

# Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council News

## April–May 2021

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### Priest's Corner

How wonderful it is to see how Great Lent has begun for us this year in an almost normal fashion. Glory be to God! Our church was open to everyone for all of the very special Lenten services; our Sisterhood conducted their first meeting in nearly a year and are well into their plans for weekly lunches, feast day banquets, church decorations, and all of the other wonderful things our sisters do for our parish; we conducted our first spiritual discussions with both the adults (thanks to Father John Schettig for this!) and the youth; the Annual General Parish Meeting took place on the second Sunday of Lent for the first time in nearly two years; choir practices have resumed; and life in our parish is beginning, once again, to blossom and prosper, and not to merely “get by” as we have been doing for so much of this past year.

Now that restrictions on our church are being lifted and we are again free to engage in all of our parish activities, I call upon all of our parishioners and friends to reengage in that spiritual life. Consider the words of our Heavenly patron, St. Paul, who wrote: **“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”** (Hebrews 2:2)

It is time to come back to church. While the streaming of services was helpful during the lockdown periods of the now-waning pandemic, we cannot allow it to take the place of our physical presence in church. For those who stayed away out of concern for their well-being or safety—legitimate concerns during this unprecedented time, to be sure—it is the ideal time to restart the life-preserving practices of participating in the Divine services and partaking of the Holy Sacraments here, in the hospital of our *souls*. By the Grace of God, not a single individual attending our church was infected or became ill as a result of their being in church. Those very few individuals who were infected from other sources wisely stayed home and

did not bring any threat to those who were in church. Thank God, they have all safely recovered and all are well.

In addition to the words of St. Paul noted earlier, I wish to remind all of us that the restrictions brought about by this pandemic last year came during the most holy time of the year—Great Lent, a time when we wished to be in church, repenting of our sins and receiving the saving Grace of the Holy Mysteries. Even Holy Week and Pascha services were restricted. Let us

*Let us not allow ourselves to become complacent about our spiritual or temporal lives, “lest we drift away.”*

learn the lessons taught to us by the loss of our church during Lent and Pascha last year and not repeat the mistakes in our personal lives that contributed to this unprecedented pandemic, for indeed, *“if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?”* Instead of being

afraid of such a judgment against us, let us commit ourselves to doing what we know to be right and come back to God’s House with gratitude for the opportunity to be here to receive His merciful forgiveness, and with great joy in being able to celebrate His sacrifice and His resurrection, which opens the doors to our own!

***Glory to Thy passion, O Christ! Glory to Thy most Holy Resurrection, O Lord! Truly Our Lord is risen!***

*God bless!  
—Father Alexander*

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

- April 5 – Lydia Ammosow, Lydia Reoutt, Lydia Romanovsky, and Lydia Sinkevich
- April 8 – Alla Zaharoff, Larissa Krassovsky, and Larissa Saschin
- April 14 – Maria Markoff
- May 5 – Maria (Ferguson) Acquaye
- May 6 – Anatoly Avdienko, George Franke-Zaharoff, George Lucas, Alexandra Huhlov, Alexandra Krassovsky, Alexandra Logvy, and Alexandra Stewart
- May 8 – Marcus Schluter

- May 15 – Zoya Litvinenko
- May 17 – Pelagea (Paula) Cesik-Karuzic
- May 18 – Irina Saschin
- May 22 – Nicholas Spring, Nicholas Schneider,  
Nicholas Cesik-Karuzic, and Christopher Jones
- May 24 – Kyrill Mogilev and Kyrill Logvy
- May 25 – Herman Schneider
- May 27 – Max (Holvardt) Reighard
- May 30 – Svetlana Jones and Svetlana Logvy

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

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



Our parish celebrated the birthday of Andrei Peterson (and Father Alexander too!) on the second Sunday of Lent. Andrei, who turned 21 this year, has enlisted in the Navy and is scheduled to “shove off” in June. We congratulate Andrei and pray for God’s protection and blessings for him during his time in the military.

### ***In Memoriam***

With a degree of sadness but, as always, with faith in our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, we note the passing of **Barbara Kondrasheff**, who departed this life on March 26, 2021, after a long illness.

