

# Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council News

## August–September 2022

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### Priest's Corner

While visiting our neighboring parish of St. Seraphim of Sarov during their patronal feast day celebration on July 19, I was very moved by a comment made by one of the parishioners there, who said that the feeling he had on this day, more than any other, was one of *joy*. How joyful it was to pray together and thank God for His innumerable blessings. How wonderful it was to do so with the rest of his spiritual family and to be enjoying each other's company at the trapeza. I have felt this joy many times myself during our own services, celebrations, or simply our Sunday lunches after church. How blessed we are indeed to be given such joy by our Heavenly Father, who takes such good care of His little flock here in Santa Rosa!

A true spiritual family shares not only the joys of one another but also the trials and tribulations. We have had our setbacks and disappointments, yet at the same time great blessings! By the Grace of God, we continue to baptize our babies, marry off our children, and yes, bury our beloved reposed. This is what families do. This is what our spiritual family is all about. Glory be to God for the joys and blessings He grants us, and may He always give us the strength and love to "bear one another's burdens and, thereby, fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:2)



Being part of a larger spiritual family, that of our Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, I ask that all our parishioners keep the archpastors of our Sobor of Bishops in their prayers, as they will be gathering in New York City at the Synod on September 13 to elect a new First Hierarch and to deal with a number of very pressing issues, all of which will have a significant impact on the future course of our Holy Church. May God grant them the wisdom inspired by the Holy Spirit, Who has always guided the path of Christ's Holy Church over the centuries!

—Fr. Alexander



### Congratulations to the parents, godparents, and relatives of the newly baptized:

- **Gabriel Gregory Bogatsky**, baptized on July 9, 2022;
- **Matthew Vahrameeff**, baptized on August 13, 2022; and
- **Hanna (John) Handelih**, baptized on August 27, 2022.

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

- Aug. 1 – Milica Chidlowsky  
Aug. 2 – Ilya Poluektov, Reader Ilya Shikaloff, and Ilya Ionin  
Aug. 4 – Marie Roquemore and Magdalena Reighard  
Aug. 7 – Anna Ferguson, Anna Koval, and Diana Handelih  
Aug. 16 – Anthony Newton and Anthony Tatsy  
Aug. 20 – Orr Chistiakoff  
Sept. 8 – Natalie Abrahams, Natalie Collins, Natalie Litvinenko, Natalie Newton, Natalie Piterskih, Natalie Poluektov, and Natalie Ramensky  
Sept. 11 – Gary John Collins and John Reighard  
Sept. 12 – Fr. Alexander Krassovsky, Alexander Baranoff, Alexander Gray, Alexander Hubert, Alexander Krenz, Alexander Loukianoff, and Alexander Markoff  
Sept. 18 – Elisabeth Russie, Elizabeth Huhalo, Elizabeth Jones, Anna (Renee) Tchirkine, Zachary Able, Zachary Balitsky, and Zachary Jones  
Sept. 19 – Alexander Gustav  
Sept. 22 – Anna Jones and Anna (Renee) Tchirkine  
Sept. 29 – Liudmila Marakhova and Ludmila Tkacheva  
Sept. 30 – Nadejda Balitsky, Nadejda Mogileva, Nadejda Stewart, Vera Levshina-Williams, Vera Peterson, Vera Rajevisky-Spring, Dr. Sophia Schluter, Sophia Tatsy, and Sophia 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!

## In Memoriam

With a degree of sadness but, as always, with faith in our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, we note the passing of:

† **Nadezhda Watso**, who passed away after a long illness on August 10, 2022;

† **Vera Piskuleva** (photo at right), a career school-teacher and mother of our own Elena Piskuleva, who reposed peacefully at home in Novato on August 20, 2022; and

† **Ksenia Iwanow**, a long-time friend of many in the Russian Sokol group, who passed away on August 22, 2022.



May God grant rest to the souls of His newly departed servants **Nadezhda, Vera, and Ksenia**, and I ask that you remember them in your prayers both in church and at home.

