

Церковь Всѣхъ Святыхъ въ Землѣ Россійской Просіавшихъ CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

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Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

*Printed with the blessing of His Eminence Kyrill,
Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America,
Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.*



MESSAGE FROM FATHER STEFAN

I am pleased we now have a Parish Newsletter, available to Parish Members, Stewards, attendees, friends and supporters of the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, California.

Our parish is part of the Western American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. The Russian Church Outside Russia has also been called the “Russian Church in Exile,” the “Russian Church Abroad,” or simply the “Synod Church.” Regardless of the name, it has always considered itself part of the suffering Orthodox Church in Russia during the decades of Soviet turmoil, persecution and subjugation of the Church and its faithful. In 2007, the Church Abroad reconciled with the Moscow Patriarchate, fulfilling its founding principle to reunite with the Church in Russia once persecutions ended and normal church administrative relations could be reestablished. We are now in the sixth year of reconciliation, remaining administratively autonomous but liturgically and fraternally one and the same Russian Orthodox Church.

EARLY HISTORY

Our parish in Burlingame was originally established in 1952 as an Auxiliary of the Synod Headquarters in New York City. It started as a house church on the northwest corner of Carmelita Avenue and Balboa Avenue. A small group of parishioners organized a Brotherhood, commemorating All Russian Saints. These parishioners

acquired property so that the head of the Synod Church would have an independent base from which to visit the parishes of the Western American Diocese. His Beatitude Ever Memorable Metropolitan Anastassy (Gribanovsky, 1936-1964) was the first to stay in this house church during his annual visits to the West Coast.

Metropolitan Anastassy was, in fact, the second head of the Church Abroad after it was founded by the Blessed Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky, 1922-1936.) To the right of the Royal Gates in our church is a priceless historic relic. The wooded staff is his Bishop’s crosier, always displayed in memory of Metropolitan Anastassy’s presence in our parish. The Ever Memorable and Blessed Metropolitan Philaret (Voznesensky, 1964-1986), third head of the Church Abroad, also visited often and stayed at the Auxiliary. Our parish became known as the Sinodal’naya Podvoriye (Synod Auxiliary).

RECTORS SERVING OVER THE YEARS

The Burlingame Parish had a number of priests serve over the years. Among them were Archimandrite Afanasy (Stukoff) and Protopriest Alexander Kochergin (related to Protodeacon Alexander Kochergin). Protopriest Nikolai Panamoreff and Archimandrite Spiridon (Efimov) also participated during the early years.

The first official Rector was Archimandrite Vasilli (Konratovich), followed by Protopriest Nikolai Masich. During Father Nikolai Masich’s time, major changes occurred. Members of the still-existing Brotherhood

continued...

bought and renovated the property at 744 El Camino Real and it became the five-domed parish edifice we know today. In 1963, Bishop St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco blessed the domes and the crosses. Archpriest Alexei Ionoff and then Protopriest Pavel Gribanovsky continued growing the church. Archpriest Gabriel Kin served during interim periods when there was no assigned Rector.

During Father Pavel Gribanovsky's Rectorship, the Church of All Russian Saints was switched from being the Synodal Auxiliary to becoming a regular parish of the Western American Diocese. Archbishop Anthony (Medvedev) was the Bishop in San Francisco at that time. The head of the church was Metropolitan Vitaly (Ustinov, 1986-2001). I became the Rector in 1981.

GOVERNING BODY

Our Parish is governed according to the Official Parish By-Laws of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. It is supported by the annual dues of the registered Members in good standing as well as from donations for various services from church goers. We have instituted a Stewardship Program that allows all attendees to be included in the support of our parish family. (See article on page 4.) We invite and encourage all to participate at the level that personal circumstances allow. Our Parish life includes regular church services, the Church Choir, the Church Sisterhood, the Parish School and the Parish Council. We invite you to take advantage of all

that is offered and available for a full and enriching spiritual journey.

We must remember that the Church exists for our salvation and for the salvation of our family members. We are all called to grow spiritually by active participation in the church services, partaking of the Holy Sacraments, and by living the Orthodox Christian Life not only in Church but in our homes and in the environments that God's providence has called us to accept with a joyous heart.

We are entering the sixty-first year of the existence of our parish. It is our responsibility to nurture and ensure the growth and development

of this establishment, honoring the trust and hope of our founders that their original efforts were not in vain. I pray that the seeds they planted will continue to flourish and bring abundant fruit for Orthodox Christians and our fellow men for many decades to come. All founders of Orthodox parishes pray that, by God's Grace, their beloved parish will continue to exist until the Coming of Our Lord! May the Lord grant us the strength, the fortitude, the patience, and the wisdom in His love to faithfully continue this task.

- Protoierei Stefan Pavlenko



Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Synod Auxiliary and Parish in Burlingame are the original parishioners. At that time, some were children, others young adults.

