

Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council News

October–November 2021

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Priest's Corner

“Watch ye, stand fast in the Faith. Be courageous, be strong.” —I Cor. 16:13

Our heavenly patron, St. Paul, wrote his letters to the Corinthians out of concern for the fledgling church he had established there because false teachings had begun to creep into it and were leading many astray. For years, we have noticed the slow but sure spreading of false teachings around us, of which we have spoken many times. Particularly here in California, we face the most politically liberal and morally objectionable agenda, which is aimed not so much at us but at our children—in an attempt to completely redefine the understandings of family, sexuality, and society as a whole.

We must do more than simply be aware of these things. The time has come for us to *“be courageous, to be strong and to stand fast in our faith.”* We cannot stand timidly by while those in our educational system and in our government push this agenda forward in order to change natural, moral, and spiritual understandings that have been accepted by humanity for centuries, even millennia. As parents (and grandparents), we must be more directly involved with our children’s education, discussing with them things they were taught in school today, and carefully but firmly correcting false teachings, which they will be expected to accept without question. We must not be afraid to assert to our educators and other parents our disagreement with those things taught which are not in accordance with God’s Law. What our children need—and what everyone who thinks we should brainwash them and future generations with these so-called progressive attitudes needs—is to return to the Christian roots on which our nation was founded and to relearn the message of peace and love given to the world by our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

God bless!
—Fr. Alexander



Congratulations to those who are celebrating their Name's days*:

- Oct. 1 – Ariadna Baranoff and Arina Bohn
- Oct. 4 – Subdeacon Dimitri Shikaloff
- Oct. 15 – Justina Montano
- Oct. 24 – Sinaida Evaschuk
- Oct. 25 – Fr. Martin Person
- Oct. 31 – Luke Roquemore
- Nov. 1 – John Poluektov
- Nov. 3 – Metropolitan Hilarion
- Nov. 4 – Anna Litvinenko, Elizabeth Gustav
- Nov. 6 – Alexander Bodulov
- Nov. 8 – Nader Demetrius Handelih
- Nov. 9 – Capitolina Huhulova
- Nov. 10 – Neonilla Lucas
- Nov. 16 – Protodeacon George Chrebtov
- Nov. 19 – Paul Saharoff
- Nov. 21 – Michael Bodulov Sr., Michael Bodulov Jr., Michael Chidlowsky, Michael Kirchanski, Michael (Jerrod) Logvy, Michael (Todd) McPhee, Michael Mogilev Sr., Michael Mogilev Jr., and Subdeacon Michael Peterson

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!*

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Katherine and Deacon Peter Wolkow, who serves in the St. Seraphim Church in Sea Cliff, New York, on the birth of their son Paul on October 7. And we congratulate Father Alexander and Matushuka Anya on becoming new grandparents!



With a degree of sadness but, as always, with faith in our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, we note the passing of **Annie Douglass**, who regularly attended services at our church with her husband Gregory and, very recently, was accepted into the Orthodox Church through the sacrament of Holy Chrismation. Having received these graceful gifts together with Holy

Communion, Annie passed away peacefully on August 24, 2021.



May God grant rest to the soul of His newly departed servant **Anna**, may He grant comfort and strength to her husband Gregory and all of her family, and I ask that you remember her in your prayers both in church and at home. *Memory Eternal!*



A Visit by the Head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem

We were fortunate to have Archimandrite Roman (Krassovsky), the Head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem, serving in our church with his brother, our own Fr. Alexander for most of the month of September. Because of his station, Fr. Roman is considered to be, by rank, the senior-most priest in the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. He is directly responsible for the spiritual and administrative care of all the places owned by our Church in the Holy Land, including the Holy Ascension Monastery on the Mount of Olives, the Monastery of St. Mary Magdalene in the Garden of Gethsemane, the St. Alexander Nevsky Church at the Judgment Gate, the Bethany Convent and School for Girls, the Skete of St. Chariton in the Wadi Fara, and many other holy sites.



Archimandrite Roman Krassovsky celebrates Divine Liturgy for St. Alexander Nevsky on September 12, Father Alexander's name's day.

