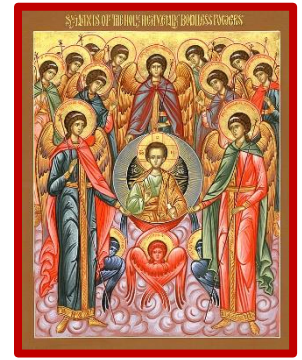


Sts. Peter & Paul Church Council News

October – November 2025

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Priest's Corner

“The powers of heaven now invisibly minister together with us; Behold, now enters the King of Glory. This mystical sacrifice is superlatively heralded.”

These words from the liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, now emblazoned across our new iconostasis, encapsulates and exemplifies the very reason for the existence of the Earthly Church. It is here, in this holy place, where Heaven and Earth are united during the Divine Liturgy. God is here, now and in this altar, present together with the Heavenly Host.

Some have asked as to why we put so much effort and money into our church. In answering this, I am reminded of the magnificent cathedrals of Europe, which took decades - if not centuries - to build. Builders, stonecutters and sculptors, woodworkers and iconographers were born, lived and died - spending an entire lifetime - building these churches. The answer to the question “why?” is simple - all to the Glory of God. All out of love and dedication to Him. In gratitude to God for His endless mercies, we give to Him our very best, and nothing less. And while this gratitude is expressed outwardly by these efforts, we also understand that - most importantly - we must bring to God our spiritual “best.” This is why our churches are so beautifully adorned to His Glory - to allow us to sense a foreshadowing of the Eternal Kingdom, to give us a place to focus our attention on Him and on our spiritual lives. It is here, in our churches, where we can escape, for a time, our earthly concerns and difficulties and find peace. It is here, while still being earthly dwellers, we can experience the heavenly; here, instead of being overly concerned with the tangible, we can reach out



and touch the intangible, here where the temporal becomes secondary as we seek out the eternal.

The artisans of the past knew this and were grateful to have had the opportunity to create something so magnificent to the Glory of God. Who these people were no one knows, but God does. In a similar fashion, a few generations from now, we too, shall be forgotten. Yet, this is of no concern to us. What is, is that we have had the opportunity to create something beautiful to the Glory of God and to provide our children and - God willing - many future generations, a place where they too, may glorify Him and take advantage of the grace which abides in this holy place unto the salvation of their souls.

“Let us approach with Faith and Love, that we too may be partakers of Eternal Life.”

* * * * *

I would like to express a huge “Thanks!” to a handful of people in our parish, who have worked for nearly a month renovating the Bethards Drive house for our new priest, Fr. Seth and his family.

This house is, historically, very valuable to us. Not only was it the home of Arkady and Ariadna Vinokoureff - two of the founding members of our parish, but was also site of our first “regular” liturgies. Archbishop Anthony of blessed memory (+2000), would send a cathedral priest - once a month - to celebrate liturgy in the Vinokoureff home. The dining room was used as an altar, while the sunken living room served as the “nave” where the faithful stood and prayed. These services were followed by lunch and plans for further fundraising to eventually buy property and build a church. In 1980, the church hall and rectory were built, at which time, the parish moved there with regular services being conducted by Fr. Paul Gribanovsky. When Ariadna, and later Arkady

Vinokoureff passed away in the early 2000's, the house was bequeathed to the parish. However, since both Fr. Paul and Fr. Alexander owned their own homes, the house was rented out.

When our last tenants vacated the property in early September, it was clear that a great deal of renovation and upgrading was needed in order to bring it up-to-date and welcoming for our new priest and his young family. Since that time, Fr. Athanasius, Michael Mogilev, Olga Reighard and others, have been volunteering hours upon hours of time repainting, cleaning, repairing and upgrading the house. I am deeply grateful to them and to all those who managed even a few hours to come out and help to make Fr. Seth and his family welcome in their new home.

