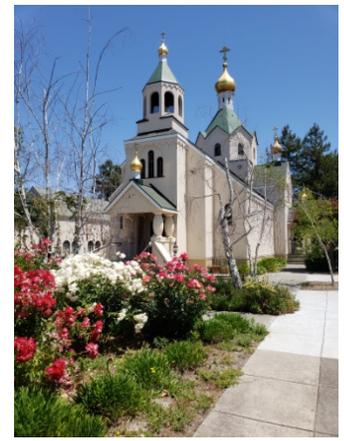


Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council News

June–July 2021

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Issue No. 80 · www.stspproca.org
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Priest's Corner

“Through the prophets Thou didst open to us the path of salvation, and through the apostles, O Our Savior, did the Grace of Thy Spirit shine forth. Thou art the first God, the only One, since, and unto all the ages, Thou art our God!”

—*Service for Holy Pentecost*

These words from the Vigil service of Holy Pentecost are written on the arch above our altar celebrating the completion of the revelation of God to all mankind. They express, most eloquently, the profound significance of the earthly life of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ as the pivotal moment in human history. Indeed, the same Creator, who inspired the Old Testament prophets to prepare the world for the coming of the Savior, now grants to fallen mankind, through the Holy Apostolic Church, the renewal of God's Grace. The gates of heaven have been opened to us through the sacrifice and resurrection of Our Savior. Our humanity has been sanctified and deified by the one God-Man Jesus Christ, who now “sittest at the right hand of the Father” (Mark 16:19). The New Testament Church – the Living Body of Christ – is now the ever-new vessel of that Divine Grace, the well of “living water” that cannot be exhausted.

We have every reason in the world to be comforted in our difficulties, to be strengthened in our earthly trials, and to have hope in an eternal future in the blessedness of the Heavenly kingdom, for: *“We have seen the True Light, we have received the Heavenly Spirit, we have found the True Faith.... Let us worship the Undivided Trinity, Who has saved us!”*



By the Grace of God and the tireless efforts of our Cemetery Project Manager Todd Stewart and his team, the Sonoma County Planning Commission – on the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ – accepted and authorized the Mitigated Negative Declaration for our churchyard cemetery. This decision by the Planning Commission means that, once all of the environmental mitigation items noted in the Declaration are satisfied, we have the County's

permission to establish and operate a churchyard cemetery on the property immediately to the north of the existing church property. There is still a great deal of work (and cost) ahead in completing these mitigation requirements and beginning construction. Nevertheless, we have overcome the most difficult hurdle to making this long-awaited project a reality. As we work through these aforementioned mitigation tasks, we will keep our Orthodox Community at large informed of our progress and pray that, with God's help and yours, we will finally be able to announce the opening of this most needed and awaited cemetery. Glory be to God!

God bless!

—*Father Alexander*

Congratulations to all our Name's day celebrants*:

- June 3 – Elena Avdienko, Elena Lowery, Elena Mogilev, Elena Piskuleva, Elena Poluektov, Elena Powers, Elena Voronina, Konstantin Nigodoff, and Konstantin Pavloff
- June 6 – Victoria Chandler, Victoria Kochergin, Victoria Levchenko, Victoria McPhee, and Victoria Newton
- June 27 – Yulia Zolotuhina
- July 2 – Joanna Chidlow
- July 3 – Rimma Kaliakin
- July 12 – Starosta Paul Johnson, Peter Balitsky, and Peter Loginoff
- July 17 – Alexandra Chidlow and Elizabeth (Lisa) Thompson
- July 24 – Olga Ammosow, Olga Baranoff, Olga Hidchenko-Lysenko, Olga (Grete) Reighard, Olga Saschin, Olga Sokoloff, Olga Smith, and our St. Olga Sisterhood
- July 28 – Vladimir Konstantinov, Vladimir Koretsky, and Vladimir (Val) Pavloff
- July 30 – Matushka Margarita Poluektov, Margarita Abrahams, Marina Alva, Marina Chidlow, Margarita McPhee, and Marina Velichinsky

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!*

In Memoriam

With a degree of sadness but, as always, with faith in our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, we note that **Herman Schneider** – a long-time friend of many of our parishioners and former singer in our choir – passed away peacefully on May 29, 2021, after a long illness.