During the Sisterhood luncheon on Father Alexander's name's day on September 12, Father Roman had the opportunity to share some of his own experiences in the Holy Land. Among the first things Father Roman mentioned were the very special feelings one experiences when realizing that one is present in the same places where Our Lord Jesus Christ, His Mother, and the Holy Apostles lived. Visiting the places where Our Lord was born, He preached, healed the sick, raised the dead, and then Himself was tried, suffered, died on the Cross, and was placed in a tomb from which He would rise from the dead on the third day, is a truly life-changing experience. All the great events of Our Lord's earthly life and ministry, which we commemorate and celebrate throughout the year in church, take on a very real significance when one has the opportunity to pray at the places where these events actually took place. Fr. Roman did note that the political situation in the Holy Land is definitely a challenge, but he emphasized that the places maintained by our Church are there for all of us, and that a pilgrimage to these places would be a most rewarding spiritual experience.

After Fr. Roman had finished, Fr. Alexander reminded everyone of the difficult challenges the Ecclesiastical Mission faces on a regular basis and encouraged everyone to generously support the Mission at every opportunity.



Stewardship/Membership Update

At the last meeting of the Parish Council, Father Alexander reported that stewardship pledges and membership dues were running behind for the current year. As of June 30 (the half-year mark), we had collected only 46 percent of the pledged amounts for this year. 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 transfer monthly/quarterly contributions automatically from bank accounts. 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 treasurer, Aliona Russie at 415-328-1095 or alionarus@comcast.net for more information on setting this up for yourselves.



The Despair of Nihilism and the Grace That Flows from the Fountain of Life

Why have we, as a nation, become an incubator for political divisions and murderous anger turned violent,

with rage increasing in alarming ways among our young? How have we, as a people, come to a place where we think we must arm ourselves to the teeth for our own personal survival, and where some think we should even arm college students so they can be safe in their classrooms? How have we come to a place in our nation's history where someone would think it important to suggest to the abbot of a monastery that he consider acquiring weapons to protect his monks?

If we think about it, there is a clear reason so many of our nation's people have given themselves over to the despair of nihilism and surrendered to a viewpoint where traditional values and beliefs are dismissed as senseless and useless. With tears in my eyes I see young people coming to believe that conditions in the social organization of our world are so bad as to make destruction and violence desirable for its own sake. Many young people are living in such total despair as to believe death is the only way out. Deserving as they are, these young people have never been given the gift of hope. We have seen whole new generations educated in public schools where Christian morals and values have been forced out under the guise of separation of Church and State. This is a nation whose young people have been raised without hope, without God, and deprived of the moral, spiritual, and ethical basis that had, in the past, been the very foundation of Western Civilization.

Our problem is not that guns may be banned, but rather that we have removed God from our culture, replacing faith with materialism, greed, and hopelessness. The marked increase in the numbers of people suffering from mental illness is directly related to how we, as a nation, have banned God from our lives. People with no hope and deprived of the stable influence of a loving faith community are far more likely to slip into mental illness.

Now is the time we Christians must give witness to the truth that Christ is the Light of the World, and that true hope for the future is based on the reality of the Grace that flows forth from the Fountain of Life. We must become a light in the darkness so that our friends, neighbors, and fellow countrymen see the importance of a life centered in God. We must boldly lead a revival in our land. Only then will fear for the future be put to rest and our people once again be filled with love for each other, and hope for a future that is devoid of racism, violence, and poverty. We must send despair back to the abyss from which it came.

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

Editor's note: Abbot Tryphon's daily blog "The Morning Offering" can now be accessed at abbotttryphon.com.

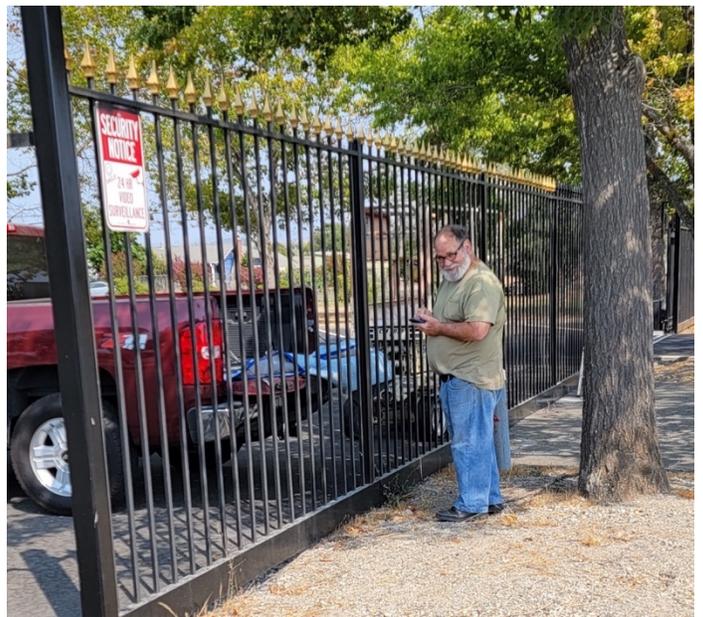


Starosta / Warden's Corner

Our new mid-sized cupolas made from fiberglass have been assembled and are ready for painting. Once they are completed, they will be gilded, protected with clearcoat, and installed.

