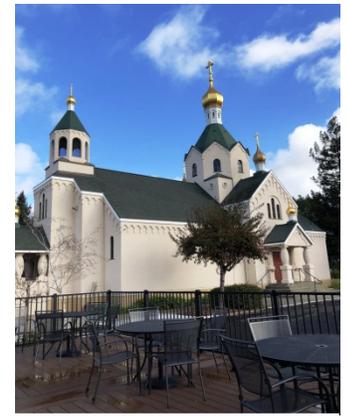


Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council News

December 2021–January 2022

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Priest's Corner

As we come to the end of another year and prepare to begin a new one, it is always appropriate for us to look back and consider the many blessings we have received from our Heavenly Father. To be sure, each year has its “ups and downs,” and this year has been no exception. The continuing pandemic and the “new normal” that is being tossed about as we go through peaks and valleys of the waves of the virus’s greater or lesser effects have a good many people concerned.

For the Orthodox Christian, however, no “new normal” is really required. When faced with difficult or unusual situations or circumstances in our lives, I am always inspired with hope by the manner in which our parents and grandparents managed to deal with the unthinkable difficulties of revolution, war, forced emigration, refugee camps, a second war, and finally somehow managing to come and settle here in America—all the while adapting to changing circumstances and situations. I have always been impressed by the fact that one of the first things a new “colony” of our forebears and those like them would do was to build a church, a spiritual home that, in the vast majority of cases, became the center of such “colonies” throughout the free world. Thanks to their faith, dedication, and efforts, we have been given a much easier life plus a faith in God’s benevolence, which sustained them through such difficult times and will sustain us through whatever “normal” we will need to live through.

As we reflect on this past year and prepare for the new one, it is good for each of us to remember the



mistakes we made, the good things we should have done but didn’t, and, most important, the promises we made to God last year to do our

Faith in God’s benevolence will sustain us through whatever “normal” we will need to live through.

best to be better Christians this year. Let us, indeed, consider these things and truly show our appreciation to Our Lord for His unending patience with us by coming to church, going to Holy Confession, and receiving the most precious gifts of Holy Communion. Let us do more than just make a New Year’s resolution to be better, but instead truly “commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God,” the celebration of Whose Nativity gives us yet another opportunity to recommit ourselves to faith in Him. We have seen the benefits of such faith. May we make ourselves more worthy to receive those benefits even more bountifully in the coming new year.

God bless!
—Fr. Alexander

Congratulations to all our Name’s day celebrants*:

- December 5 – Cecilia Montano
- December 6 – Alexander Bodulov, Alexander Cochrane, and Alexander Litvinenko
- December 7 – Katherine Gustav, Katherine Huhlov, Katherine Lerke, Katherine Logvy, Katherine Peterson, Katherine Poluektov, Katherine Ramish, Katherine Stewart, Katherine White, and Katherine (Krassovsky) Wolkow
- December 9 – George Huhlov and George Shliapnikoff
- December 13 – Andrei Kochergin, Andrei Lucas, Andrei Mogilev, Andrei Peterson, Andrei Rykoff, and Andrei Tchirkine
- December 19 – Nicholas Alva, Nicholas Klimenko, Nicholas Litvinenko, Nicholas Lucas, Nicholas Newton, Nicholas Protopopoff, Jr., and Gloria Colleen Collins
- December 22 – Anna Judd
- December 25 – Gary Peter Collins
- December 26 – Daniel Alva, Noah Melake, David Montano, Sarah Person, and Sarina Tesfamariam
- January 2 – Eva Balitsky and Eva Handelih
- January 6 – Eugenia Rickard

Name's Days, continued:

January 9 – Joseph Handelih and Steven Montano

January 10 – Arsema Tewolde

January 16 – Malachi Campbell

January 20 – Bishop Theodosy

January 24 – Ian McWethy

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

January 27 – Nina Russo and Nina Shikaloff

January 31 – Fr. Deacon Athanasius Ferguson

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

And we also congratulate Father John and Matushka Xenia Schettig on their 50th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on December 5th.

May God grant them all Many Years!



