

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2

March/April 2016



CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

Церковь Всѣхъ Святыхъ въ Землѣ Россійской Просіавшихъ



Father Stefan, seated on the far right, was guest speaker at the Holy Trinity Seminary Alumni Meeting in Jordanville, New York last month. He was elected president for a one-year term.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER STEFAN

I am writing from the midst of the Holy Trinity Seminary Alumni Meeting, taking place February 10-12 at Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, New York. The meeting was planned as a three day event with the Feast of the Holy Three Hierarchs as the highlight and main day. The Three Hierarchs, Holy Saints Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom are the patron saints of Orthodox Christian theological institutions.

With the Alumni Meeting in its second year, the event started Wednesday February 10th when many graduates of Holy Trinity Seminary gathered for an evening dinner meal, informal fellowship and registration. I was invited to be the Master of Ceremonies for the dinner. Being a bit nervous and not sure what was expected of me, I grew more relaxed as I mingled with old friends and new friends from various graduating classes.

Unfortunately, members of my own graduating class were not in attendance but many fellow seminarians whom I did know personally were among those present. From our Western American Diocese were Father Paul Volmensky, rector of Holy Ascension Church in Sacramento and Father George Kurtow of Saint Seraphim Church in Seaside (Monterey). Another graduate of Holy Trinity Seminary attending the reunion whom many of you might know was Father Victor Potapov of Saint John the Baptist Church in Washington, DC.

continued...

The meal, nicely prepared and presented, was served in what is called the New Summer Kitchen. There were two Bishops present at the dinner who both graduated from the seminary, His Eminence Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and Canada and His Grace Bishop George of Canberra, Australia. The next day, Bishop Nikolai of Manhattan joined the group.

I began my after dinner speech, spoken mostly in Russian but also in English, by quoting Psalm 133:1 KJV where King David writes, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" I then asked those present to identify themselves, give the year of their graduation, and list the names of their graduation class. Among those who graduated with me, but were not present were George Cheremeteff, Deacon Vitaly Kitchehoff, Archpriest Alexander Lebedeff of Holy Transfiguration Cathedral, Los Angeles, His Grace Bishop Peter of Cleveland, administrator of the Diocese of Chicago and mid-America, and His Grace Bishop Jerome who resides at The Holy Kursk Icon Hermitage in Mahopack, NY.

The following morning, we all gathered in the main hall of the Seminary Building and were introduced to some of the presently active professors and teachers who spoke about their subjects and methods. Among them were Dr. Elena Nelson from the University of Rochester (Slavic Languages and Literature); Dr. Vitalijs Permjakovs from the Latvian Academy of Culture in Riga, Latvia (Dogmatic Theology, Comparative Theology, Liturgical Theology, and Apologetics); and the Rev. Deacon Andrei Psarev of the Holy Trinity Seminary (Canon Law, Russian Church History, Russian History, World History and Civilization). While classes are conducted in English, all seminarians learn Russian.

Our own Deacon Father Peter Markevich was also present. After graduating from Holy Trinity Seminary, he remained to become the Liturgics Professor. The Rev. Priest Ephraim Willmarth from San Francisco is the Assistant Dean and Director of Admissions. All the professors gave lively and interesting overviews of their subjects and methods of classroom instruction in the contemporary Seminarian program. Also speaking to us was Father Peter Percrestov's son, Michael, who is the Curator of the Foundation of Russian History Archives and Museum and the Librarian for the Holy Trinity Seminary Library.

To my surprise, I was elected President for a one-year term of the newly formed Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary Alumni Association. I hope to get people aware of our Church Abroad Seminary and to interest Alumni and all Orthodox Christians to support the Seminary.

For more information about the Seminary and the Foundation Museum, click onto http://www.hts.edu/about_seminary.html and <http://foundationrh.org/>

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Why is Orthodoxy the True Faith?