Back row: Misha Bogoslovsky. **Middle row:** left to right, Marina Plisak, Alexander Lisin, and Ron Bulatoff. Mr. Bulatoff's deceased parents, Michael and Nina, were very active in the early years of the Parish. **Front row:** Larissa Krassovsky and Galina Vassilievna Destina. Galina Vassilievna is the last surviving founding member of the Brotherhood.

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR FATHER STEFAN

“Will our souls recognize loved ones in the next life or must we wait until the Second Coming of the Lord?”

ANSWER

One of the greatest mysteries of our existence is whether or not there is an afterlife. The Orthodox Christian Faith emphatically asserts that yes indeed, there is continued life after death! This prompts the next question: what kind of life will it be?

We get few details about it in Holy Scripture and only hazy, unclear glances in the writings of the Holy Fathers. In Our Lord Jesus Christ's parable of Lazarus and the rich man, the parable reveals that the sinful rich man, trapped in Hades, recognizes the poor man Lazarus, whom he so shamefully ignored in life, now enjoying comfort. He even recognizes Father Abraham, who died centuries before the rich man lived!

The Lord would not mislead us by presenting a picture that was not in essence true. We must remember, however, that before Christ's descent into Hell and His glorious Resurrection, all the souls of the dead abided in Hades in separate and strictly segregated conditions. Those who had done good deeds awaited the Resurrection in comfort. Those who had sinned waited in torment.

From the time of Christ's Resurrection to the Dread Judgment of the Lord, the souls of the dead are in a temporary state. Those who were sinful await in torment and suffering, those of the righteous in joy and

gladness. Some Fathers of the Church explain that the sinners will be alone in darkness, while the righteous will be in the company of the Saints and Angels.

It is also mentioned that after the Dread Judgment, those in Eternal Heaven will have no memory of those who are in eternal torment. After all, how can there be joy in a saintly heart if we know that a friend or relative is suffering? That is why when we pray for the dead, we ask God to grant them ETERNAL MEMORY, never to be forgotten, not so much now in this temporal life, but to be remembered and known to us in the Eternal Kingdom of God.

While descriptions of the torments of hell are horrific, they are merely an attempt to use images that are familiar to us. We can be sure that nothing we imagine will be as horrendous as the reality of hell's torments. Similarly, no matter how much we try to imagine the Divine Joys of Heaven in the presence of God's Love, Light and Grace, it is not possible for us to perceive the true reality of the Eternal Bliss of Heaven.

- Protoierei Stefan Pavlenko

(If you wish to submit a theological question for Father Stefan's consideration to be answered in the next issue of the Church Newsletter, please email it to stefanpavlenko@msn.com)

CHURCH FINANCIAL SITUATION

The financial situation for the Church of All Russian Saints is not sustainable in the long term. On the average, our monthly expenses for the years 2009 - 2011 exceeded our monthly income by \$4,800 a month. This shortfall had been covered by using up our reserves which came primarily from sizeable estate donations in 2006 and 2008, willed by parishioners who had departed this life. By mid 2011 our reserves were literally drawn down to zero dollars. The Parish Council was forced to borrow money and to sell the church's rental house in San Mateo. Although this has now provided us with a reserve, the ongoing picture will see a decline in reserves again with no flexibility to increase funds in the future.

WHERE DOES OUR MONTHLY INCOME COME FROM?

* Donations from parishioners (Nativity, Pascha, etc)	30%
* Net income from rental house next door to the church	24%
* Net revenue from candles, prosfora, icons, and crosses	17%
* Collection plate during Services	16%
* Parishioner dues	8%
* Services (baptisms, weddings, funerals)	4%

As part of our obligation in belonging to the Western American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, we are required to send 11% of our revenue from dues, sale of prosforas and candles, and collection from the First Plate. The Diocese, in turn, sends a portion of that payment to the Synod of Bishops.

WHAT ARE OUR MONTHLY EXPENSES?

* Salaries (priest, choir director)	32%
* Priest transportation, medical/life insurance, living expenses	26%
* Church maintenance and repairs	19%
* Property taxes and insurance	11%
* Office expenses, advertising, and visiting clergy	6%
* Utilities for church	4%
* Holiday gifts and bonuses	3%

The Parish Council has struggled with the financial shortfall and continues to minimize expenses. However, income is primarily dependent on the generosity of our parishioners and church visitors. Currently, we only have 83 families signed on as parishioners; however, we have a list of 182 additional families who come to church but are not signed up as Parish Members. If all 182 families became parishioners paying monthly dues that would immediately cover our shortfall.