*Memory Eternal!*



## Christianity Is a Communal Faith

Christianity is a communal faith, one that requires its followers to be actively involved with others. The Church's worship is communal, and salvation itself is a corporate act, one that necessitates interaction with others. One is not "saved" in a vacuum but as part of the corporal life of the Church. Your salvation must be as much a concern to me as is my own salvation. My relationship with Christ is not about me but about us. Our sins are not just against God, but against the Body of Christ, the Church. Our love of God cannot be salvific if we do not love others, for just as the Lord said, "If someone says, 'I love God' and hates his

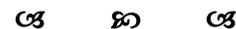


brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20)

Given the communal nature of the Church, it is particularly alarming to see increasing numbers of people isolating themselves from others. Many have turned to the Internet as the primary source of interaction with others, finding "friendships" with people who will never be met in person. The importance of social interaction in the central square, as seen in traditional villages where cafe life and church were the primary source of fraternal interaction, has pointed the way to a future of increased estrangement from each other.

Isolated from others, the communal nature that is an important element in what it means to be human is lost. It is thus imperative that we guard against the temptation of spending too much time in front of the computer and too little time with others. The sight of young people sitting in coffee houses together, yet apart, is troubling. Mobile phones, text messaging, iPods, communication through email, and countless hours on Facebook lead to the furtherance of an isolation that is murdering the soul. As humans, we are meant to be together, for it is in our lives together that we grow in mind and spirit. It is in community that we learn to love God. For friendships to be limited to online chat rooms is a tragedy of major proportions, one that will ultimately be the ruin of society.

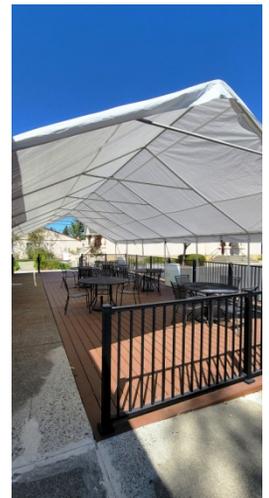
With love in Christ, Abbot Tryphon  
*All-Merciful Saviour Monastery*  
*Vashon Island, Washington*



## Starosta / Warden's Corner

The cemetery project has been suspended indefinitely, as recently outlined by Fr. Alexander. We are researching options available to us in which the property could possibly be sold to other contractors who are looking for mitigation that this property could provide. Ultimately, our goal is to keep the property from being developed, and this could possibly be a solution.

Our annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on November 12–13, 2022. Volunteers are needed as always, so please contact the Sisterhood or myself about your availability. We need help with setup, food service, sales, and cleanup.



### Sisterhood News

Thanks to those who prepared, served, and hosted the clergy dinner with Vladyka Theodosy on the eve of our parish feast day of Saints Peter and Paul, July 11. Also, thanks to the many helpers who made our parish feast day on the July 12 such a success and set up the clergy table, with Vladyka Kyrill and our special guests in attendance.



*Diana Handelih, Vika Kochergin, Tatiana Bennett, Sharon Buot, and Anna Judd help out at a recent Sunday lunch.*

This year, our Christmas Bazaar will be held on November 12 and 13, 2022. For a change, we have decided to focus more on frozen and à la carte food items, as these are the best selling. A group of women has already started making delicious piroshki. We will continue to serve our traditional hot meals of beef stroganoff, Eritrean dishes, and stuffed cabbage. We will be having a rummage sale, as in previous years, but on a much smaller scale.



*Parish feast day, July 12, in the hall was well attended. Clergy were presided over by Archbishop Kyrill.*

Please think about how you would like to volunteer your time to help out. For example, we need people for serving, filling orders, cashiering at the rummage sale stand, selling desserts, and doing setup, to name a few. Many hands make light work!

One of the compressors in our large freezer in the hall kitchen failed, and after replacing it with an after-market compressor that also failed, it was decided to replace it with the original European manufacturer's compressor, and all is well.

Our new midsize cupolas are currently being painted in preparation for gilding.

The administration building was renovated recently. The main conference room was painted, and the carpet was replaced with laminate flooring. New bookcases

were installed, and the treasurer's office was enlarged.

Andrew Merriss, our resident arborist, with the assistance of Seraphim, removed and chipped three trees that had died, while Ian McWethy, Misha Mogilev, and I whacked weeds, trimmed branches, and performed a general cleanup of the property. We will be planting new trees and bushes in the near future in the center island of the parking lot. Aliona Russie kindly trimmed the roses.

A couple of months ago, we had severely high winds that tore through our canopy covering the deck in front of the hall, tearing it to shreds. We have managed to find a replacement, which was installed recently, so once again we can enjoy sitting outdoors with protection from the sun.

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



*Seraphim Fitzpatrick, Ian McWethy, Misha Mogilev, and Father Deacon Afanassy Ferguson work to remove the old flooring and refinish it in the Admin Building.*



Our upcoming lunches are for the Nativity of the Theotokos on September 21, and Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross on September 27. If you would like to help out with future Sunday or holiday lunches, please contact Sharon Buot at 707-321-9893 or sharonbuot@northbaypostacute.com.

