

Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council News

December 2023–January 2024

M.A. Mogilev, Publisher
Michael Peterson, Editor
Joanna Smith Chidlowsky, Editor Emerita
Issue No. 94
www.stsproca.org

850 St. Olga Ct.
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
mishamish@email.com
(707) 584-4092

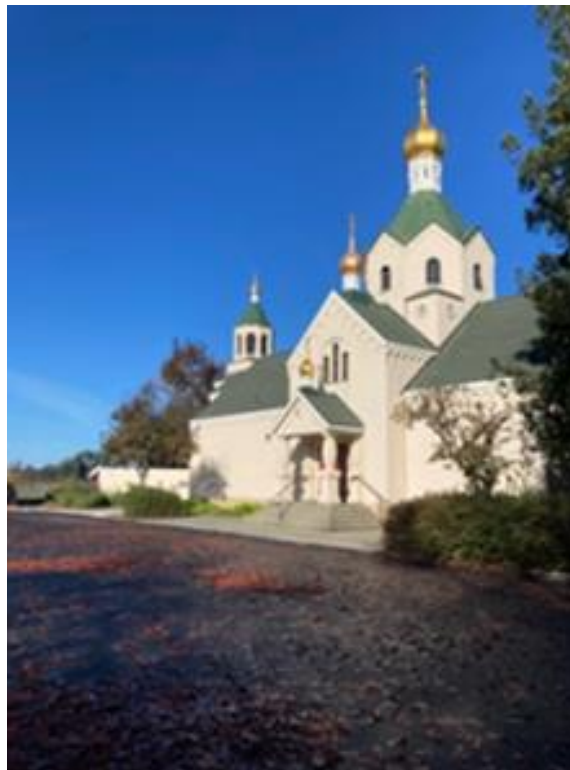


Priest's Corner

The establishment of a national day of thanks to God for His countless mercies bestowed upon our country by President Abraham Lincoln demonstrates how once, our nation and its government were truly “*one nation under God*.”

As we gather with family and friends during this “holiday season,” we should remember that for the Orthodox Christian, we must be grateful to God for all His bountiful mercies every day. Certainly we do give thanks in our daily prayers, as is correct to do. But do we really think about the blessings we receive from God daily, or do we simply recite the words?

I was reminded of this myself recently, when I was able to attend the 50th anniversary celebration of my high school graduating class. It was truly wonderful to be able to reconnect with so many of my classmates, with whom I had had little or no contact since high school. While speaking with some of my old friends and acquaintances, I was happy to hear of their successes and to share some of my own with them. At the same time, however, I was saddened to hear of how many of my classmates had recently lost their spouses, were unable to attend the reunion because they were caring for an ill spouse or child, or were simply too ill themselves to attend. Saddest of all was to see the names and faces of over 50 of our classmates who had already died. These were people who graduated together with me and had their plans and expectations for their futures, as I did. Yet, they are no longer with



us. I was deeply moved by this. As I was driving home, I considered my own life over these 50 years and—realizing how incredibly fortunate I have been—had to ask, “Why me?” What had I done or how could I have possibly deserved the countless blessings and mercies of which I have been the beneficiary? With an immense feeling of gratitude to God, I thought to myself, if I die tomorrow, I certainly cannot complain.

I believe that we must do more than simply

express our gratitude to God in our words but to feel it from the heart and soul. We must remember the reasons for which we are so grateful, remembering how many times we had asked and prayed for God’s help and how He gave it. If we do this, then we will never lose hope when things are not going so well or the answer from God to our prayer is “no.” If we trust in God’s benevolence toward us and recognize that all He does is for our *eternal* well-being, we can learn to be grateful even for the difficulties we encounter in our lifetimes. And if, in the final analysis, our lives do not turn out the way we may have wanted, or are plagued with misfortune, disease, and even an

untimely death, we know that if we live our lives in a way well pleasing to God, we will receive the benefits of God’s justice in His eternal kingdom. For this, along with all the countless blessings and mercies we have received *and continue to receive* from Our Heavenly Father, let us ever cry from the depths of our souls:

***“Glory to Thee, O God our Benefactor,
unto the ages of ages!”***
—Akathist of Thanksgiving

* * *

I wish to express my sincere gratitude and extend a hearty “Well done!” to the members of our Sisterhood, Parish Council, and all those who worked with them to make this year’s “Food Fest” (formerly our Christmas Bazaar) such a great success! Although this year’s event was significantly “streamlined,” the immense amount of work that went into it was nevertheless evident in the decorations, delicious food, and gifts filling the church hall. Thanks also to all who came to support us in this endeavor. We sincerely hope you will come back again and again to enjoy our hospitality in the months to come during the other events we conduct during the year to materially support our parish.