Congratulations to the parents, godparents and relatives of the newly baptized James Jackson Sidoranko who was baptized on August 30, 2025

Congratulations to all those celebrating their Namesdays*:

Oct. 1 - Ariadna Baranoff & Arina Bohn
Oct. 4 - Sub-deacon Dimitri Shikaloff and Demetrius Handelih
Oct. 8 - Sergei Hidchenko, Sergei Srebrennikov and Sergei Tcherniavsky
Oct. 15 - Justina Montano
Oct. 25 - Fr. Martin Person
Oct. 31 - Luke Roquemore
Nov. 1 - John Poluektov
Nov. 4 - Anna Litvinenko & Elizabeth Gustav
Nov. 6 - Alexander Bodulov, Victoria Kochergin, Victoria Andrade & Victoria Sabelnik
Nov. 9 - Capitolina Huhalo
Nov. 10 - Neonilla Lucas
Nov. 16 - Protodeacon George Chrebtoff
Nov. 19 - Paul Saharoff
Nov. 21 - Sub-deacon Michael Peterson, Michael Bodulov Sr., Michael Bodulov Jr., Michael Chidlowsky, Michael (Jerrod) Logvy, Michael (Todd) McPhee, Michael Mogilev Sr. and Michael Mogilev Jr. and Amanda (Michaela) Merriss
Nov. 24 - Anwar Victor Handelih

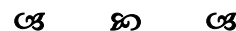
**)Fr. Alexander asks, that you please notify him if we have missed anyone's namesdays in our lists. Thank you!*

God Grant them All Many Years!

With a degree of sadness but, as always, with faith in our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, we note the passing of **Vladimir "Val" Pavloff**, brother of Kostya Pavloff and son of our late Senior Sister Mila Pavloff, who passed away after a very long illness on September 25, 2025.

May God grant rest to the soul of the newly departed servant **Vladimir** and I ask that you remember him in your prayers both in church and at home. Our condolences to the families and friends of our reposed parishioner.

Memory Eternal!



Being God's Messenger

When we put on Christ, we become God's messenger

Walking through life with a smile on our face and a song in our heart is the best way to keep our mind and heart in a good place. Life has many turns and many trials, but when we keep centered on all the good that is in our life, the trials are short lived.

Smiles are contagious. Ever notice how a room brightens up when someone walks in who is always smiling, always happy, always extending a warm greeting to others? What better gift can we give another, than a sincere smile.

I remember finding a young man sitting on a log, deep on the trail above Multnomah Falls, on the Columbia River of Oregon, many years ago. I'd hiked up the switchback trail to the primordial forest. As a young man I'd frequently run that trail, finding the peace and solitude I so craved.

About four miles from the top, I was somewhat surprised to find another person, sitting alone on a log. Since there had been only one other car parked at the lodge, I did not expect to see anyone. As he was deep in thought, I apologized for startling him. Sensing something was wrong, I commented on the beauty of God's creation and asked if he'd like to share a sandwich and some coffee. He surprised me with his question, asking if I was an angel.

Sitting down on the log next to him, I opened my backpack, and offered him half of my lunch. A few moments passed when he turned to me, showed me a revolver, and told me he'd come to this remote spot with the intent of killing himself. When he saw me appear with a long white beard and hair, and dressed in my

long black robe, he'd first thought I might be an angel, sent by God.

He'd been praying that God would forgive him for what he was about to do. I assured him that I was indeed flesh and blood, and certainly no angel. But I also told him that I was sent by God with a message. The message from God was that he was loved, and that God had a plan for his life, and this period of despair would soon pass.

He handed me his revolver. I emptied the gun of the bullets, and placed it in my backpack, and we had a long conversation about his life. Eventually we walked together back to our vehicles. With the promise that he would return the revolver to his father, and let him know he'd intended kill himself, until that encounter with a monk, I handed him the gun, and we parted ways.

I've long wondered about the direction his life must have taken after that encounter in the forest, so very many years ago. I've also wondered what would have happened if I'd continued on that trail without stopping to greet him, without offering a smile and a shared sandwich.

To this day I feel blessed that God allowed me to be His messenger on that lonely trail, and I try to be available each and every day as His messenger. When we make a concerted effort to be centered in Christ, each and every day, each and every hour, we make way for a heart and mind that is always in a good place, and we allow the love of Christ to be seen and experienced by others. When we put aside ourselves and put on Christ, we become God's messengers.

*With love in Christ,
Abbot Tryphon*



Starosta's / Warden's Corner

The past couple of months have been busy with the feast days of the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, Dormition of the Holy Theotokos, Nativity of the Theotokos. Thank you to all who helped prepare for these services. A special thank you, as always, to Elena Piskuleva and Arina Bohn for the beautiful flower arrangements in church.

Our homeschool group, Archangel Homeschool Academy, has started classes for the year. They are meeting on Mondays and Wednesdays and we are

looking forward to see how they progress through the year.

Thank you to those people who have been able to help take time with helping maintain things around the church. Misha Peterson and Simeon Collins did a fantastic job cleaning up the weeds in the parking area behind the church hall. Markus Collins and Vera Peterson were very helpful clearing the deck of branches and leaves from the redwood trees.