Elena Tsitrikova–Daniels, our energetic and much beloved church school teacher, passed away on May 6, 2021. She taught many of our children for years in our church school, which she effectively developed and ran. Her enthusiasm and love for her students made their schoolwork enjoyable. Her teaching of God’s Law (*Zakon Bozhiya*) and bringing the schoolchildren to church when services were held on Saturdays brought them ever closer to the Faith. Elena Dimitrievna moved to Washington State in recent years and was active in the parish of St. Silouan in Walla Walla, again working with children until a sudden and serious illness forced her to retire. May God grant eternal rest to our dear schoolteacher and reward her bountifully for the her efforts on behalf of our young people and for the love she showed them!

May God grant rest to the souls of His newly departed servants **Herman** and **Elena**, and I ask that you remember them in your prayers both in church and at home. *Memory eternal!*

The Mystery of the Church: The Corporate Nature of Salvation

There is a certain emptiness in trying to live the Christian life outside the life of the Church. This is because it is impossible to truly live as a Christian without the Church. The reading of the scriptures, and our commitment to prayer, are important foundations in the life of a Christian, but they are incomplete without the mystical and sacramental life that is found within the Church.

If we hope to grow spiritually, we will take advantage of the Mysteries [sacraments] that are found only within the Church. Without the Mystery of Penance and the absolution of the Church, we have no hope of transformation and holiness, for without the corporate life of the Church, our



sins keep us captive. Without the Mystery of Christ’s Body and Blood, received during the celebration of the Church’s Divine Liturgy, the healing of the soul remains undone, and salvation is next to impossible.

The center of the Church’s Eucharistic Liturgy is to be found in the descent, the appearance, the divine presence of the resurrected Christ, and is central to every moment of the Liturgy. As believers, the partaking of Holy Communion is actually that moment when we are encountering the living person of the Lord, Who enters the congregation as “King of the universe borne invisibly over their spears by the angelic hosts.” This act is so central to the life of a Christian as to make it the necessary component to being a Christian.

“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



Pascha Means Rebirth—This Year More Than Ever

After 2020’s COVID-related disruptions, we were blessed to have the opportunity to celebrate Easter this year with the appropriate services, especially during the week of the Lord’s Passion. The reading of the Twelve Gospels was well attended, and the choir did a masterful job of singing the long and lovely service. The veneration of the Holy Shroud also took place on Holy Friday, as did the Burial of Jesus, with its Procession of the Cross around the church.

The Sisterhood, as in past years, carried out its many duties, and parishioners went home with their kulichi and pascha to enjoy the Holy Day and break the fast. The church was lavishly decorated with copious flowers even though Easter lilies were impossible to obtain due to the much earlier date of Catholic Easter (five weeks apart). Our usual suppliers were all sold out and could not provide us with a single pot of lilies. We used Calla lilies instead, which were generously provided by a good friend of our church.

The Paschal services concluded with the Sisterhood's festive meal (*razgovleniye*) attended by many of our regulars, and for the first time in over a long and painful year, we began to feel that, by God's Grace, things were beginning to get back to normal.



A service was also held on Monday morning as before, which mirrored the midnight celebration of Pascha. Although that service has been served for many years, it appears that not all of our parishioners were aware of it. So this is a reminder to all those who cannot attend the midnight service that they may participate in a beautiful Paschal Liturgy on Bright Monday (as well as on Bright Saturday) and hear the joyous news of Christ's Resurrection on that day. Christ is Risen, dear brothers and sisters! Verily, He is Risen!

—Lana Logvy



Starosta's Corner

I would like to thank all in our community who wrote letters to the Sonoma County Commissioners on behalf of the cemetery project. On June 10, the feast day of the Ascension of our Lord, with the vote being 5 to 0,

the Planning Commission granted us a Conditional Use Permit.

The following letter is from Todd Stewart, the Cemetery Project Manager, without whom this project would not have been possible. We are eternally grateful for Todd's expertise in engineering and project management and his tireless efforts on behalf of the church.