* * *

Finally, the days of the Nativity lent are upon us. Let us keep this holy time of preparation for the bright feasts of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord very much in mind, especially when faced with the commotion that often accompanies this time of year, always remembering “the reason for the season.”

God bless!
Fr. Alexander

❧ ❧ ❧

Congratulations to all those celebrating their Name’s days*:

- December 5 – Cecilia Montano
December 6 – Alexander Bodulov, Alexander Cochrane, and Alexander Litvinenko
December 7 – Katherine Gustav, Katherine Huhlov, Katherine Lerke, Katherine Logvy, Ekaterina 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 24 – Gary Peter Collins, Daniel Alva, Noah Melake, David Montano, Sarah Person, and Sarina Tesfamariam.
December 31 – Eva Balitsky and Eva Handelih

- January 6 – Eugenia Riccard
January 8 – Joseph Handelih and Joseph Sciambra
January 9 – Steven Montano
January 10 – Arsema Tewolde
January 16 – Malachi Campbell
January 20 – Ian McWethy
January 24 – Bishop Theodossy
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 days in our lists. Thank you!*

God Grant them All Many Years!

❧ ❧ ❧

Am I Saved?
The Therapeutic Tradition of the Church

Most of us have been asked the question, “Are you saved?” at least once in our life. Having its origin in the protestant soteriology (doctrine of salvation), this question has clearly become part of our American cultural lexicon. The question is often asked by Evangelical Christians as a way of establishing whether we are fellow “born again” Christians, and therefore fellow believers.

Being able to answer in the affirmative clearly gives the “born again” Christian a sense of security. That one would believe a single moment that a declaration of Jesus Christ as one’s savior guarantees eternal life, would be comforting. Yet, for the Orthodox Christian, the question can be disconcerting, even awkward, for we would never presume to think of ourselves as “saved.” We could say we are saved, being saved, and hope to be saved, but we would never be so presumptuous as to declare we are saved.

Like our evangelical friends, we Orthodox Christians understand Christ’s death on the cross was accomplished for our salvation, and that salvation is a gift. We know that we are not saved by our works, and that we, “having been justified by faith (Romans 5:1)”, are totally dependent on God’s mercy for our

salvation. Yet we have a parting of the ways when it comes to the theology of redemption.

As Orthodox Christians the moment we declare our faith in Christ, is the moment we begin our journey. The Holy Spirit imparts the gift of grace, and we begin to participate in the divine energies of God, that we might be transformed and made whole.

Only in Orthodoxy do we find a “therapeutic treatment” tradition. Like the Ancient Church, we believe that an intellectual acceptance of Christ as our Savior is only the beginning of a life journey into the Heart of God. At the moment we declare Christ as our savior, the therapy begins, and we are drawn into the hospital of the soul (the Church), wherein we begin the transformation that leads to deification. The analogous “treatment” of our personality begins at the moment of our declaration, but is completed only with our cooperation with God’s Grace.

The Holy Scriptures make it clear that faith comes by hearing the Word and by experiencing “theoria” (the vision of God). We accept Christ in the beginning by hearing the Word and seek Him out in order to be healed. The attainment of theoria saves man. Because evangelicals believe the acceptance of Christ saves man, the Orthodox concept of a “therapeutic tradition,” is foreign to them.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, we see the image of Christ who cures the wounded man by leading him to the Inn, which is the Church. Christ is the physician who cures, and the cure takes place within the hospital, which is the Church. We cannot say that we are saved, for we have been given this life wherein we are to cooperate with God’s grace, and be transformed into His likeness, that we might be capable of spending eternity in His Divine Presence, without being burned.

*With Love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon*



Starosta’s / Warden’s Corner

We had a very successful Food Fest this year. We eliminated all the outside tents selling various bargain items and most of the inside sales, except for the Russian tables, and set our focus on increasing food sales.