We have the annual food fest coming up on November 8 and 9. Please check with the Sisterhood to help with food preparation. Please check with us to help volunteer for that weekend.

As a reminder the link for live streaming services is: <https://stream.streamingchurch.tv/stream.php?churchid=church8703>

Previously recorded services may be viewed at: https://streamingchurch.tv/ci/mf/media/notes_grid/church8703

You may also find links to these pages on our website: <https://www.stsproca.org/>

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



Sisterhood News

During the warm and sunny end of the summer months of August and September, many parishioners go on vacation, and, still, the sisterhood managed to serve complete lunches, nutritious and delicious,



every single Sunday. Thank you, Sharon Buot, for masterful organization of the lunches! It is a hard job and Sharon does it perfectly.

We had very nice festive lunches for the feast days of Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord on August 19th, Dormition of the Theotokos on August 28th, and Nativity of the Theotokos on September 21. A big thank you goes to Lena Poluektov and her family, and many others who generously contributed to these lunches to make the holidays extra special.

On August 24th, Nina Williams, daughter of blessed memory George Franke, prepared and served root beer floats and decorated the tables, to commemorate her fathers would have been 100 year birthday. We all miss George, a long-time active member of our church, who passed away last November, and it was good to sing Memory Eternal for him.

We are truly grateful to our Eritrean sisters who prepared their traditional lunch for us on September 15th. We enjoyed their hearty, flavorful meat stews and lentil stews, and sauteed greens, with a whole bouquet of fragrant spices. It is always a treat to have their rich stews served on a large sourdough flatbread. Thank you, our Eritrean sisters, for sharing your traditional meals with us.

We are also grateful to Olga Reighard and her daughter Maddie, who with help of Anna Judd, prepared a lenten lunch on September 12th, a Feast Day of Saint Alexander Nevsky, a Patron Saint of our Father Alexander. Many thanks to everyone who participated in cooking and serving a special meal to welcome our new priest, Father Seth. And a very special thank you to Nadia Stewart who cooked a very nice dinner for clergy who came to Sonoma County for the Fort Ross celebration.

At the present time, the sisterhood is busy getting ready for the annual Bazaar that is scheduled for November. We most definitely need help! Please contact Aliona Russie at (415) 328-1095 to volunteer for pirozhki and pelmeni preparation, and Anna Judd at (707) 293-6509 to contribute your favorite dessert. God bless everyone for all your hard work.



Saint Demetrius of Thessalonica ***(October 26 / November 8)***

Saint Demetrius suffered in Thessalonica during the reign of Galerius Maximian (c. 306). He belonged to one of the most distinguished families of the province of Macedonia and was widely admired not only because of his noble ancestry and grace of bearing, but also for virtue, wisdom and goodness of heart surpassing that of his elders.

The military expertise of Saint Demetrius led Galerius, as Caesar of the Eastern Empire, to appoint him commander of the Roman forces in Thessaly and Proconsul for Hellas. But for all this, Demetrius remained ever aware of the underlying realities of life. Since

faith in Christ had touched his heart, all the glory of this world meant nothing to him, and there was nothing he preferred to teaching and preaching the word of God.

Despite the persecution directed against Christians by the Emperor, Saint Demetrius brought a large number of pagans to the faith. His words convinced them



because they saw in the righteousness, peace and brotherly love that marked his life an illustration of the truth of which he spoke.

The Emperor Maximian had just won a series of brilliant victories over the Scythians and was on his way back to Rome

when he halted at Thessalonica to receive the acclamations of the populace and to offer sacrifices in thanksgiving to the idols. A number of pagans, envious of the success of the Saint, took advantage of the Emperor's presence in the city to denounce Demetrius as a Christian. Maximian's astonishment gave way to violent indignation when he was told that Demetrius' was making use of his official position to spread the faith. Demetrius was summoned and confined in a cell, located in the basement of nearby baths.

Maximian arranged for games and gladiatorial combats to take place in the amphitheater of the city. He had brought with him a man of gigantic stature and Herculean strength called Lyaïos, a Vandal by origin. Such was this man's strength and skill in single combat that no one could withstand him. There was in the city a young Christian called Nestor, who observing the empty pride of the Emperor in the victories of his champion, made up his mind to show him that real power belongs to Christ alone. He ran to the baths where Demetrius was imprisoned and asked for the protection of his prayer in going to confront the giant. The Martyr made the sign of the Cross on the brow and the heart of the boy, and sent him like David before Goliath. He reached the amphitheater just as the heralds were crying out on all sides for any who would

stand against Lyaios. Advancing towards the Emperor, Nestor threw his tunic to the ground and shouted, "God of Demetrius, help me!" In the first encounter, at the very moment the giant rushed upon him, Nestor slipped aside and stabbed him to the heart with his dagger. There was uproar and amazement at the marvel, and people asked themselves how a mere child, relying neither on strength nor weapons, could so suddenly have brought down the barbarian.