*Katya Klimansky, one of the shut-ins the Sisterhood serves, after receiving Communion on the feast day of Our Lady of Kazan.*

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 annaljudd@comcast.net.

There is a limited number of (frozen) pelmeniy for sale, at \$35 for a bag of 100. Please see a member of the sisterhood in the hall if you would like to purchase.

The Sisterhood would like to extend our deepest condolences to Elena Piskuleva, part of our church floral beautification committee, on the passing of her mother, Vera Piskuleva. Memory eternal!

### Holy Saints Peter and Fevronia

On the 18th of September, the Orthodox Church celebrates a very special feast the day of Saints Peter and Fevronia. These two saints from the 13th century are considered to be the patron saints of family, love, and fidelity.

The Duke of the Russian city of Murom, Peter met Fevronia (a peasant girl) when she cured him of a disease using her knowledge of herbs. They eventually married, even though they came from completely different backgrounds.



When Peter inherited the crown of Murom, people refused to serve Fevronia because she used to be poor. Between fame and family, Peter chose to leave the throne and move to a different city with his wife, until the nobles begged them to return.

After their return, Peter and Fevronia reigned together in Murom for many years. At the end of their lives, they took monastic vows, praying to the Lord to let them die on the same day. They died not only on

the same day, but also at the same hour. Despite their wish to be buried together, they were laid in two different coffins. However, the day after, their bodies were miraculously found side by side. At last, they were laid together, as are their incorrupt relics to this day. Saints Peter and Fevronia's love and fidelity are an example to every one of us.

At Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco since 2008, they have celebrated a Day of Family, Love, and Fidelity in their honor, with special prayers for couples. —*Holy Virgin Cathedral Starosta's Blog*

### Visit of the Miraculous Myrrh-Streaming Iveron–Hawaii Icon of the Mother of God

This summer, the miraculous myrrh-streaming Iveron–Hawaiian Icon of the Mother of God visited parishes in the San Francisco Bay Area.

On Saturday, July 9, the holy Icon, in the company of its guardian Deacon Nectarios Yangson, visited the Saint John of Kronstadt Health Care Center in Castro Valley. They were met by Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko, who led them to all the rooms of patients who are Orthodox and they were anointed. Soon after, the holy Icon visited the Old Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco. His Grace, Bishop James of Sonora, greeted the icon and celebrated the All-Night Vigil.



On Sunday, July 10, Icon visited the Holy Resurrection Church (Romanian Episcopate, OCA) in Hayward for the Divine Liturgy, presided over by the Rector of the church, Father Octavian Mahler. Later that day, the Icon traveled to Sacramento and was present at a service of Holy Unction held at the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel Church (Romanian Episcopate, OCA). The parish offered hospitality to the clergy and parishioners in the parish hall following the Divine Service.

On the Feast of the Holy, Glorious All-Praised, and Foremost Apostles Peter and Paul, July 11, and on July 12, the holy Icon visited Holy Ascension Russian Orthodox Church in Sacramento. For both the All-

Night Vigil and the Divine Liturgy, the church was filled with parishioners and guests. Deacon Nectarios gave the sermon on the significance of the myrrh and shared two miracles performed by the Most Holy Theotokos through Her wonderworking icon.

At the end of the festal meal, Deacon Nectarios opened the case that holds the wonderworking Icon, and while the myrrh was dripping from the miraculous image, he spoke of the nature of God. He said that the miracle of streaming myrrh shows us that God is not like an earthquake, a fire, or a great horrific wind. Rather, God is like a whisper—a fresh, gentle waft of air.

Later in the summer, the Mother of God visited St. Seraphim Orthodox Cathedral in Santa Rosa (OCA) on August 31, where they celebrated Vespers and an Akathist. Many of the faithful from Sts. Peter & Paul were able to venerate Her Icon. Small copies of the Icon were distributed to those who approached the Icon for veneration. Wherever the holy Icon visited, the faithful were anointed with holy myrrh and consoled by the Grace of the Most Holy Theotokos.

—*Western American Diocese*  
[www.wadiocese.org](http://www.wadiocese.org)



*Vera Peterson (center) meets with prospective youth choir members and their parents.*

### Choir Notes: Calling New Church Singers

My name is Vera Peterson, and with the blessing of Father Alexander, we have started a youth choir. Part of this choir consists of parents and church members who want to help our youth succeed. The ultimate goal is to have the youth choir sing the Liturgy and Vigil.