Thanks to all our volunteers that contributed to making the food, setting up and taking down and

working all the stations, your contributions allowed the event to go smoothly.



Installing the canopy for the Food Fest.

We recently upgraded our water filtration system right at the well, which should eliminate the strong odors and iron deposits associated with well water.

The administration building doors were repaired and sealed from leaks, and the door and doorway frame leading to the vestry was replaced completely. The weather stripping on the doors leading to the restrooms was replaced.

The three cupolas have now been clear-coated, and the next step is to assemble them and install them in the near future. Work on the interior of the church around the four columns is continuing, rebuilding the oak bases, and repairing the floor. The new columns will be installed when this work is completed.

We are moving along with the former cemetery property, which will be converted into a mitigation bank, and are working with a local mitigation company and our attorney on an agreement that is acceptable. This company has extensive experience with running mitigation banks in California and, in particular, in Sonoma County.

Paul Johnson

707-696-5566

starosta@sonic.net



Sisterhood News

The Food Fest was a great success. Thank you to all who cooked, prepared, and worked so hard before, during, and after the event. It was also nice to have the Eritrean Group and the nuns from Holy Assumption Monastery back again and participating.





Thank you to all who have been making the wonderful lunches, most recently for the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple, Monday, December 4. Our special holidays coming up are Christmas, Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, January 7, Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos on Monday, January 8, and Theophany (blessing of the water) on Friday, January 19. There will be a sign-up for food for our Christmas Lunch at the Candle Counter.

Also, we will be needing people to help in decorating the church as well as donating and putting together the Christmas baskets for our ailing members and shut-ins. They could always use our prayers and 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.



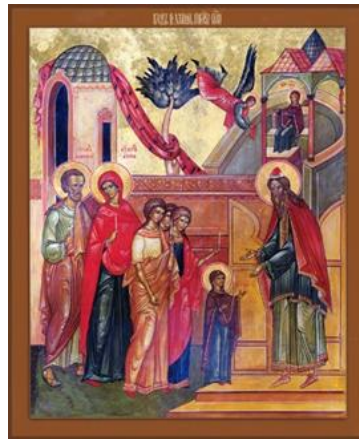
Winter Fasts and Feasts

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (Nov. 21 / Dec. 4)

Soon after the beginning of the Nativity Fast (Advent), the Holy Church celebrates the Feast of the Entrance of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Here we encounter the holiness of Mary, a small child separated from the world, brought to live in the Temple a life set apart, consecrated, and in a state of intimacy with God—something that all of us are called to be. We also see in this Feast a comparison between the Temple of stone and Mary, the Living Temple, the Temple of the Savior, for she will bear God the Word the God-Man in her womb, thus showing herself to be a holier Temple than that

at Jerusalem. It is the Living Temple, the instrument of the Incarnation, which sanctifies the Temple built of stone.

According to the Inner Tradition of the Church, the Entrance into the Temple took place in the following manner: The parents of the Virgin, Joachim and Anna, when praying for the resolution of their barrenness, gave a vow that if a child was born, it would be dedicated to the service of God. Thus, when the Most-Holy Virgin was three years old, her holy parents resolved to fulfill their vow.



Having gathered relatives and acquaintances, clothing the Most-Pure Mary in bright garments, singing sacred hymns, and carrying lit candles in their hands, they led her to the Jerusalem Temple. There the young Maiden was met by the High Priest with a multitude of priests.

Leading up into the Temple were fifteen high steps, and the child Mary, it seems, was not able on her own to ascend these steps. But, as soon as she was put on the first step, being strengthened by the power of God, she quickly climbed the remaining steps to the top. Later, at an inspiration from Above, the High Priest led the Most-Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, into which the High Priest entered only once a year on behalf of the people, after first making sacrifices for them and for himself. All who were present were astonished at this extraordinary event.

The righteous Joachim and Anna, having delivered the child voluntarily to the Heavenly Father, returned home; the Most-Blessed Mary remained in the rooms for virgins which were found at the Temple. Around the Temple, according to the witness of Holy Scripture (e.g., Luke 2:37), as well as that of the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many rooms in which remained those dedicated to the service of God.