Father Stefan

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the One, Holy, Universal (catholic), and Apostolic Orthodox Church is continuity. What was believed and practiced by the Holy Apostles, the Apostolic Fathers and the early generations of Christians has been preserved and treasured by subsequent generations of the clergy and the faithful throughout 2000 years of Christianity. At no time was the Fullness of Truth lost or misunderstood, nor has it ever been asleep or vanished from the face of the earth!

That's not true of many denominations, sects and assemblies. As we look back over centuries, whole religious movements have disappeared or did not even exist at various periods along the way. In contrast, the Orthodox Christian Church has been the preserver of unchanged and unchangeable Christian Truth throughout its history. Its foundation has always been based on the early Christian experience of the Fullness of Christ's Church. This unbroken line has been firmly preserved to this day.

As an example, icons have been revered and venerated for centuries as was the Ark of the Covenant of the Old Testament. Gold-plated Cherubim were fashioned above the Ark while angels were depicted on the temple curtains in the Tabernacle and later in the Temple of Jerusalem. These decorative additions were not created to make the holy items pleasing to the eye, but were appointed by God when Moses was instructed to build the Tabernacle. If the Commandment forbidding the creation of graven images was directed against ALL images, those images of the Cherubim would, indeed, be an abomination. Obviously, there is a difference between idols being worshiped as gods, and images/icons of angels, Christ, the Virgin Mary and Saints, being treasured and venerated as part of the 2000 year history of the Christian Church.

Furthermore, readings in the New Testament convey healing power and God's Grace in Blessed Oil, cloths and other material items. Consequently, the Church preserves and gives loving respect and veneration to Icons and Holy Objects. This is one of many specific teachings the Orthodox Church guards with all its strength in order that the Old and New Testaments remain unchanged by history.

BAPTISED

DECEMBER 2015

None

JANUARY 2016

Andrei Ivanov

Alexander Zhang

Alexandra Resendez

MARRIED

DECEMBER 2015

None

JANUARY 2016

Katia Roschkowsky and

Sean Layton

REPOSED IN THE LORD

DECEMBER 2015

Vasiliy Shtykalo

Larissa Tarahteeff

JANUARY 2015

Mikhail Tsitsiline

THANK YOU

TO

*Marina and Michael
Izrailov*

FOR GRACIOUSLY

SPONSORING THE COST OF

THIS ISSUE.

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

HELP KEEP THE CHURCH SECURE

Dima Bobroff

Sadly, we live in less secure times and being conscious of security around your home is of paramount importance. No less important is the security of our church.

To protect our property, the Parish Council has implemented a number of measures over the last several months:

1. While we have had a church alarm system for many years, we learned to our horror that it was protecting the doors less than 20 percent of the time. The alarm system has since been re-programmed and a number of parishioners have been trained to turn the system on and off when coming and going from the premises.

2. Self-closing steel doors have replaced the flimsy wooden doors on the north side classrooms.

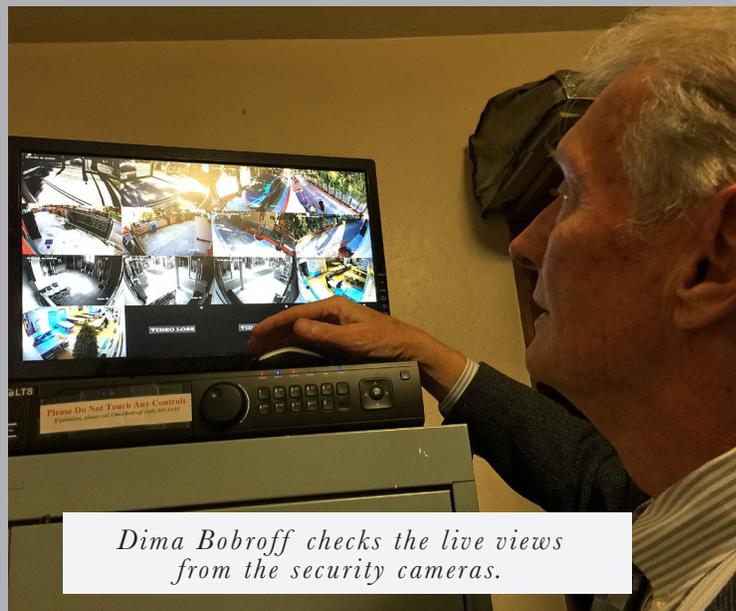
3. A video surveillance system has been installed to provide continuous exterior and interior views.