We had our first rehearsal with 15 participants. This rehearsal, also serving as an icebreaker, was held on August 27, and the turnout was impressive. The goal of this group is to sing a full Liturgy and to appreciate how singing is an integral part of the church service. At rehearsal we are learning Slavonic pronunciation, basic music theory, and four-part



*Choir members Daniel Alva, Alyosha Khlopoff, Andrei Kochergin, Gregory Douglass, and Misha Mogilev.*

harmony in both languages. The schedule of rehearsals and sign-up sheet are at the church candle counter. If you are at all interested, please contact Vera Peterson at 661-305-6234 or email at [msvnp28@gmail.com](mailto:msvnp28@gmail.com).



### ROCM Conference Announced

The 29th Annual Russian Orthodox Church Musicians' Conference will be held in Nanuet and Nyack, NY, on November 9–13, after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Reconnect and refresh your choir skills with like-minded musicians and instructors.



### Orthodox Community Events

- **Father James Jorgenson** of St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church is teaching a series of **Thursday evening Bible studies will resume on the Book of Revelation**, Thurs., September 15, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Please e-mail Father Lawrence to be sent the link for the online class: [LMargitich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LMargitich@sbcglobal.net).
- **Redwood Empire Food Bank** distribution, **second and fourth Wednesdays**, 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 at [lydiaddg@gmail.com](mailto:lydiaddg@gmail.com) to volunteer.

- **Paraklesis (service of supplication) or Akathist** to the Theotokos, **Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.** Byzantine Chant practice, Saturdays, 4:00 p.m. **Sts. Constantine and Helena Greek Orthodox Church**, 1224 Alabama St., Vallejo, CA 94590. 707-642-6916. [www.stscah.com](http://www.stscah.com)
- **St. Seraphim Sunday School begins September 11.** To register your child, contact Fr. Lawrence Margitich at [LMargitich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LMargitich@sbcglobal.net).
- **Enrollment is open at St. John of San Francisco Orthodox Academy for the 2022–2023 school year.** K-12 full-time day school, fully accredited. College prep curriculum. Call 415-221-3484 or visit [www.stjohnsacademysf.org](http://www.stjohnsacademysf.org) to apply. 6210 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.
- **Divine Liturgy** is being served one Saturday each month at 9:30 a.m., followed by a potluck outdoor lunch. Next Liturgy: **October 8, Our Lady of Kazan, Russian River**, Hours at 8:40 a.m.; Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. 17370 Neeley Rd., Guerneville, 95446. Contact Victoria Sabelnik for info and updates: [kazanchurchrussianriver@gmail.com](mailto:kazanchurchrussianriver@gmail.com).
- **Saturdays, 4:30 p.m. Molieben to St. John of San Francisco.** Holy Virgin Cathedral, 26th Ave. and Geary Blvd., San Francisco. You can submit names online by Friday at 3:00 p.m.: visit [www.sfsobor.com](http://www.sfsobor.com), St. John Prayer Requests.
- **San Francisco Greek Festival, September 16–18,** Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church, 245 Valencia St., SF 94103. [www.annunciation.org](http://www.annunciation.org).

- **Babushka's Take 'n' Bake Pop-up, Sunday, September 18.** Cocktail piroszki, pelmeniy, kotletiy, beef Stroganoff, and borscht. Pickup 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at Cathedral 26th Ave. and Geary Blvd. entrance. Stock your freezer and place your order at [HolyVirginCathedral.com](http://HolyVirginCathedral.com). Holy Virgin Cathedral, San Francisco.



- **Fort Ross Harvest Festival, Saturday, October 15,** 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. \$10/car parking fee. Fort Ross State Historic Park, 19005 Hwy. 1, Jenner, CA 95450. Call or email for more information: [info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org) 707-847-3437.