Won't you consider becoming a parishioner? Applications are available in the church foyer by the candlestand. Check the Normal Parish By-Laws (PART 3: Parishioners and Parish Members) to make sure you are qualified. The By-Laws can be found at http://www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws/synod/engdocuments/enov_normparishbylaws.html

- Dimitry Bobroff

PARISH DUES

This is a reminder that with the New Year, membership dues are up for renewal. Please check to see if you are current with your Church obligation. If not, submit your payment promptly to help us maintain the operation and administrative duties of the Parish.

Monthly dues are the following...

	EMPLOYED	RETIRED
Single	\$20.00	\$10.00
Family	\$30.00	\$15.00

We will be sending a reminder letter to parishioners who are three months behind in their dues. Members have asked that such a reminder letter be sent to help keep them current.

Also, it has been decided that written receipt slips will no longer be made for payments made by check; however, they will still be prepared and delivered for all cash payments.

-Treasurer Shura Ossipoff



Before: Inside cupola structure, showing wet rot damage



After: Bottom of cupola with waterproofing membrane installed

CHURCH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you very much to all the families and individuals who have answered the appeal to become Stewards of the Church of All Russian Saints for 2012. Your financial contributions have allowed us to begin narrowing the parish financial shortfall, to complete the much-needed repair of the main cupola, and to beautify the church with a newly renovated floor and a woolen red carpet runner.

Thank you to Alyosha Baranoff and Alexandre Sarandinaki for managing the cupola and floor projects.

Thank you to Larissa Krassovsky for being our very first Steward and for donating all the proceeds from the Rummage Sale, which she organized. Thank you also to the families who have anonymously given sizeable amounts for the repair of the cupola. Glory be to God.

The Stewardship Program was launched in April 2012 because of the financial shortfall in income versus expenses, but also to foster a community/parish spirit of assuming responsibility for the care of our church.

What does it mean to be a Steward? God has given us our life, our Orthodox Faith, and our talents. We manifest our Orthodox Faith by being participants in church life, not just passive church-goers. We must be active not only in our spiritual life but by assuming responsibility for the care of the church, both materially and with our skills, our individual talents. Our church is our spiritual community. We are not just individuals, but a community, an Orthodox team with tremendous capacity for synergistic teamwork.

Material support comes in the form of financial pledges. With money that is raised through pledges we can narrow the financial shortfall, meet necessary parish needs and repairs, and undertake projects to improve and beautify the church.

Talent support comes in the form of volunteer work, such as singing in the choir, joining the Sisterhood, teaching in the Parish Russian School, cleaning the church, performing maintenance repairs in the church, etc.

For 2012, our Stewardship financial goal was to raise \$100,000. By the end of the year, we received about \$60,000 in stewardship pledges together with specific donations toward cupola repair. Although we did not achieve our goal, I feel the program has been successful in raising awareness and bringing the parish closer together. For everyone who has pledged a financial sum for 2012, please make sure you are paid up with your pledges.

Stewardship pledging is an annual program running from January 1 through December 31. We will be mailing out letters shortly, providing a tax receipt for the charitable deductions, and asking all current Stewards to renew their pledges for 2013. During the year, a continuous appeal will be made to enlist new Stewards for 2013.

Information on the Stewardship program and pledge cards is available at the candlestand in the church foyer in both English or Russian. Or come and talk to me (jbobroff@aol.com or (408) 257-6918).

- Dimitry Bobroff

BAPTISED

OCTOBER:

DANIEL LIPCHENKO

IOANN DIDENKO

NOVEMBER:

LILIANA CHASTNAIA

ANNA LOPUSHANSKAYA

ELENA BAKALDINA

MARRIED

THERE WERE NO
MARRIAGES IN THE
MONTHS OF OCTOBER
AND NOVEMBER

REPOSED IN THE LORD

OCTOBER:

EVDOKIA IWASZKEVICZ

IRINA MELIKOVA

NINA RICHARDS

VALENTINA AFANASIEVA

NOVEMBER:

VASILISSA STAMIROVSKAYA

ELENA TIHOMIROVA

ALEKSANDRE GRIDNEV

CHOIR NEWS

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our Parish, our Choir presented a painting by Ekaterina Krassovskaya to the church, commissioned especially for the event. The oil painting depicts the Church of All Russian Saints with the Golden Gate Bridge in the background. The gift was accepted with much enthusiasm at the trapeza. The choir then sang a brief program of sacred works.

the combined choirs of the Troitse-Sergievskoy- Lavri and Moskovskoy Duhovnoy Akademiyi in celebration of St. Sergiy Radonezhskiy. Ours was the US premiere of the Ivanov-Radkevich's full-choir arrangement in an actual church service.

We intend to extend our 60th anniversary celebration into 2013 by producing an audio CD recording of sacred music. Artwork will be a depiction of the painting. The recording will feature Konstantinov's



The Choir presented this painting by Ekaterina Krassovskaya to the Parish in commemoration of the church's 60th anniversary.