As important as these measures are, each one of us needs to take personal responsibility to do the following:

1. Make sure doors are double locked and windows are properly shut. Especially prone are the kitchen windows that are opened often and forgotten to be slid shut and latched. Test the windows by trying to slide them open to make sure they are properly latched.

2. Turn the alarm system on when departing the premises, making sure nobody is left inside. See Dima Bobroff for an instruction sheet on how to turn the system on. It's very simple.

3. Be vigilant around the church and report any suspicious persons or activities.



*Dima Bobroff checks the live views
from the security cameras.*

STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT

Dima Bobroff

To beautify our church, one of Father Stefan's visions is to install stained glass windows in place of the current plain opaque windows in the cupola and the side walls of the church. He particularly likes the large stained glass window in the side room of the church that was donated by one of our parishioners.

Preliminary investigation shows such stained glass windows are not inexpensive, costing well over a thousand dollars for each window. We have nine small windows and two larger ones in the cupola and side walls. Suggestions have ranged all over the place with some parishioners suggesting that the windows should be opened remotely for ventilation during hot days. Others offer ways of achieving a stained glass look without spending a lot of money. Whatever design is picked must be kept in the Russian Orthodox style and approved by Vova Krassovsky who is on the Synodal architectural committee.

HOW TO FUND THE PROJECT? One proposal is to ask individuals to sponsor a window in memory of a dearly loved departed relative. A parishioner has already donated money for such a window and a second person has committed to sponsoring a window once costs are finalized.

SHOULD WE PROCEED? The Parish Council has formed a small committee to flesh out and plan the project. Stay tuned for details as they emerge. Before proceeding, however, it would be helpful to know who might be interested in sponsoring a memorial window for the church. Contact me at jbobroff@aol.com

ALTAR SERVERS' FUNDRAISER

Eugene Lytnev, altar server



The image of an angel on the fan (ripidi) is meant to remind us of angels who are present at services.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the donations you put into the little basket during Communion? The answer is simple: donations go toward the purchase of new supplies for the altar.

Currently, we need a new pair of liturgical fans called "Exapteriga" in Greek or "Рипиды" in Slavonic. These liturgical fans are meant to remind us of angels who are present at every one of our services. Altar servers carry out these fans during the reading of the Gospel and during the Great Entrance. The set we use now is old and worn out beyond repair. We are gathering funds in the basket for a new set of fans.

In addition, we will be hosting a silent auction during the Palm Sunday luncheon and accepting donations in the hope of purchasing the new fans by Pascha. Future fundraising projects will go toward replacing the altar cross and installing new bookshelves.

We hope you will generously support our current fan fundraiser and future endeavors.

NEW - LIVESTREAM SERVICES - NEW

For those who are home bound or hospitalized and are not able to attend Services at the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, we have enabled live video streaming via the Internet. This is a new channel and replaces the previous livestream service. Live, as well as previously recorded Church Services since late February 2016, will now be available at YouTube channel:
<http://bit.ly/burlingamechannel>

In addition, the link for the live Church Services is also available on the church website at:
<http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

For best viewing and sound, do not use AOL browser. Best browsers to use are (Google) Chrome and Firefox.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Alexsei Sikorsky
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Thank you to the City of Burlingame Parks & Recreation Department for rapidly clearing the tree limb that fell in front of the Church on February 18.

BILL AND LESLEY GILCHRIST: AN UNEXPECTED ROAD TO ORTHODOXY

Ludmilla Bobroff

Most parents bring their children to church to be raised in the Orthodox Faith. In the case of the Gilchrist family, God opened the door to Orthodoxy and the Russian Orthodox Church through their adopted Ukrainian children.