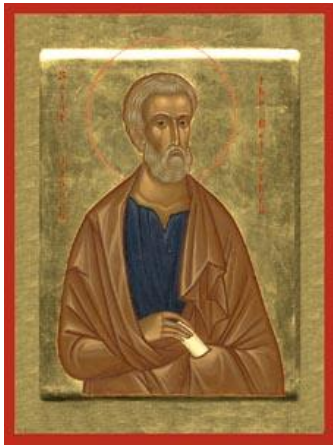
A deep mystery covers the earthly life of the Most-Holy Theotokos from her childhood to her repose. Her life in the Jerusalem Temple was concealed. If you were to ask me, said the Blessed Jerome, how the Most-Holy Virgin passed the time of her youth, I would answer that this is known only to

God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, detailed to protect her.

In Church Tradition, however, is preserved information that during her sojourn in the Jerusalem Temple, the Most-Pure Virgin was educated in the community of pious virgins, diligently reading Holy Scriptures, occupied with handiworks, perpetually in prayer, and growing up with love toward God.

In remembrance of the Entry into the Temple of the Most-Holy Theotokos, the Church, from ancient times, instituted a solemn Feast. Information concerning the celebration of the Feast in the first centuries of Christianity is found in the tradition of Palestinian Christians, which says that when the Holy Queen Helena came to Palestine, she erected a church in honor of the Entrance into the Temple of the Most-Holy Theotokos. Thus the Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of the Most-Holy Theotokos, pre-announcing the Incarnation of God on earth, proclaims salvation to all Christians.

Righteous Joseph the Betrothed (Sunday after Nativity, Sunday of the Forefathers)



We are familiar with the story of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet the one figure we tend to forget is the righteous St. Joseph, the betrothed of Mary and the foster father of Jesus Christ [Matt. 1:16; Luke 3:23], because we read about him only briefly. He was “of the House of David” according to the

lineage in the Book of Matthew [Matt. 1:1–16], and his lineage is again mentioned when he went with Mary to Bethlehem to be registered for the census [Luke 2:4].

Joseph was a widower, having been married to Salome, and had several children: James, Justus, Judas, Simon, and several daughters [Mark 6:3]. When Joseph was betrothed to Mary, he was already advanced in age. After they were betrothed, Joseph learned that Mary was with child and wanted to put her away secretly so as to not make a public example of her. An angel of the Lord visited Joseph, telling him of the birth of Christ. [Matt. 1:18–23]. Learning

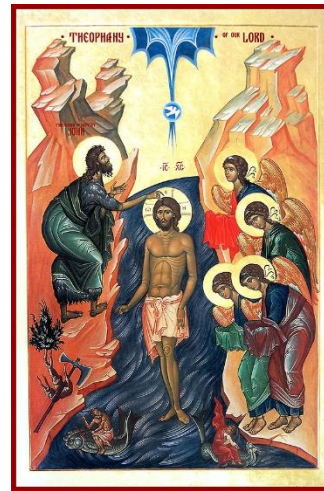
that this was of the Holy Spirit, Joseph remained betrothed to Mary.

Joseph was with Mary and the Christ Child when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the Divine Infant in Bethlehem. He fled to Egypt with Mary and Christ on the orders of the angel to protect them from the wrath of King Herod. After the death of Herod, Joseph returned with Mary and Jesus and settled in Nazareth. We know Joseph was still living when Jesus was 12, when he and Mary lost their son in the temple for three days. However, Joseph was no longer mentioned when Christ performed the miracle of the wine at the wedding of Cana. It is reputed that Joseph died at the age of one hundred.

The children of Joseph were the “brothers and sisters” of Christ, as they were the children from Joseph’s marriage to Salome. James and Jude were among the Disciples of Christ, and Justus was one of the Seventy Apostles.

St. Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after Nativity, along with David the King and James, the Brother of our Lord. He is also commemorated before the Nativity, on the Sunday of the Forefathers.

Theophany of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Jan. 6 / Jan. 19)



The Feast of Theophany (or Epiphany) of Our Lord Jesus Christ, is celebrated on January 6 (January 19). After Pascha and Pentecost, this is the greatest Feast of the Orthodox Church, pre-dating even the Nativity of Christ in importance. Here, Our Lord Jesus Christ is baptized by John in the waters of the Jordan, this being the first

public manifestation of God the Word Incarnate to the world.