Rather than yield to the sign of the sovereign power of God, the Emperor flew into a rage and ordered the immediate arrest of Nestor and his beheading outside the city. He had heard Nestor calling upon the God of Demetrius and, supposing the Saint had used some kind of witchcraft, Maximian ordered his soldiers to go and thrust Demetrius through with their lances, without trial, in the depths of his prison cell. There were some Christians, including Demetrius' servant Lupus, present at his martyrdom, and when the soldiers had gone, they reverently buried the Saint's body.

It was God's will that the grace with which He filled Saint Demetrius should remain active even after his death. This is why He caused myrrh to flow from his body with a delightful scent, which had the property of healing all who took it as an unction, with faith in the intercession of the Saint. Time and again, during sixteen hundred years, Saint Demetrius has given proof of his benevolent care for the city of Thessalonica and its inhabitants. He has defended them from the attacks of barbarians, he has preserved them from plague and famine, healed the sick and comforted the afflicted.

Source: goarch.org



Archangel Homeschool Academy **Scottish Country Dancing Has Come to Sts. Peter and Paul**

Through a collaboration between Archangel Homeschool Academy and renowned Scottish dance teacher Ron Wallace, Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church is now host to a weekly Scottish Country Dance class. The class began in September as part of AHA's regular courses and is a smashing success. All ages are welcome and all levels. We have five-year-old intermediate students and teenage beginners dancing with mothers and grandparents and everyone

in between. This class is open for parishioners, and drop-in classes are optional.

Teacher Ron Wallace has been teaching soft shoe and hard shoe Scottish dancing for over thirty years in Sonoma County. His dances perform all over the Bay Area, including at the famous Scottish Country Games. When some of his long-term students had children of their own, they asked Mr. Wallace to create a class for younger ages. The class became a sought-after success, held at the beautiful Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa. Last year, AHA director Amanda Merriss approached Mr. Wallace about combining his children's class with AHA and bring the class to Sts. Peter and Paul. Mrs. Merriss says that the mental benefits from this particular dance form is extremely beneficial for children. Not only do they embody lessons in rhythm, spatial awareness, and planning ahead, but the dance form supplements mathematics, music, and history among other subjects. And with any social country dance, the more, the merrier! Large classes are especially lively and joyful.

To join, classes are held Mondays from 2:00-3:00pm. Every class is \$5 per dancer per class. Checks and cash are accepted.

Soft shoes or dance slippers are advised such as ballet or clean tennis shoes. Socks are too slippery and sandals are dangerous.

For more information contact Amanda Merriss 707-508-5335



Choir Notes



We, as a choir, are so blessed to welcome Father Seth and Matushka Sophia, with baby Clement to our parish. May God grant them many years!



Our choir has started rehearsals on Monday evenings. It is truly amazing how the choir is growing. We started a beginning music theory class that will

enhance the knowledge of our choir members. We are strengthening our core and building our repertoire. We are so blessed to have choir members that are so dedicated, motivated, and, most of all, supportive. In November, it will be a year anniversary since the consecration of our church. Glory to God for all that He has bestowed upon us.

If you are interested in joining the choir please get in touch with Vera Peterson.

—*Vera Peterson*
 msvnp28@gmail.com
 661-305-6234

✂ ✂ ✂
Newsletter Submissions

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

—*Michael Mogilev, Publisher*

✂ ✂ ✂
 ☎ **Our Council Members** ☎

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 Rev. Seth Davidenko.....707-396-6024
 Fr. Deacon Athanasius Ferguson707-812-4125
 Paul Johnson, Warden707-696-5566
 Elisabeth Russie, Treasurer.....415-328-1095
 Natalya Shikaloff, Secretary480-621-9976
 Demitrios Handelih.....707-292-2842
 Andrew Merriss.....707-843-9818
 Michael A. Mogilev.....707-953-3636
 John Reighard.....707-235-8636

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Orthodox Community Events

- **St. Olga of Alaska**, Wednesdays at 5:30, followed by Vespers at 6:00 p.m. **St. Seraphim Orthodox Cathedral**, 90 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa. Schedule at <http://saintseraphim.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. Please e-mail Brian Rademacher at brianrademacher@gmail.com to be added to the list
- **Holy Virgin Cathedral Catechism classes** (ongoing) in English, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, at the meeting

room of the Russian-American Women's League (463 26th Ave, Suite 304, San Francisco). The instructor is Priest George Kaplanov. Remote participants can log in via Google Meet at <https://meet.google.com/tjftap-dom>. For more information, please contact Fr. George directly at email@worldview.education or by phone at 415-205-4424.