Bill and Lesley grew up in San Mateo and San Jose, respectively. Bill's family attended a Protestant church occasionally, and Lesley's family, whose mother was British, was baptized Episcopalian. In their late twenties, Bill and Lesley met each other through a Protestant young adult church group. Once they married, they became active in a local, non-denominational Evangelical Church. Life was wonderful except for the sad fact that Lesley was unable to become pregnant. "Even with that heartbreak, we trusted God," says Bill. "We knew He had a plan. We kept exploring different options to see where God would take us."

In 1998, the couple considered adoption but ruled out an American adoption because American bio-mothers can change their minds and reclaim their children many months after the adoption is complete. At that time, former Soviet Union countries became receptive to foreign adoptions. Although such adoptions were expensive and required enormous paperwork, Bill and Lesley decided to pursue an adoption through Ukraine. It took over a year before they were approved to adopt three children between the ages of 1 and 12.

In November 2000, the Gilchrists were invited to fly to Kiev, Ukraine and see the children that government officials had approved for them. After a long, anxious train ride to Lviv, Bill and Lesley walked into Children's House 2. They



Ready to enter the Church are left to right, Thomas, Lesley-Pelagia, Bill and Daniel Gilchrist. Both sons are altar servers.

waited in the director's office to be introduced to a little boy and a little girl. As Lesley remembers, "I watched the door open and a beautiful toddler boy stepped into the room. He seemed bathed in brilliant, white light. I thought, 'Oh my dear Lord! There's my son!'"

Daniel was 21 months at the time. Overcome with joy and finally able to release his former sorrow of infertility, Bill admits, "I wept for three days after finding Daniel." The couple, however, chose not to adopt the little girl since both felt "she wasn't the child God had in mind for us."

After returning to the United States, Lesley continued to feel God had a plan for them to have more children. So, three months later with Daniel in tow, they returned to Kiev with approval to adopt two more children. At the time, no toddlers were available. The Adoption Center personnel allowed them to look through several thick binders filled with photos of older children waiting for adoption. Bill saw a little girl resembling his mother. That was Inna, who was destined to be named Caroline Gilchrist after Bill's mom.

After a long, anxious train ride to Mariupol, Bill, Lesley, Daniel, and their adoption facilitator, Vasili, arrived at the orphanage looking specifically for Inna. She was not there but at a sanatorium located eight hours away. Inna was scheduled to return to the orphanage two days later. The quick thinking orphanage director suggested to Bill and Lesley they interview other girls available for adoption. Without giving any background on the children, the director slapped down five photos on her desk. The first girl escorted into the office was eight-year-old Luba. "She looked like my sister," says Lesley. "I knew right away she was ours." Bill agreed, and they invited Luba to join their family.

Bill, however, was determined to find the child who looked like his mother. Rather than wait for her to return, they drove to the sanatorium to find Inna. From among the hundreds of children running around the grounds, Bill spotted a dark haired little girl being led away by a nurse.

"I prayed, 'Oh Lord, let her be the one' and it was!" says Bill. Lesley agreed, and Inna joined their family. In May 2001, the new family of five returned to the States.

That summer, Bill and the children were swimming in the community pool at their townhouse complex in Foster City. Svetlana Avdeeva, a teacher at our Parish School, overheard the girls speaking Russian and came over to chat with Bill, thinking he knew Russian, too. Of course, he didn't, but after hearing their story, Svetlana suggested Russian School for the girls. Wanting the children to retain their heritage, Bill and Lesley enrolled them into the Burlingame Parish School program in September.

As Pascha 2002 approached, Russian School teacher Ija Schmit took Bill and Lesley aside and said the children should be baptized so they could go to Confession and Communion with their class. The parents agreed to have the children baptized even though they themselves remained Protestants. But after attending services for over a

year and reading several books about Orthodoxy, Lesley and Bill decided to convert themselves.