Father John and Matushka Xenia Schettig on their 50th wedding anniversary.



A Visit by Abbott Tryphon

On Sunday, December 5, 2021, we were privileged with a visit of Fr. Tryphon, Abbott of the Christ the Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington. Father Tryphon is well known to us as the author of the daily blog: "The Morning Offering," in which we can find a list of the saints commemorated, the daily readings from both the Gospel and Epistles, and a daily homily, many of which we have printed in our newsletters. At the end of Liturgy, Abbott Tryphon delivered



another one of his inspiring sermons from the ambo of our church and then conducted a brief discussion during lunch in the hall. Father Alexander, in thanking Father Tryphon for his visit, noted his exceptional missionary efforts in posting his daily blog and impressed upon everyone present how important it is for all of us to take a few minutes out of every day "to do something useful during the hours we spend on the computer" and read Fr. Tryphon's blog to receive a little spiritual guidance.



Newly baptized Cyril (Kurt) Bell with sponsors Olga Reighard and Daniel Alva and Father Alexander.

Congratulations to the parents, godparents and relatives of the newly baptized Cyril (Kurt) Bell (photo above), who was baptized on the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, December 4, 2021, and **Paul Wolkow**, son of Subdeacon Peter and Katherine (Krassovsky) Wolkow, who was baptized by his grandfather, Fr. Alexander, in Sea Cliff, New York, on November 27.



Katya Wolkow and sponsors Paul Foreman and Sasha Krassovsky with baby Pavel and Subdeacon Peter Wolkow.

Stewardship/Membership Reminder

Tax year 2021 is drawing to a close, so please make sure to fulfill your stewardship donation for the year by the end of December. To make these contributions easier for our parishioners, the Parish Council has arranged to have Stewards/Members set up direct deposit, which can transfer monthly/quarterly contributions automatically from bank accounts. Please contact our parish treasurer, Aliona Russie, at 415-328-1095 or alionarus@comcast.net for more information on setting this up for yourselves. And of course, checks can always be submitted in the envelopes provided at the church candle counter or mailed to Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church, 850 St. Olga Ct., Santa Rosa, CA 95407-8077. *May God bless you for your support!*



The Gifts of the Lord Abound

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”
—1 Peter 3:15

If we are attentive to all the Lord does for us, we will endure those times when our prayers seem to go unanswered. That God is not always giving us just what we think we need in no way means that he does not hear us. Our days are filled with gifts from God, most often in ways we do not even notice. When we pray in the Our Father, “Give us this day our daily bread,” we are asking God to give us that which we need. It is not required of us that we be specific in our request, for our loving Lord knows before we ask.

The Lord comes to us in the stillness of our heart and provides for us in ways that are not even known to us. He has loved us before our conception in the womb of our mother and is close to us even when we think He is far away. If we allow ourselves to look closely, we will see that His gifts abound in every breath we take, in every flower we pick, in every child we hold. Our hope is eternal, because God’s love is eternal.

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



Starosta / Warden’s Corner

We had a very successful Christmas Bazaar this year—possibly the best ever in terms of net income. A big thank you to all who contributed to make this

happen, whether it was in food prep, setting up, selling, cleaning up, or putting away, it takes a tremendous joint effort, and there are too many of you to name individually, so thanks again.

We had issues with our automatic gates recently. First, on the exit side, the gate control unit was



Father Deacon Afanassy and Anna Ferguson, Gary Peter Collins, and Nadia Stewart, Head Sister, help out at the Christmas Bazaar.

invaded by ants that shorted the motherboard, which ceased to function. Removing the ants and resetting the unit fixed that issue. During the Bazaar, the entry gate control was damaged beyond repair after someone drove into it while trying to park in the last spot closest to the gate. We will have to protect it in the future now that a new replacement has been installed. During our first heavy storm of the season, a couple of days before the Bazaar, water leaks were discovered in the kitchen and bathroom ceilings. Apparently, our favorite pigeon flock, along with some leaves, had clogged all the drains as well as the backup overflow drains on the roof.