—Paul Johnson

707-696-5566; starosta@sonic.net



Subject: County Commissioners Meeting on Cemetery Approval

Dear All,

We achieved an important milestone today, winning unanimous approval from Sonoma County Commissioners for a Conditional Use Permit for the Churchyard Cemetery Project. Our assembled team put forth a well-conceived project developed in an environmentally sensitive manner.

This is not the end of the road, however. We still have work to do with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Army Corps of Engineers to address mitigation and wetlands issues and will need a permit from each of them as well. However, the County CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act] permit is the big one we needed to get past.

Also, please share with the Orthodox community that the Commissioners acknowledged the widespread support for the project, having received in excess of 92 letters in support versus two letters opposed. This demonstrated support is extremely important to the Commissioners, as they recognize that this project is important to a broad swath of their constituents.

Major thanks also go to Father for his moving presentation on behalf of the project covering the spiritual and economic realities that Orthodox Christians are dealing with these days without a churchyard cemetery option.

Please share this email with others.

Kind Regards,
Todd Stewart
Director, Sts. Peter and Paul Fund, LLC

Sisterhood News

I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe! Once again, I would like to thank Lana Logvy and Sharon Kardashiantz for doing all the flowers in the church during the Easter season. Thank you, Vika Kochergin and all who helped her decorate the church for Easter. And thank you to the Sisters who made all the kulichi and cheese pascha for the preorders.



Easter baskets were delivered to our shut-ins. Thanks to Anna Judd for organizing the baskets and coordinating the delivery of these baskets and all who helped and that did the deliveries. Many were very touched at receiving these baskets. Please do not forget our ailing members and shut-ins. They could always use our prayers, visits, and phone calls. For more information, please contact our Outreach Liaison, Anna Judd, at 707-823-2372 or annajudd@comcast.net. See her essay that follows.

Thank you to all who have been hosting our recent Sunday and holiday lunches, including for the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday, June 10. Our upcoming holidays are Pentecost Sunday, June 20, and our parish feast day of Saints Peter and Paul on Monday, July 12. Now that restrictions have been lifted, and California is officially reopened (as of June 15), we are able to resume somewhat normal lunches. If you would like to help out for future Sunday or holiday lunches, please contact me, Nadia Stewart, at 925-372-7838 or nadiastew55@yahoo.com.

Our next *pelmeniy*-making session and Sisterhood meeting are to be determined at a later date.

Thanks, as always, to everyone for your continuing support of and dedication to our Sisterhood!

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

925-372-7838 ♦ Nadiastew55@yahoo.com



It Is in Giving That We Receive

For the past thirteen years, the two biggest feast days in the Orthodox Christian calendar – Pascha and Nativity (Christmas) – have been highlighted by visiting the elderly and shut-ins.

It is a dream come true for me. In 2008, I remember feeling terribly sick while going through lengthy, aggressive chemotherapy treatments. I was touched by the outpouring of support from my husband's synagogue – total strangers brought me flowers and fruit baskets, cooked dinners for my family, and drove our son to his activities. It turned out that synagogues had special Caring Groups that took care of the sick. Unfortunately, I did not see a similar group in our church. So I thought to myself, if God is going to grant me healing, then I will do my best to start something that will bring support to those in need. With God's Grace, I did recover, and I did start putting together festive gift baskets for the elderly and infirm.

It is hard to describe the quiet yet palpable joy and gratitude I see in the eyes of the recipients of our gift baskets and the profound sense of connection with these vulnerable and lonely people that I feel when I visit them.



Like everyone else, I love spending holidays in the circle of my family and friends, at a table loaded with all the delicious festive foods; still, nothing besides the church services touches my heart more deeply than visiting the elderly and the infirm on the day of Nativity and on Easter Sunday.

This year on Easter Sunday, I was visiting a very frail lady called Luda, among the others on my list. When I arrived at her room in the assisted living facility, she was laying in her bed almost motionless. She was awake but did look at me when I greeted her with an enthusiastic "Christ Is Risen!" and offered her a beautiful basket filled with Easter treats. However, her look was tired and withdrawn, and I could not even

tell if she had heard me or understood what I was trying to say.