Aliona Russie recently spent a day thoroughly washing the church sign, and then Fr. Alexander gave it a fresh coat of paint. The sign will be protected and kept clean with a new clear cover cut from Plexiglas.

Fr. Athanasius and I spent a couple of days painting the spear tips on our new gates and fence in gold (photo below). It adds a nice touch and, looking through the gate toward the large cupola on the church, the shade of gold looks remarkably similar.



Deacon Athanasius Ferguson painting the spear tips of the newly installed electric church gates.

On a sad note, you may have noticed that most of our birch (березы) trees have been cut down, thanks to Andrew Merriss and Daniel Alva, and it looks like the remaining three will have to be removed also. They are diseased and have been struggling for the last few years. We will be working on a plan to replace them with trees more suitable to the environment in Sonoma County.

We plan on having our annual pre-Christmas Bazaar this year, now that the Covid restrictions have subsided, and could use some help after the lunch on Sunday, October 31, and Monday, November 1, to prepare.

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



Long-time parishioners Lydia Romanovskya, who tirelessly helps ready the church after each evening service, and Yura Franke-Zaharoff, who for many years has helped behind the candle counter and with reading in the Altar.

Sisterhood News

Thank you very much to those of you who have been available to put on various lunches. Thank you for the beautiful flowers that our flower-arranging ladies have been putting together. We have a wonderful group of ladies that we really appreciate. We had quite the turnout for the recent feasts of Transfiguration of Our Lord and the Blessing of the Fruit, and also for the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos, the Nativity of the Holy Theotokos, and the Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross. Again, thank you to all who participated.

We are preparing for the return of our Christmas Bazaar, which will be held on Saturday, November 13, and Sunday, November 14. If you would like to help in any way, please contact me, Nadia Stewart. We will be needing 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, cooking for the Bazaar, and cleaning up after the Bazaar on Monday. Lots of preparation involved!

Preorders for baked or fried piroshki, cocktail piroshki, cabbage rolls, borscht, and pelmeniy can be made at the church kitchen or by contacting me. If you would like to help out with future Sunday or holiday lunches, please contact me, our Lunch Scheduler, at 925-372-7838 or nadiastew55@yahoo.com. You can also contact my assistant Head Sister, Sharon Buot, at 707-321-9893.

Please do not forget our ailing members and shut-ins. They could always use our prayers and maybe even a cheerful visit or phone call. For more information, please contact our Outreach Liaison, Anna Judd, at 707-823-2372 or annajudd@comcast.net.

Thank you to everyone for their continuing support of and dedication to the Sisterhood. God bless!

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



Vera Piskuleva and Elena Poluektov model floral wreaths designed by Yelena Piskuleva.



Choir Notes

October 14 is the feast day of the Holy Protection of the Theotokos and Saint Romanos the Melodist, or “Sweet Singer.” He was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city.

Saint Romanus was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place. The clergy ridiculed Romanus, which devastated him. On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus was he given the gift of understanding, composition, and hymnography.



That evening at the all-night Vigil Saint Romanus sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: “Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One...” All the hymns of Saint Romanus became known as *kontakia*, referring to the Virgin’s scroll. Saint Romanus was also the first to write in the form

of the *Oikos*, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil.

For his zealous service, Saint Romanus was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song. Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the Hierodeacon Romanus the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, many of which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord. About eighty survive.

—Source: OCA.org



Troparion to St. Romanus the Melodist

Thou didst gladden Christ’s Church by thy melodies, like an inspired heavenly trumpet. For thou wast enlightened by the Mother of God, and didst shine on the world as God’s poet. We lovingly honor thee, O righteous Romanus.



Our choir members would like to extend our deep condolences to Gregory Douglass, one of our singers, on the repose of his beloved wife Anne. She has been a supportive presence in our church and a part of our extended choir family, and we are saddened by her passing. May the Lord grant unto her His Heavenly Kingdom! *Vechnaya pamyat!*



Katya Peterson, Sasha and Anya Krassovsky, and Vika Kochergin in the choir loft.