May God grant rest to the soul of His newly reposed servant **Barbara**, and I ask that you remember her in your prayers both in church and at home. Our condolences go out to her family. ***Memory eternal!***

### **Living Our Lives in Total Commitment**

Christianity is a religion of asceticism, instructing us to store up our treasures in heaven, where the benefits have eternal value. Throughout the New Testament, we read of the importance of struggle, where focus on the acquisition of a humble and contrite heart is paramount to what it means to be a Christian. The Lord Jesus Christ tells us that if we are to be worthy of Him, we must be willing to take up our cross and follow Him. We are to be a people whose true homeland is Christ’s Kingdom, which is within. Christ Himself calls us to holiness, and this change of heart can be brought about only through struggle.

Our world places a great deal of emphasis on being comfortable, and we tend to avoid anything that does not bring pleasure. If being open about our Christian faith invites ridicule, we remain silent. If keeping the fasting rules of the Church prevents us from enjoying evenings out with our friends, we ignore the fast. If voicing disapproval when hearing our Christian faith being trashed makes us appear less cool, we choose to go the route of the politically correct. Is it any wonder we are therefore unprepared to stand firm when faced with real trials that come our way, having avoided the very things that would transform us into strong, committed Christians?

If we embrace Christianity with dedication of heart and mind, we will receive the power to live in this world, filled as it is with temptations and disappointments, yet remaining true to our vocation as a holy people. Committing ourselves to being full-time Christians empowers us to live our lives in such a way that we give glory and witness to the very Christ Whom we worship. If, however, we avoid ascetic struggle and choose to keep our Christian faith sidelined, and reject real commitment, we will ultimately have become Christian in name only.

For those who, out of laziness or personal selfishness, choose to relegate fasting, private prayer, and even church attendance to something done only when we feel “in the mood,” we will stand before the Throne of God, in the end, with a darkened heart that cannot withstand the power of God, and eternity will be for us a lake of fire.

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.” (Luke 9:24).

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



## Starosta's Corner

This year's General Meeting covered the past two years, as we postponed 2020 meeting due to COVID-19. This last year has seen the most improvements since the rebuilding of the church in the 1990s.

Secure and decorative automatic wrought-iron gates were installed, along with a concrete platform for our trash receptacles. Sections of sidewalk have been replaced. Three new mid-sized cupolas made from fiberglass will replace the existing ones that have deteriorated considerably. The disruptive trees were uprooted, and electrical conduit and water lines and a new parking surface were installed in the front lot. The parking area in the back was expanded, leveled, and resurfaced with compacted gravel, eliminating all the uneven surfaces. Cement beams rather than wood were installed under our new Trex deck, which should last indefinitely. The deck was finished with an attractive and safe railing, and we have new round tables with chairs and umbrellas with which we can enjoy outdoor dining.

The floor inside the church was refinished and our playground was upgraded. A backup generator has been installed to protect our freezers, refrigerators, well, security system, and lighting.



The cemetery project has been set back somewhat due to Sonoma County's accounting process, which we take issue with. We have complied with all their demands for studies of wetlands, groundwater contamination, traffic impact, salamanders, federally protected flowers, and building and property redesign, and in return they are billing us for six times the costs they initially quoted. We have an upcoming meeting scheduled with our cemetery committee and the County's General Counsel, Auditor, and project leaders and are hoping for a favorable outcome.

Owing to the resignations of Michael Kirchanski as Financial Manager, Lana Jones as reserve Council member, and Lana Logvy as Secretary, we needed to elect new members and officers. We thank all three for

their many years of service. Elisabeth Russie will become the official Treasurer, Anna Ferguson will be the new Parish Secretary, and Daniel Alva will be the new Council member. In addition, Eva Handelih will join the Audit Committee as a Reserve Member, and John Reighard will join the Cemetery LLC board.

—Paul Johnson

707-696-5566; starosta@sonic.net



## Sisterhood News

The Sisterhood has been glad to resume our traditional activities. We are restarting Sunday and holiday luncheons as well as planning for the annual Christmas Bazaar in the fall. Sales of pelmeniy, kulichi, and pascha are going well. We are also planning to host the clergy dinner for Tuesday, April 13, after the service of Holy Unction.

We recently hosted our first successful holiday lunch in many months, for Annunciation, April 7. Thank you to those who helped make the menu so appealing. We raised over \$500 in sales, so thanks to all who came and supported our newly reopened event. Our next major holiday is Palm Sunday, April 25. We still need volunteers to help put together *verbiy* bouquets, and if you have any flowers to donate, they will be gladly accepted. Also, if you would like to help out on future Sunday or holiday lunches, please contact me, Nadia Stewart.

