitor the number of people inside the hall and outdoor bazaar to ensure plenty of room for distancing. These same monitors will remind our guests to keep their masks on at all times when away from the eating areas.
- 6) Tokens will be used for the hot piroshki/borscht purchases, the dessert table, the bar, and coffee/tea stations.



All other stations (frozen to-go and both the indoor and outdoor bazaars) will be paid with debit/credit cards, checks, or cash.

If these procedures are properly followed, we should have a safe and, God willing, successful Bazaar.



**☎ Our Council Members ☎**

- Rev. Alexander Krassovsky ..... 707-585-8330
- Paul Johnson, Warden ..... 707-696-5566
- Elisabeth Russie, Treasurer ..... 415-328-1095
- Nadia Stewart, Head Sister ..... 925-372-7838
- Lana Logvy, Secretary ..... 707-318-5836
- Fr. Deacon Athanasius Ferguson..... 707-812-4125
- Anna Ferguson ..... 707-812-4124
- Demitrios Handelih ..... 707-292-2842
- Michael A. Mogilev ..... 707-953-3636
- Joanna Smith Chidlowsky ..... 617-285-5211
- Alla Zaharoff ..... 707-387-5044
- Lana Jones, Reserve Member..... 707-528-6540





**Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church**  
Santa Rosa

**26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & FOOD FEST**

**SAT: Nov. 14, 2020 10am-3pm**  
**SUN: Nov. 15, 2020 11am-3pm**

*Xmas Items, Russian Imports & Gifts, Handcrafts, Jewelry, and much more!*

**\* HOMEMADE RUSSIAN LUNCH \***

*Fried Meat Piroshki and Vegetarian Borscht*

**\*\*\* FROZEN RUSSIAN FOOD TO GO \*\*\***

*Russian Mustard & Homemade Bread*  
*Russian Desserts \* Baked Goods \* Chocolate Truffles*

*Sales of handcrafts & religious items by the nuns from Holy Assumption Monastery*  
*Docent Church Tours*

*For Pre Orders, please order and pay through our Church Site*  
*Stsproca.org/christmas-bazaar*

850 St. Olga Ct. Santa Rosa, off Stony Point Road  
½ mile north of Todd Rd. Look for the GOLD DOMES!



***The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the Admin Building.***