*Blessing of the fruit baskets, Transfiguration, August 19.*

- **St. Seraphim Glendi Barbecue, Sunday, September 18.** Games for kids starting at 2:00 p.m., and the barbecue from 4:00–7:00 p.m. \$7, and kids under 12 attend for free.
- **Pilgrimage to Italy with His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa (OCA).** Tour highlights include Divine Liturgy in the city of St. Nicholas in Bari, an opportunity to venerate the relics of St. Apostle Andrew the First Called, and a visit to the Roman Coliseum. **September 21–October 2, 2022.** Visit [www.dowoca.org](http://www.dowoca.org) for more information.
- **Feast day of Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary (N.S.), Sept. 30, 6:00 p.m., October 1, 9:30 a.m.** St. Seraphim Orthodox Church (Chapel), 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa.
- **Bay Cruise and Auction fundraiser for the Holy Virgin Cathedral** parking and housing project. Live and silent auction, Champagne toast, and cocktail reception onboard. Sunday, **October 2, 2:30 p.m.** Pier 3 Hornblower Landing, San Francisco. Tickets: \$100. Visit [www.HolyVirginCathedral.com](http://www.HolyVirginCathedral.com).
- **14th Annual St. George Greek and Middle Eastern Food and Dance Festival, October 1–2, 2022,** 12:00–9:00 p.m. Authentic Mediterranean food, drink, dancing, gif, and baked goods to go. 7311 College View Dr., Rohnert Park. For more info, visit [festival.stgeorgepr.org](http://festival.stgeorgepr.org).
- **Holy Dormition Church Harvest Festival, October 8, 12:00 p.m.** 1521 Rose Ave., Santa Rosa. Games, music, food. For more info, visit [HolyDormitionChurch.org](http://HolyDormitionChurch.org).
- **Holy Assumption Monastery Retreat on Zoom, Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. October 8** Topic to be announced. Previous talks are recorded and can be found at <https://holyassumptionmonastery.com>. Please call 707-942-6244 or email [sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com](mailto:sisters@holyassumptionmonastery.com) for more info
- **Polyphonic songs of Ukraine: A Vocal Workshop, September 18 and 25, 11:00 a.m.01:00 p.m.** online on Zoom. [www.kitka.org/events](http://www.kitka.org/events).
- **Celebration of the 70th anniversary** of the founding and blessing of the stained-glass windows, **October 30,**

**Church of All Russian Saints, Burlingame.** 44 El Camino Real, Burlingame, CA 94010, www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org, 650-430-9805.

- **Fall Square Dance**, Friday, **November 4**, 6:30–10:00 p.m. St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 102 Ross Ave., San Anselmo 94960.

### ☛ 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  
 Anna Ferguson, Secretary ..... 707-812-4124  
 Daniel Alva..... 707-570-7787  
 Demitrios Handelih ..... 707-292-2842  
 Michael A. Mogilev..... 707-953-3636  
 Lisa Joanna Smith..... 617-285-5211  
 Alla Zaharoff ..... 707-837-5044



Bishop NICHOLAS of Manhattan is elected FIRST HIERARCH OF THE RUSSIAN CHURCH ABROAD

### Election of New Hierarchy of ROCOR

On Tuesday, 13 September, the election of His Grace Nicholas, Bishop of Manhattan, as the new First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia by its Council of Bishops took place. In accordance with the Act of Canonical Communion, signed on May 17, 2007, the Council will send the Act of Election, drafted by the vote-counting committee, to His Holiness Kyrill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, with a request to bless the electee to assume the duties of the First Hierarchy entrusted to him by his brother archpastors, and for confirmation of the election by the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. The rite of enthronement of His Eminence Nicholas, Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York, newly elected First Hierarchy of the Russian Church Abroad, will take place on Sunday, September 18. We congratulate His Grace Bishop Nicholas on his elevation, and wish him many years of fruitful service to our holy Church!

—Eastern American Archdiocese (eadiocese.org)



At the Sts. Peter & Paul feast day Liturgy, Vladyka Kyrill presides as Deacon Peter (Karakozoff) places the Double-Orarion on Fr. Deacon Afanassy Ferguson, investing him with the next honor in his deaconate. Many years to Father Afanassy. Axios!



Father Alexander blesses children during a molieben for the beginning of the school year.



Sts. Peter & Paul  
Russian Orthodox Church  
Santa Rosa

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

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**SAT: Nov. 12, 2022 10am-3pm**

**SUN: Nov. 13, 2022 11am-3pm**

*X'mas Items, Russian Imports & Gifts, Handcrafts, Jewelry,  
and much more!*

**\* HOMEMADE RUSSIAN LUNCH \***

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

*Homemade Bread Russian Desserts \*  
Baked Goods \**

**\* AUTHENTIC ERITREAN DISHES \***

**\* FLAVORED RUSSIAN VODKA TASTING \***

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

**Docent Church Tours**

*For additional information call:  
Nadia Stewart @ (925) 372-7838*

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