There will be an informal meeting with representatives of the **All European Church Music Committee** (www.aecmc.org) via Zoom on **October 24**, at 19:00 Central European Time (10:00 a.m. Pacific Time). At this meeting, they will present a plan of their further work, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions and share your wishes for the further development of the committee’s activities. The meeting will be held in Russian with possible translation into English and French. If you need a translation, please let them know by e-mailing Arseny Kruglov at contact@aecmc.org no later than October 17.



Kurt, Andrei Peterson, and Ashley, Simeon, Marcus, Gary John, and Natasha Collins, Daniel Alva, Alosha Khlopoff, and Aliona Russie help out in the kitchen.

Orthodox Community Events

- **Holy Virgin Cathedral** fundraising events to benefit parking and senior residence project, and remodeling of the playground. Project costs are estimated at \$7 million. 9:00 to 1:00 pickup on **October 16 and 17: Babushka Take 'n' Bake**. Frozen entrees featured include beef Stroganoff, pelmeniy, pierogi, borscht, and more. To order, go to www.hvcparking.com. Holy Virgin Cathedral, 6210 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.
- **Father James Jorgenson** is teaching a series of Thursday evening **Bible studies on the Psalms**, at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall and on Zoom. Please e-mail Father Lawrence to be sent the link for the online class: LMargitich@sbcglobal.net. Location: St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa.
- Thursday, **October 28**, 6:00 p.m. **Dinner and a movie at the Mount View Hotel**, 1457 Lincoln Ave.,

Calistoga. Call hotel for purchase and meal selection: 707-942-6877. "Going My Way" with Bing Crosby, 1944 film. Fantastic food and classic entertainment. Tickets: \$95/person to benefit the **St. Nicholas House Fund of Holy Assumption Monastery**. Can't attend? You can donate to the cause on Giving Tuesday, November 30, and all gifts will be matched: www.holyassumptionmonastery/support.

- **Holy Assumption Monastery Retreat** on Zoom, Sat., **November 13**, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Fr. Arkady Mironko and Mother Macrina: "The Polish Orthodox Church and the OCA: A Special Relationship." Please call 707-942-6244 or email sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com for more info. Previous talks are recorded and can be found at <https://holyassumptionmonastery.com>.
- **Square Dancing at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**, 102 Ross Ave., San Anselmo. Fri., **October 29**, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. Please bring an appetizer to share. For info, contact Tatyana Fateyeva at 415-342-2278 or Tatyana.Fateyeva@gmail.com.



Gloria Collins and Vera Peterson

- **Adult Catechism Classes** are held on **Saturdays** at 3:30 p.m. during **October and November**. Location: parish hall, St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa. Please contact Father Lawrence Margitich at LMargitich@sbcglobal.net if you would like to participate.
- **Choir concert, All Saints of Russia Church Choir**, directed by Andrei Roudenko, featuring works by the Moscow School composers. Sunday, **December 19**, 744 El Camino Real, Burlingame.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, November 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the Admin Building.

- **Fort Ross Harvest Festival**, Sat., **October 16**, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Harvest Festival starts out with a morning of apple picking in the historic orchard, then moves to the historic Fort Ross compound, where you will enjoy the old-world charm of the 19th century Russian settlement. Enjoy a four-course luncheon served on a marine terrace overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Fort Ross State Historic Park, 11 miles north of Jenner on Highway 1.



Vera Williams, Sisterhood Treasurer



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 |
| Lisa Joanna Smith | 617-285-5211 |
| Alla Zaharoff..... | 707-837-5044 |



Subdeacon Michael Peterson and his son Andrei on a recent pilgrimage to Mt. Athos.



JOIN US FOR A MEMORABLE
EVENING

ST.
PETERSBURG
NIGHTS

JANUARY 14, 2022

7:00PM – 12:00AM

Sts. Peter & Paul Church
850 St. Olga Ct, Santa Rosa

To help raise funds for the church cemetery project, come join us for a lovely evening filled with traditional Russian music by Yura Engurasoff, sumptuous food by Vasya Gibanoff and have some fun bidding on some amazing prizes at our mini auction!

For more information, please contact: Anya Krassovsky – 707-585-8330

MUSIC & DANCING

**MINI LIVE
AUCTION**

DINNER & DRINKS