The cemetery project is moving along, albeit slowly, with our environmental consultants preparing the information necessary for the various agencies to issue further permits to proceed.



We recently had a delightful visit on Sunday, December 5, from Abbot Tryphon of the All-Merciful Saviour Monastery on Vashon Island in Washington State. He concelebrated the Divine Liturgy, delivered the homily, and led a spiritual discussion after the lunch. It was a pleasure having him visit.

We are in the process of getting ourselves organized for the Russian New Year’s

fundraiser, St. Petersburg Nights, on January 14, 2022. Tickets for the dinner/dance/auction night have been sold out for some time now, as this has proven to be popular event.

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



Sisterhood News

The Christmas Bazaar was a great success. Thank you to all that cooked, prepared and worked so hard before, during and after the Bazaar. It was also nice to have the Eritrean group and the nuns from Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga participating again.



Thank you to all who have been making the wonderful lunches. Our special holidays coming up are Christmas, the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Friday, January 7; the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos on Saturday, January 8; and Theophany (Baptism of the Lord with the Great Blessing of the Waters) on Wednesday, January 19. There will be a sign-up sheet for food for our Christmas Luncheon at the candle counter. 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.

Also, we will need people to help decorate the church and to donate and put together the Christmas baskets to be distributed to our ailing members and shut-ins. 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





Choir Notes

Choir rehearsals have resumed in preparation for Nativity and Theophany, as well as the planned Consecration of our church on May 7–8. Our next rehearsal will be **Sunday, December 26**, after Divine Liturgy (and a quick cup of coffee!). Please let Kostya Pavloff know which Sundays and holidays you are planning to attend so that all voice parts can be covered.

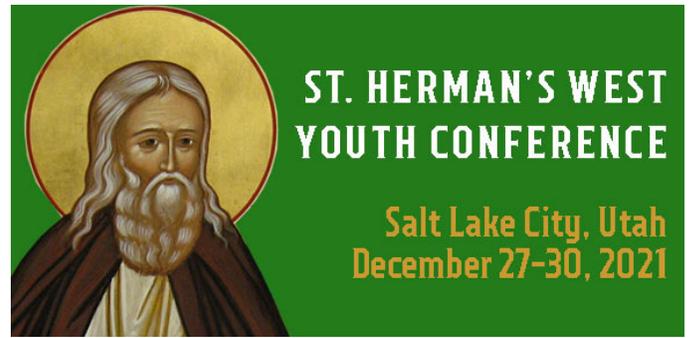


The **All-European Church Music Committee (AECMC)** is planning to hold the **Third Pan-European Orthodox Liturgical Music Conference** as an online conference from **January 27–29, 2022**. Theme: **Liturgical Culture and Church Style**. The conference will feature lectures by renowned international specialists in the field of choral singing and church musicianship, workshops, and group discussions. Visit www.aecmc.org for more info and to register.



Orthodox Community Events

- **Father James Jorgenson** of St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church is teaching a series of **Thursday evening Bible studies on the Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament** at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Please e-mail Father Lawrence to be sent the link for the online class: LMargitich@sbcglobal.net.
- **Redwood Empire Food Bank** distribution, **second and fourth Wednesdays, January 12 and 16**, at 4:00–6:00 p.m. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church** parking lot, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, 707-584-9491. Please contact Lydia Nicholson at lydiaddg@gmail.com to sign up.
- **The 2021 St. Herman's West Youth Conference** will be hosted by the St. George Russian Orthodox Church in **Salt Lake City, Utah**. The arrival date is December 27, with the main conference taking place on **December 28-30** (departure on the morning of December 31). The keynote speaker this year is the Reverend Dr. Calinic Berger, Professor of Dogmatic



Theology, assistant pastor at St. George Cathedral in Wichita, Kansas. Space is limited, so hurry and sign up for this wonderful event: panel discussions, church services, sports, workshops, social events, and more... The cost for the first participant from a family is \$275, with cost for others in the same family \$225.