As Holy Scripture tells us: “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. Now John wore a garment of camel's

hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.... [And John said,] I baptize you with water for repentance, but He Who is coming after me is mightier than I, Whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” [Matt. 3:1–6, 11].

“The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, ‘After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me’ [John 1:28-30]. Then Jesus came...to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me? But Jesus answered him, Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased” [Matt. 3:13–17].

“And John bore witness, I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God” [John 1:32–34].

In commemoration of this event, the Church, on January 5 (Jan. 18), the Eve of Theophany, performs the Blessing of Waters in the church itself, and on January 6 (Jan. 19), the day of the Feast itself, the Blessing of Waters is performed at a site prepared outside the church (preferably a river or lake).

The Feast of Theophany reminds us of our own Baptism, in the hymn sung just before the reading of the Epistle at the Divine Liturgy: “As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!” For in the waters of Baptism, we put off the Old Man and put on the New, that is Jesus Christ, and strive to acquire the humility shown by the Lord Himself when He, the Creator, bowed His head under the hand of John, the creature, in the waters of the Jordan River.

Note: Fast/Feast dates are listed as old/new calendar.

Sources: st.xenia.org, stnicholasmarin.org, orthodoxwiki.org

✂ ✂ ✂

Choir Notes

We are coming toward the end of our choir semester rehearsals. What a great semester we have had! Learning A Mercy of Peace and the Cherubic hymn in Slavonic was one of our goals. We have also started to learn our tones. For the next few months, it will be Tone 1.

Super excited that all participants enjoy learning Church music.

May God continue to bless the group and their families.

—**Vera Peterson**

msvnp28@gmail.com

661-305-6234

✂ ✂ ✂

Celebrating a Major Accomplishment

We are pleased to announce that on November 9, Andrei Peterson completed his training with the Navy and is now ranked as a Petty Officer, Machinist Mate Nuclear, Third Class.



Andrei’s journey began on April 7, 2021, when he shipped out to naval boot camp at Naval Base Great Lakes in Illinois. After completing boot camp, Andrei was shipped to the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command at Goose Creek, South Carolina, where he trained for nearly a year and a half.

This training program is in three phases and is considered the most intense and grueling in the American military in terms of knowledge and skills.

Andrei’s graduation ceremony was on board the *U.S.S. Yorktown*. His parents, Subdeacon Michael and Vera, and sister Katya, were in attendance, along with other relatives, friends, and some members from

the parish of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, where Andrei attended church while at Goose Creek.

It was great to see him in our parish for the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. Father Alexander congratulated Andrei on his accomplishments and his upcoming name's day. We all wish Andrei the very best on his journey in the Navy. May God continue to bless him and may the Mother of God always protect him.

"Ship ahoy mate!"

Hooyah!

Andrei is now stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, and has been assigned to the submarine *U.S.S. New Jersey*.



For those submitting photos (original size, please) and other items for the newsletter, please email them to msvnp28@gmail.com or text them to 661-305-8364 to our editor, Misha Peterson.

—*Michael Mogilev, Publisher*



Orthodox Community Events



- **Holy Cross Homeschool Academy** is a cooperative educational program designed for Orthodox Christian homeschooling families in the Bay Area. Its goal is to be a supportive, parent-run community that works together to provide children with instruction in core educational subjects, in a positive, loving, and joyful environment. In addition to academic instruction, the program offers enrichment classes in Orthodox Christian spirituality, liturgical arts as well as educational field trips and spiritual retreats. For families who are new to homeschooling or just

beginning to explore it, they strive to be a welcoming space and source of support, resources and encouragement. Visit www.myholycrossacademy.com to find out more.