Earlier during Liturgy, officiated by Vicar Bishop Theodosy of Seattle, the choir sang two new Liturgical selections for our Parish - Heruvimskaya "na raduysa" by M. Konstantinov, and a magnificent arrangement of the Evharisticheskiy Kanon, "Milost' mira ..." by Ivanov-Radkevich. Ivanov-Radkevich's arrangement of "Milost' mira..." gained wide acclaim in Russia after being sung by

arrangement of Heruvimskaya "na raduysa", Ivanov-Radkevich's arrangement of "Milost' mira ..." and other selections closely tied to the veneration of All Russian Saints and the history of our Parish. Details on the release of the CD will be announced at a later date.

- Choir Director Andrei Roudenko

PARISH TV

In the spirit of Stewardship, the Burlingame Parish Council and the Parish Russian School donated their own funds toward the purchase of a 60 inch TV. Alex Shegoleff donated his time to build the beautiful cabinet while Alex Klestoff donated his time to do the electrical work.

The TV exists for parish use. It is wired to show DVD discs, VHS tapes, and USB Flash drives for slideshows. In addition, personal laptops can be connected through VGA or HDMI inputs to project a laptop screen onto the TV screen. Thanks to Andrei Maximow, a new antenna was added to receive local broadcast channels. (Think football games!)



The large TV has already entertained and educated our parishioners. In May 2012, we marked the 5th Anniversary of the Church Unification with a showing of a slideshow that included a number of our parishioners. The slideshow was narrated by Father Stefan, who shared his personal recollections of the historic event. In July, we showed the film “Ganina Yama” with similar personal recollections by Father Stefan who had visited that holy site. A film about Bishop St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco was also presented.

We have started a small library of DVD discs stored inside the cabinet. It includes the excellent film “Ostrov”. You are welcome to watch these DVDs after Liturgy if there are no events being held in the Church Hall.

If you have suggestions on which DVDs merit a Parish-wide showing after a Sunday Liturgy, please contact Father Stefan.

- Dimitry Bobroff

CHILDREN’S YOLKA PARTY JOIN US!!!

The Burlingame Parish Russian School is inviting all children to attend their Yolka party in the Church Hall on **Sunday, January 13, immediately after Liturgy**. Admission is free, but donations are much appreciated.

The buffet tables will be full of delicious food, including borscht, pirogi, salads, and desserts. All money raised from the buffet and other activities for children and grown up guests benefit our Parish school.

Students from the Burlingame Russian School will sing songs, recite poems, and perform short plays. Other children are welcome to show off their talents once the scheduled program ends.



The arrival of Ded Moroz is always the highlight of the afternoon. Grandfather Frost will be bringing gifts for all the children. He may even be persuaded to dance around the Christmas tree!

For more information, please contact me at ladushka@gmail.com

- Lada Denisova

For information about the Parish School please contact: A. N. Miroshnichenko, Director (Miralenik@aol.com) <http://dorogadomoj.com/#gimnazija>

NEWS FROM THE SISTERHOOD

The Burlingame Sisterhood has had a very busy year in 2012. In addition to our regular lunches and events, we helped our Orthodox community celebrate the fifth year of the Reunification, the 200th anniversary of Fort Ross, and the 60th year of our Parish. We ended the year with our annual pre-Christmas Lenten fish kotleti lunch and bazaar.

We're starting the New Year with a brunch on February 3rd and a lunch on February 10. Menus will be announced. As always, we thank our

dear Parishioners for their continued support of our events.

The pelmeni-making group is meeting on January 24th and February 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Hall. Anyone interested in helping make these delicious pelmeni, or placing an order, please call Luba Gauschildt at (650) 591-1605. If you wish to donate a dessert (preferably homemade) to one of our lunches, please email Tania Ionoff at tionoff@smfc.k12.ca.us.

For hall rental questions, please call Tania Pavlenko at (650) 430-9806.

-Matushka Tania Pavlenko

CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS
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We welcome your suggestions on the type of articles you would like to see in the Parish Newsletter. Send your ideas to Ludmilla Bobroff at Ludmillaa@aol.com or telephone (408) 257-6918. Please write Parish Newsletter in the Subject Line. Deadline is one month prior to publication.

Next Newsletter - MARCH 2013

Schedule of services can be found on the Church website:
<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

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Andrei Maximow	(408) 218-3922
Alexei Parshooto	(650) 583-2840
Marina Roudenko	(650) 342-4310

RUSSIAN CRAFT FAIR

In September we hosted a Russian Craft Fair Fundraiser. There were traditional crafts, food and games for kids ages 2-13. Children came from all over the Bay Area and enjoyed painting matryoshki, making kokoshniki, building wooden cars, decorating cookies and more.



We were able to raise over \$2000 to go toward the fixing of the Cupola. We hope to make this an annual fundraising event to benefit our Church.

-Xenia Maximow