"As we were exploring Orthodoxy, we spoke with Lesley's theology professor, who was a staunch Protestant. We were sure he would say Orthodoxy is heretical," explains Bill. "To our surprise, Dr. Sawyer said Orthodoxy was the purest form of Christianity." So on Holy Thursday 2003, Father Stefan baptized the parents who became Pelagia (of Tarsus) and William.

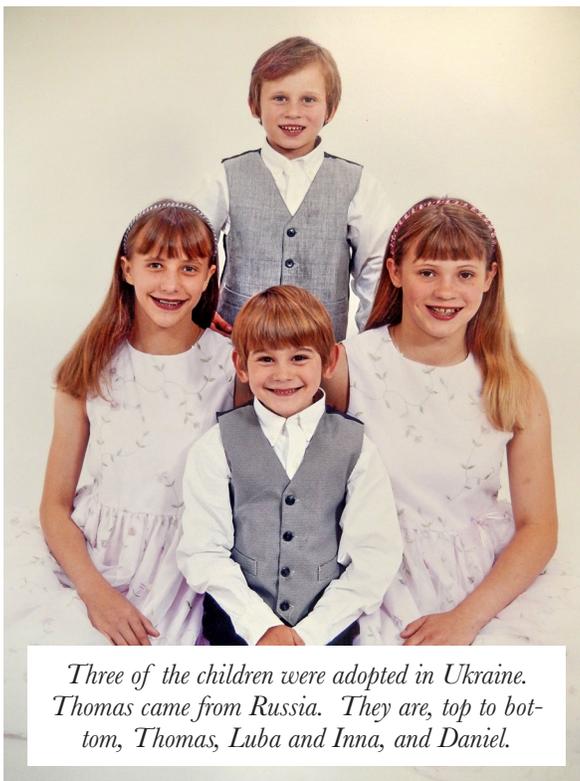
Still believing God planned a fourth child for the family, in 2004 Bill and Lesley started collecting all the required paper work for another adoption. Lesley recalls worrying how their family of five would travel to Ukraine. "Of course, I couldn't leave Luba, Inna and Daniel at home for six weeks without us. Yet, I fretted about the expense and how safe it would be traveling with the children."

God had a plan, however. Five days after submitting their paperwork, the adoption agency contacted the parents telling them a six-year-old boy, who recently arrived from Russia, was in need of an adoptive family. "It was as if God plucked Thomas from Russia and dropped him into our laps. God solved all our worries of travels and expenses," says Lesley.

To this day, Bill and Lesley truly believe God loved and guided them when they were Protestants. Because they were looking for God's Truth and willing to question their Protestant beliefs, He led them to the fullness of His Grace that is the Orthodox Church.

"Yes, having the services in Slavonic makes it difficult for us," says Bill, "We appreciate the English translations we can download to our Kindles. We are also grateful for the love of Father Stefan and our Parish family."