- **Ongoing: Mentorship Program and Spiritual Lessons**, Parish Hall, 12:30 p.m. These will be family-oriented talks for children of all ages. Biography and story for ages 7–10, apologetics and living the Faith for teens age 13–17, and a combination for preteens age 10–13. Contact Catie DeCarlo for more info: Catherinegdecarlo@gmail.com. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Cathedral**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95407.
- **The Nomadic Shelter program ("Angels Unawares")**: first Thursday of the month, **January 4**. Guests from the Redwood Gospel Mission will arrive about 6:00 p.m. and depart about 6:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. For any questions, call Michael or Rachel Dovey at 707-799-4117 or Natasha Tennyson at 707-971-0154. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Church Hall**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa 95407.
- **Catechism class**, Saturday, **December 16**, "On the Virgin Mary." Parish Hall, **St. Seraphim Orthodox Cathedral**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa. All are welcome to participate.
- **The 17th Annual Saint Herman's West Youth Conference** will be held at All Saints Russian Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, Nevada, **December 26–29, 2023**. Conference will include edifying lectures, discussions with clergy, liturgical workshops, a hierarchal liturgy, and social interaction in the beautiful outdoors. Registration fees are \$250 for the first member of each family. Adults ages 23–28 are welcome to apply to be counselors by emailing wadyouth3@gmail.com. For more info and to register, visit <https://wadyouth.wordpress.com>.
- **Ongoing: Father James Jorgenson** of St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church is teaching a series of **Thursday evening Bible studies** at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. **December 14, Christmas prophecies**. Please e-mail Brian Rademacher at brianrademacher@gmail.com to be added to the list.
- **Ongoing: M.O.M. Outreach Diaper Bank** for needy mothers (Blessed Mother Olga of Alaska).

Akathist to newly canonized St. Olga Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Needs: diapers, formula, pull-ups, wipes, baby supplies and accessories. St. Seraphim Orthodox Cathedral, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa 95407. Contact Catie DeCarlo for more information: Catherinegdecarlo@gmail.com.

- **Holy Virgin of Kazan Orthodox Church Liturgy, Saturday, December 23.** Hours 8:40 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m., followed by a Lenten potluck meal (fish allowed). His Eminence Archbishop KYRILL presiding. RSVP to kazanchurchrussianriver@gmail.com. 17370 Neeley Rd, Guerneville, CA 95446
- **The Chosen Watch and Study Group, December 20, January 3, 6:30 p.m.** Father John will lead discussion in the conference room, Nativity Greek Orthodox Church, 1110 Highland Ave., Novato.
- **CrossRoads Institute Summer Program for Orthodox Youth** is accepting applications for Summer 2024: **June 18–28, Northern California.** This 10-day academic summer institute prepares high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and invites them to connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition. Go to <https://crossroadsinstitute.org/> to register.
- **Orthodox Singles Mixer, December 15:** 33% of attendees from our first mixer met a person they planned to see again. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/FwHSGW3DYJ2ayvq5>. **St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church**, 2425 Olivera Road, Concord, CA 94520
- **Christmas Singalong event, December 15, 6:30 p.m.** The children of St. Michael's will sing at the beginning of the evening. Songs will include classics like *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, *Wachet Auf, Ukrainian Christmas Carol*, *Hymn to St. Nicholas*. **St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church**, 2425 Olivera Road, Concord, CA 94520. For more info, call Fr. Peter at 415-596-2965.
- **Wintersongs, performed by Kitka Women's vocal ensemble. December 16** in Oakland and **December 17** in San Francisco. Seasonal songs from Balkan, Baltic, Caucasian, and Slavic lands. Visit www.kitka.org/events for tickets.

- **Annual Walk for Life West Coast San Francisco. January 20, 2024, Civic Center Plaza.** 10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Silent No More Awareness Campaign. 11:00: Orthodox Molieben for the Unborn. Meet under the **Orthodox Christians for Life** banner! 12:30–1:30 p.m. Rally; Walk 1:30. Stand for the lives of women who are hurt by abortion and for the lives of the unborn threatened by abortion. The walk will process peacefully down Market Street to the Ferry Building.