- **Parish Yolka, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, December 26 and 27**, following Divine Liturgy. 102 Ross Ave., San Anselmo.
- **Feast Day of St. Herman of Alaska: Vigil, December 24**, 4:00 p.m.; **Hierarchical Liturgy, December 25**, 9:30 a.m., followed by luncheon at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 125 E. Arques Dr., Sunnyvale. Parish location: 161 N. Murphy St., Sunnyvale, 94086. Contact Father Martin Person for more info: frmartinp@gmail.com or 714-408-6456. Website: sainthermanmission.org.
- **Apodosis Dinner** to celebrate the parish feast day: Thursday, **December 30**, following Great Vespers at 6:00 p.m. **Holy Nativity Greek Orthodox Church**, 111 Highland Ave., Novato. www.nativityofchrist.org.
- **Feast day of St. Seraphim (N.S.):** Great Vespers, 5:00 p.m. **Jan. 1**, and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, **Jan. 2**, at 10:00 a.m. with Bishop Benjamin. St. Seraphim Cathedral, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa.
- **Holy Assumption Monastery Retreat** on Zoom, Sat., **January 8**, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., with **His Grace, Bishop Daniel** of Santa Rosa, who will talk about **"Priest and Parishioners: Sharing the Journey."**



Meeting Notice:

➤ **Parish Council meetings: Tuesday, January 11 and February 8, 6:00 p.m., in the Admin Building.**

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.

- **Visit of Miracle-Working St. Anna Icon from St. Tikhon’s Monastery, PA: Molieben with Akathist and anointing, January 14, 7:00 p.m., St. Seraphim Cathedral, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa. January 15, 10:30 a.m., Christ the Saviour Church, 2040 Anza St., San Francisco (parking at Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 8th Ave. and Geary Blvd.).** For more info,



please contact Father Philip Halliwell at 415-823-9927 or frphilphalliwell@gmail.com.

- **18th Annual Walk for Life West Coast, January 22, 12:30 p.m., Civic Center Plaza.** Orthodox Christians for Life meet at 11:00 a.m. at Polk and Grove Sts. **11:30 a.m. Orthodox clergy and faithful pray the Service of Supplication to End Abortion.** Stand for the lives of women who are hurt from abortion, and for the lives of the unborn threatened by abortion. After the rally, the walk will process peacefully down Market Street to the Ferry Building. For more info, <https://walkforlifewc.com/>.

- **The Orthodox Forum** is a conversational ministry in a casual setting **for college students and young adults**, which provides relevant, informed, and candid discussion of far reaching topics and themes relating to our Orthodox faith. The Forum meets the first and third Thursday of the month: **January 6, 20; February 3, 17, etc. Holy Trinity Church, 999 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, 94132.** www.HolyTrinitySF.org. 415-584-4747.

- **The Worldview School** invites you to attend spiritual lectures conducted by **Father George Kaplanov**. Classes are held in the main hall of the San Francisco Cathedral: **Russian speakers: Sundays after liturgy at 12:30 p.m.; in English: Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.** The classes are based on chapters of St. Theophan the Recluse’s book, “The Outline of Christian Morality.” The class usually includes a short lecture, as well as a discussion of the materials covered and a question-and-answer period. You may stay after class for an individual conversation with the priest to discuss personal issues. Class members receive news and announcements via WhatsApp. If you would like to join this group, please send a text message to Father George, or contact him via WhatsApp at 415-205-4424. Holy Virgin Cathedral, 6210 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 94121.



Because Women Deserve Better than Abortion.™

WALK for LIFE WEST COAST

18TH ANNUAL

Abortion HURTS Women

Saturday, January 22 • CIVIC CENTER PLAZA • San Francisco

Rally: 12:30PM
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
Info Faire: 11:00AM
Saturday, January 22, 2022

Rally starts at Civic Center Plaza, walking down Market Street (2 miles). Ends at Embarcadero Plaza/Ferry Building.
BART stations at both locations. Ample parking.

Register and info: 415/658-1793 | email: info@WalkforLifeWC.com

WalkforLifeWC.com

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☞ Our Council Members ☞

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Christmas Bazaar Highlights, 2021



Christmas Bazaar Highlights, 2021