We continue to take preorders for cheese *pascha* and *kulich*, which will be available for pick-up on Palm Sunday and have *tvorog* (farmers' cheese) and vanilla sticks available for purchase. Please contact Nadia Stewart for preorders and purchases at [Nadiastew55@yahoo.com](mailto:Nadiastew55@yahoo.com) or 925-372-7838, or look for the preorder sign-up sheets at the church candle counter.

Please do not forget our ailing members and those who are not able to come to church or are sheltering in

place. They could always use our prayers and maybe even a cheerful visit or phone call. We will be needing people to donate their time to put together baskets for these folks closer to Easter. For more information, please contact our Outreach Liaison, Anna Judd, at 707-823-2372 or annaljudd@comcast.net.

At our Annual Sisterhood Meeting, held on March 21, I was reelected as Head Sister, with Sharon Buot (Kardashiantz) as my Assistant. Vera Williams was elected to assume duties as Treasurer. Please warmly welcome and support Sharon and Vera in their new roles and help them to learn from your experience!

As for the 2020 year in review, we made no major purchases in the past year but are hoping to raise funds for the long-overdue kitchen upgrade. Although we were able to contribute only \$10,000 to the church, about one-third of normal, we expect to be back on track this year. Thanks, as always, to everyone for their continuing support of and dedication to the Sisterhood!

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



## Recipe Corner: Greek White Bean Soup (Fasolada)

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup dried white cannellini beans or two 15-ounce cans, drained
- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ cup chopped white or yellow onion
- ½ cup chopped celery (~2 large stalks)
- ¾ cup chopped carrots (~2 medium carrots)
- 1 cup fresh chopped parsley
- 1 tsp. salt / 1 tsp. fresh ground pepper
- 1 tsp. crushed oregano
- 5 cups of water

1. When using dried beans, soak overnight (~10 hours) covered by at least 3 inches of water. Once you're ready to start cooking, drain beans and set aside.



2. In a 3-quart saucepan, heat olive oil on low and add the onions and celery; stir gently.
3. Cook for 5 minutes and add carrots; stir to combine.
4. Cook for 5 minutes and add beans, herbs, and spices; stir to combine.

5. Cook for 5 more minutes and add the water. Bring to a low boil and cook uncovered for ~1 hour until beans are tender but not mushy.

—GreekVegan.com

## 🎵 Choir Notes 🎵

Rehearsals are continuing for the remaining Sundays of Lent: April 18 and 25. As we draw near to the close of Great Lent and approach Holy Week, we would like to thank all the choir members for their dedication and practice, both at home and in rehearsals. Also, thanks go to the dedicated kliros chanters/readers who make the special Lenten weekday and Saturday morning services possible. Please see Joanna for any copies of music to take home or for other questions: LisaJoanna.Smith@gmail.com or 617-285-5211.

The All-European Church Music Committee is continuing their series of webinars on various practical topics on kliros, choir, singing, and the eight-tone system. Webinars will take place every other Thursday. The next dates are from April 22 through July 29 at 20:00 CET (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PT) via Zoom. The duration of each session is 1.5 hours, with Q&A following. Webinars will be in Russian, English and French with synchronous translation. To register, visit [www.aecmc.org](http://www.aecmc.org).



### “Take Note” Choir Tip: Liturgical Variations When a Deacon Serves

There are some minor differences in the Divine Liturgy that occur when a deacon serves with a priest, and the choir should be aware of them in general. There are changes in the tempo of some of the responses to the litany petitions, and although the choir should always watch the conductor, it helps to be prepared. When a priest serves without a deacon, the priest has to recite

the “quiet” or “secret” prayers in addition to chanting the litany petitions, so the choir will sing their responses more slowly at those times to “cover” the time the priest needs to complete the prayers.

Also, when a deacon serves, the prayer “O Lord save the pious, and hearken unto us!” is chanted by the deacon at the end of the final Kontakion and before the Trisagion hymn. The choir responds by chanting the same prayer in response to the deacon as they are directed.