- **First Day Hike at Fort Ross, Sunday, January 1, 2023, 10:30 a.m.,** Meet at Gerstle Cove day use parking area. Free (voluntary donations). Then at 2:30, Fort Ross Visitor Center, **Guided Walking Tour and Tea**, \$20. Fort Ross Historic Park, 19005 Coast Hwy. 1, Jenner, 95450. www.fortross.org.
- Ongoing: **Saturdays, 4:30 p.m., Molieben to St. John of San Francisco. Holy Virgin Cathedral**, 26th Ave. and Geary Blvd., San Francisco. Submit names online by Friday at 3:00 p.m.: visit www.sfsobor.com, St. John Prayer Requests.
- **Christmas Yolka and Party, Sunday, December 31,** after Liturgy. St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 102 Ross Ave., San Anselmo.
- **Nativity of Christ New Year's Eve Party, 5:00–10:00 p.m.** Ring in the New Year as the ball drops in Times Square. \$30 tickets, RSVP by Dec. 17. Nativity Greek Orthodox Church, 1110 Highland Ave., Novato. www.nativityofchrist.org.
- **Community Crab Feed, Sat., February 3.** Delicious Greek appetizers, crab, Cretan wine bar, raffle, and silent auction. Music from Crete and performances by the Minoan Dancers. Holy Nativity Greek Orthodox Church, 1110 Highland Ave., Novato. www.nativityofchrist.org.

- **Nativity of Christ Great Vespers and Apodosi**
Dinner Come celebrate their Name Day as a community. Saturday, **December 30**, Great Vespers at 6:00 pm followed by dinner. **Holy Nativity Greek Orthodox Church**, 1110 Highland Ave., Novato. www.nativityofchrist.org.

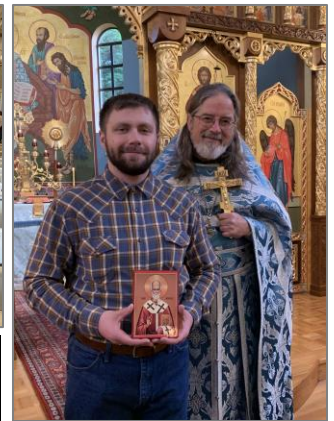


☎ *Our Council Members* ☎

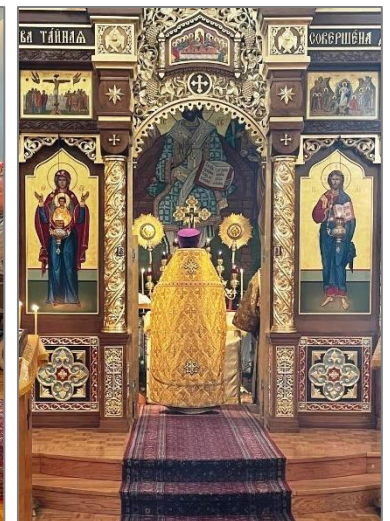
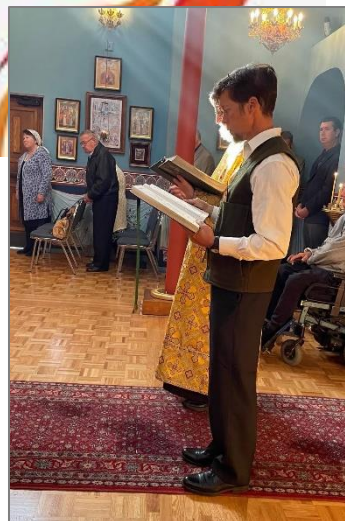
Rev. Alexander Krassovsky 707-585-8330
Fr. Deacon Athanasius Ferguson 707-812-4125
Paul Johnson, Warden 707-696-5566
Elisabeth Russie, Treasurer 415-328-1095
Anna Ferguson, Secretary 707-812-4124
Daniel Alva 707-570-7787
Demitrios Handelih 707-292-2842
Michael A. Mogilev 707-953-3636
John Reighard 707-235-8636



(Above) Petty Officer Andrei Peterson with his parents, Vera and Michael, at his graduation on Nov. 9 (Above right) Andrei with Fr. Alexander on the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple.



(Above and right) Some of our parishioners went on an impromptu outing at Snoopy's Home Ice



Food Fest – November 11 and 12, 2023







CHRISTMAS *Bazaar*

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

**Holy Virgin Cathedral Main Hall
6210 Geary Blvd, SF**

**Gingerbread Cookie Decorating
Ded Moroz | Face Painting | Photo Booth
Local Christmas Vendors
Live Music | Chess | Piroshki | Desserts
Frozen Pelmeni/Cocktail Piroshki TO GO**

For cookie decorating and to pre-order
frozen pelmeni or cocktail piroshki visit:
HolyVirginCathedral.com