• **Archangel Homeschool Academy Tee-shirts**

AHA is in the process of putting in an order for T-shirts for all children and parents in the school. These shirts will help to spread the word about the homeschool academy, and will also make locating students easier when on fieldtrips. We are hoping that, by making the shirts available to all parishioners we can get more shirts out there *and* help raise the funds necessary to make an order really soon! Anyone interested may contribute \$20-\$30 to receive a shirt, with anything over \$20 going toward supporting the homeschool program and the efforts of designing and ordering the shirts. Men's, Women's, and Youth sizes are all available. We are planning to order them in early October. Please contact Andrew Merris (707-843-9818) or Amanda Merriss (707-508-5335) for more details and to order a shirt.






ARCHANGEL HOMESCHOOL ACADEMY

**JOIN OUR
PIONEER POD**

WE ARE 4 FAMILIES HOPING TO
ROUND OUT OUR CURRENT STUDENT
BODY. ESPECIALLY SEEKING BOYS
AGES 6-10 AND HIGH SCHOOLERS

WE OFFER :

- History, Language Arts, German
- Poetry & Psalms, Arts & Crafts
- Music Theory, Chorus
- Scottish Country Dance
- Field Trips
- Credentialed teachers!

**Mondays & Wednesdays
10:00-2:30
Sts. Peter & Paul
Russian Orthodox
Church in SR**

**Amanda Merriss, Director
(707) 508- 5335**




SIP & SUPPORT WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
Holy Virgin Cathedral Courtyard
6210 Geary Blvd, San Francisco

After Liturgy*
*one liturgy starts at 9am

SIP, BID, SUPPORT!

Tastings from select wineries | Delicious and gourmet bites
Silent & live auctions | Large wine raffle

Early Tickets: \$65
On-Site Tickets: \$75
HolyVirginCathedral.com



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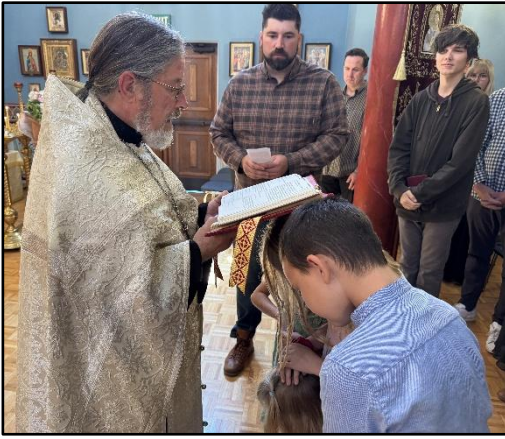
Above: Preparing for the food fest.



Below: Our parish hosted clergy attending the Fort Ross celebration.



Parish Life



Above and below: Moleben for the new school year



Above: We were blessed to have Fr. Roman from Jerusalem spend some time with our parish.



Blessing of the fruit



Below: With our new priest, Father Seth.



Above, left and below: Lunch with our Eritrean sisters.



Left: Helping Matushka Anya celebrate her birthday.



If you have any photos of you would like to submit for future editions, please send them (original size), to our editor, Misha Peterson.



**Sts. Peter and Paul
Russian Orthodox Church**

Santa Rosa

~Food Fest 2025~



Saturday, November 8 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sunday, November 9 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Russian Imports, Gifts, and Handcrafts

~Homemade Russian Lunch~

~Frozen Russian Food to Go~

Homemade Bread

Russian Desserts

Baked Goods

~Authentic Eritrean Dishes~

~Flavored Vodka Tasting~

***Sales of handcrafts and religious items from
Holy Assumption Monastery***

~Docent Church Tours~

For additional information call

Nadia Stewart (925)708-1868

Sharon Buot (707)321-9893

850 St. Olga Court, Santa Rosa

off Stony Point Road

½ mile north of Todd Road

Look for the Gold Domes!