—Nina Russo



### Orthodox Community Events

- **Spiritual Talks by Father Alexander (youth) and Father John Schettig (adults), Sundays in April** following Divine Liturgy. Sts. Peter & Paul Church, 850 St. Olga Ct., Santa Rosa.
- **Holy Virgin Cathedral is open for public services.** 6210 Geary Blvd. San Francisco. **Online prayer requests to St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco** can be submitted online at <http://www.sfsobor.com>; St. John; Prayer Requests. The molieben is served every **Saturday at 4:30 p.m.** and is now open for worshippers as well as being broadcast at <http://sfsobor.tilda.ws/livestreaming>.
- **Orthodox Scripture Study:** Fr. James Jorgenson of St. Seraphim’s Cathedral will guide study through the Book of Proverbs on Zoom, **Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** Please e-mail Father Lawrence at [LMargitich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LMargitich@sbcglobal.net) to be added to the mailing list.
- **Redwood Empire Food Bank** distribution takes place **second and fourth Wednesdays at 4:00–5:30 p.m., April 14 and 28, St. Seraphim Orthodox Church** parking lot, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-584-9491. Please contact Lydia Nicholson to volunteer: [lydiaddg@gmail.com](mailto:lydiaddg@gmail.com).
- **Saint Seraphim Week, June 14–18, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** The theme this year will be “Singing to the Lord a New Song!” This will be for ages 12 and under.

*This year, the General Unction Service will be presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Kyrill at Sts. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church, Santa Rosa, on Tuesday, April 13, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Please make sure you are up to date and have had a recent confession, or arrive early to do so. (Note: Children under age 7 do not partake of this sacrament.)*

Children 5 and under need to have a parent, grandparent, godparent, or an adult with them. Teenagers can sign up to help and will be given instructions beforehand. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa. Please contact Gloria Collins for more info: [Gypsybootsie1@gmail.com](mailto:Gypsybootsie1@gmail.com).

- **4th Annual Youth Work Week** to build an Orthodox monastery on a thousand acres of God’s “Big Sky” country, **St. Peter Monastery, Harrison, Montana, June 27–July 3, 2021.** Camper age: 14–22 years. This is a wonderful time of prayer, work, reflection, personal growth, fellowship, and fun. Visit <https://www.stpetersmonastery.com/camps> or contact Fr. David Morrison in Bozeman, MT, for more info: [frdavid@orthodoxbozeman.org](mailto:frdavid@orthodoxbozeman.org).
- **St. Eugene’s Orthodox Youth Summer Camp** resumes on **July 11–17, 2021** and will be held at Camp Arroyo in Livermore: [www.uccr.org/camparroyo](http://www.uccr.org/camparroyo) with the appropriate safety precautions. Early-bird pricing: \$545 per child. For more information or to register, please contact Priest Andrew Smith, Director, at [director@steugenecamp.org](mailto:director@steugenecamp.org), or visit their website: [www.steugenecamp.org](http://www.steugenecamp.org). St. Eugene’s is an Orthodox Christian Summer camp for youth ages 7–17 organized by the OCA Diocese of the West.



- **Diaconal Vocations Program Practicum:** tentatively scheduled for **July 26–29, St. Seraphim Orthodox Church**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa. Stay tuned for details.
- **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, August 2-14, 2021**, led by His Eminence Metropolitan Mark of Berlin and Germany, to coincide with the feast day celebrations at Gethsemane Convent. Visits to the great holy sites of Jerusalem and environs: Bethlehem, Jericho, Hebron, Galilee, Lake of Gennesaret, the Jordan River, convents of the Russian Church Abroad on the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, and the Sepulcher of the Lord. This event will depend on the epidemiological situation. For further information, contact Protodeacon Varfolomej Bazanov at vb@sobor.de.

**☎ Our Council Members ☎**

- Rev. Alexander Krassovsky ..... 707-585-8330
- Fr. Deacon Athanasius Ferguson..... 707-812-4125
- Paul Johnson, Warden ..... 707-696-5566
- Elisabeth Russie, Treasurer ..... 415-328-1095
- Nadia Stewart, Head Sister ..... 925-372-7838
- Anna Ferguson, Secretary ..... 707-812-4124
- Daniel Alva ..... 707-570-7787
- Demitrios Handelih ..... 707-292-2842
- Lana Logvy ..... 707-318-5836
- Michael A. Mogilev ..... 707-953-3636
- Joanna Smith Chidlowsky ..... 617-285-5211
- Alla Zaharoff ..... 707-387-5044



**Meeting Notice:**  
 ➤ *Parish Council meeting: Tuesday, April 20, 6:00 p.m., in the Admin Building.*