I asked for permission to spend some time visiting with Luda and was allowed to sit next to her on her bed. I started talking about how wonderfully decorated our church was for the holiday and how great the Easter services had been. As I kept talking, I saw Luda's eyes become more and more focused on me, and when I finally exclaimed again "Christ is Risen!", she had a semblance of a smile on her face, and I felt a wonderful connection. Then, still mostly motionless, Luda made a great effort to stretch out her arm and reach for my hand with hers. I saw her joy and it melted my heart. The caretaker at the facility where Luda is living noticed an amazing change in Luda's face and thanked me again and again for coming over and uplifting her patient.

I know that we are all super-busy and have lots of responsibilities, but I would invite all of you to somehow find a time to reach out and visit the people on our infirm and shut-in list. Or to make a phone call or send a card. By making a simple effort to connect and show your love, you will be rewarded beyond belief. As the saying goes, "It is in giving that we receive..." How true.

By going out of our way to find some time to visit our elderly and infirm brothers and sisters, we fill our lives with blessings while giving a gift of our love to someone who sorely needs it.

I am so grateful to everyone who participates in putting together our Nativity and Easter gift baskets. It is a beautiful tradition. I am doing my best to involve our parish kids because I deeply believe that we need

to teach them that holidays are not so much about receiving gifts as giving gifts to others.

And it is not just about the holidays: Our infirm and shut-ins can benefit from our attention year-round. Don't wait until next Christmas to reach out to them. Make a phone call tomorrow or buy and deliver a bouquet of flowers. Show that you love and care, and you will be rewarded by a soft, joyful glow that lingers in your heart.

—Anna Judd

🎵 Choir Notes 🎵



Rehearsals will start up again to prepare for our parish Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul (July 11/12): Please stay to participate after Divine Liturgy on June 27 and July 4 from approximately 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Thanks again to all the choir members for their dedication and practice, both at home and in rehearsals. 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 June 17 (Women on the Kliros) and July 1 and 8 (Eight Tones) at 20:00 Central European Time (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. The fee is ~\$9 per webinar. Contact Arseny Kruglov for more details: contact@aecmc.org.

The Synodal Liturgical Music Commission will hold its **Summer 2021 Liturgical Music School** session in person at the stavropighial Dormition of the Mother of God Convent in Novo-Diveevo, **Nanuet**,



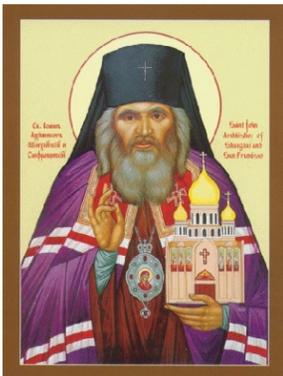
New York, July 18–31, 2021. Details are available at <http://synodalschool.com/summer-2021-session-details>. Scholarships are available from our choir fund. Please contact Joanna if you would like to attend: LisaJoanna.Smith@gmail.com or 617-285-5211.

“Take Note” Choir Tip: Some Thoughts on Basic Singing

Singing is primarily a mental concept. Unlike pressing piano keys or strumming guitar strings, your brain must tell the vocal cords that you were born with what sound to produce — song, not speech. Your brain also needs something to imitate, which when you are young is music that you have heard either from people singing or from instruments. If you learn how to “read” sheet music, your memory is translating what you “see” on the page into a memory of what you have heard in the past. You also have to control your breathing and figure out what syllable to sing with what note, which can be a challenge if the score is not in your first language! And if you’re singing in a choir, you have to follow the director. Considering all these aspects of singing, though it may seem simple, will go a long way toward helping the vocalist learn and incorporate singing techniques and also help with studying music in general.

—Nina Russo

Feast Day of St. John of San Francisco the Wonderworker



The Cathedral is waiting to see how open the City of San Francisco will be in time for the celebration of the feast day of St. John of Shanghai. Livestreaming will continue for the festal services. The schedule for this year’s celebration is as follows, and capacity limits will be announced closer to the dates:

Thursday, July 1: Transfer of St John’s reliquary to the center of the Cathedral and Akathist at 7:30 p.m. The main church services will be **Friday, July 2:** All-Night Vigil at 6:00 p.m. On **Saturday, July 3,** the hierarchical Liturgy will begin with the greeting of the Bishop at 8:45 a.m., followed by Liturgy at 9:00 and a procession and molieben. Holy Virgin Cathedral, 6210 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 94141. For more information, please email the Cathedral Starosta, Nick Buick, at SfStarosta@outlook.com.



Orthodox Community Events

- **Saint Seraphim Week, June 14–18, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.** The theme this year will be “Singing to the Lord a New Song!” This will be for ages 12 and under. 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. Fathers Nicholas Carr, James Jorgensen or Lawrence Margitich will open each morning in the Protection Church with a prayer and a short lesson of the kids. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa. Please contact Gloria Collins for more info: 707-849-6135 or Gypsybootsie1@gmail.com.
- With His Eminence Archbishop Peter’s blessing, this year summer courses will be offered in the **Pastoral School of the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America, June 21–August 7.** Applications for admission are due June 14, 2021. The following courses will be offered: Liturgics, Intermediate/Advanced Church Slavonic; Parish Management and Operations; Thesis Writing; New Testament Greek; New Testament Latin; Pivotal Points in the History of ROCOR; and Planting and Starting a New Mission. All courses are available to the public without the need for a formal application to their complete diploma program. To register, please visit <http://www.orthodoxtheologicalschool.org/190505-class-registration.php>. For more information,





please contact the Dean of the Pastoral School, Archpriest Gregory Joyce at fr.gregory.joyce@orthodoxtheologicalschool.org.

- **Divine Liturgy** is being served one Saturday each month at 9:30 a.m., followed by a potluck outdoor lunch. **Our Lady of Kazan church, 17370 Neely Rd., Guerneville (Russian River)** (photo above). The next service dates are **Saturday, June 26 and July 24**. Please email Julia Lavroushin to be added to the mailing list: jlavroushin@yahoo.com.
- **Holy Virgin Cathedral is open for public services and private devotion: Mon.–Sat., 7:30–9:30 a.m. and 5:00–8:00 p.m. and Sundays, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** 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 of Appearances of the Resurrected Christ: Zoom, **Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.: June 16, 23, etc.** Please e-mail Father Lawrence at 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., St. Seraphim Orthodox Church** parking lot, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-584-9491. Please contact Lydia Nicholson to volunteer: lydiaddg@gmail.com.
- **St. George Pathfinders Summer Camps** will resume this year: one for older scouts (*razvedchiki* and *razvedchitzi*) at Huntington Lake organized and led by Druzhina Nizhni Novgorod (**June 27–July 10**) and one for younger scouts (*belochki* and *volchata*) in Laytonville, **July 17–31**. Download the registration forms at http://sgpsf.org/about_ru.html. Contact Michael Danich for more information at 415-271-8344 or danich@pacbell.net.

- **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.
- **Mon., July 5, Pilgrimage to Fort Ross (OCA)** (photo below), 10:30 a.m. Fort Ross State Historic Park, 11 miles north of Jenner on Hwy 1. Clergy and faithful are invited to participate. Bring a folding chair, hat, and umbrella, and a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds following hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Visit https://www.dowoca.org/cs_events/fort-ross-fourth-of-july-pilgrimage-2021/ for more details and photos.





*A reminder to all that our Parish
Feast Day is Monday, July 12. We
plan to greet His Grace Bishop
Theodosy just before the Vigil
service on Sunday, July 11, and His
Eminence Archbishop Kyrill on
Monday morning at 9:30 a.m.
A festive meal will follow.*

- **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 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, or visit their website: 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.
- **St. Seraphim Parish Feast Day (N.S.), Sun., July 18,** 5:00 p.m. Vigil; greeting of the Bishop, 9:30 a.m., **Mon., July 19. St. Seraphim Orthodox Cathedral,** 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa.
- **Diaconal Vocations Program Practicum: July 26–29,** culminating in Vigil on Wed., July 28 at 5:00 p.m. and hierarchical Divine Liturgy on July 29, 9:30 a.m. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church,** 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa. Please contact Father Lawrence for details: Lmargitich@sbcglobal.net.

- **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. For further information and updates, contact Protodeacon Varfolomej Bazanov at vb@sobor.de.



☩ Our Council Members ☩

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