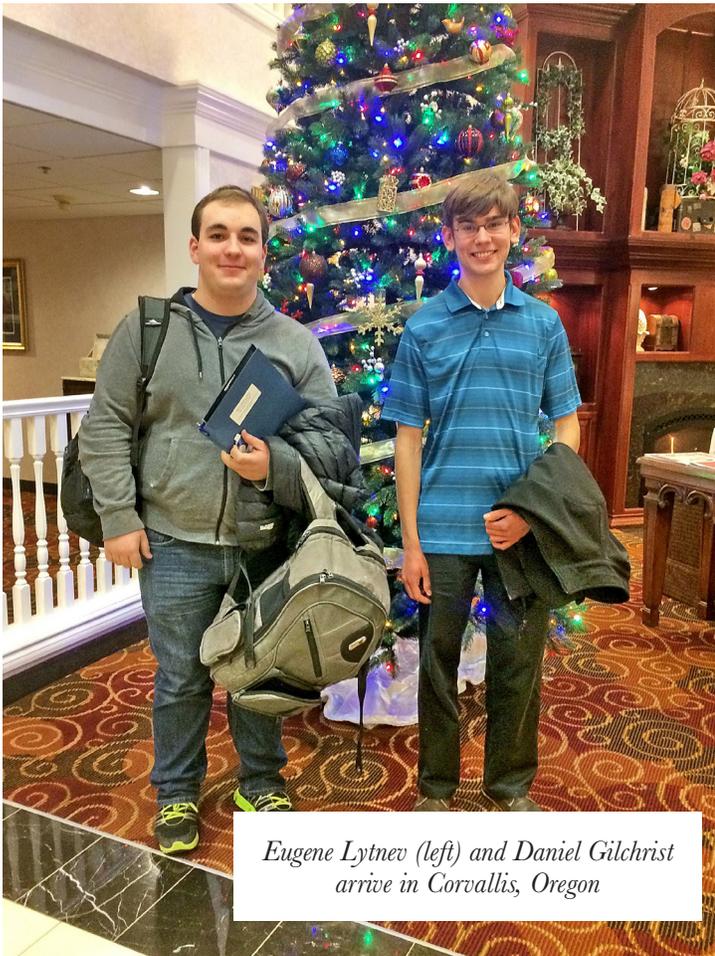
More than ever, the Gilchrists believe Orthodoxy is a treasure. "Let its light shine far and wide!"



Three of the children were adopted in Ukraine. Thomas came from Russia. They are, top to bottom, Thomas, Luba and Inna, and Daniel.

MY FIRST ST. HERMAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

Daniel Gilchrist



This past December, I attended the Ninth Annual St. Herman West Youth Conference along with Eugene Lytnev, Yevgraf Jakimowicz, and Nicholas Shmelev. We all belong to this parish. The 2015 conference was held at St. Martin the Merciful Orthodox Church in Corvallis, Oregon from Sunday December 27 to Thursday December 31. A record number of 90 young people arrived from Oregon, Washington, Ohio, California and other states to learn about Orthodoxy and the Orthodox Christian Church. The majority of boys and girls were of high school age but there were also middle school and college age registrants.

Since this was my first youth conference, I was nervous about attending. The organizers, however, put all of us at ease immediately with a nice introduction in the Church Hall, a delicious meal, and various “ice breaker” games. Back at the hotel, we gathered in the conference room to say evening prayers in front of an Icon of Saint Herman. Several boys

and girls participated by reading the prayers in English and Slavonic. We continued this practice of saying morning and evening prayers throughout the entire conference.

Lectures were quite interesting. Subjects included “St. Alexander of Munich: A Modern Confessor in the Face of Tyranny” by Matushka Elena Perekrestov; “Worldly Conforming to Christly Transforming” by Priest Timothy Pavlatos; and “Homosexuality: An Orthodox Christian Perspective” by Archpriest James Baglien.

I was especially impressed with the lecture given by Matushka Elena Perekrestov on Saint Alexander of Munich. She was passionate about her subject and spoke descriptively of his life during the Russian Civil War and in Nazi Germany. Priest Timothy’s and Archpriest James’s lectures were also insightful, instructing us on the challenges we will be facing in today’s culture.

As the days passed, we were offered a variety of workshops involving duties that needed to be performed during Church services. These included Choir, Church Reading, and Altar Serving. I chose to learn about Church Reading since I had never done it before. By participating in this workshop, I learned how to read in the proper manner. The style of church reading is “sing-song,” separated from emotion so that parishioners standing in church can concentrate on the words and pray.

All members of each group received their “assignments” and practiced for the Vigil service of the Three Holy Youths and St. Herman. Eugene joined the choir. His Grace Bishop Theodosius served at both the Vigil and Divine Liturgy at the beautiful Church of St. Martin. On the eve of my Saint’s Day, the Prophet Daniel, I felt honored to read the canon of the Three Holy Youths. The workshops proved to be a good learning experience for all of us.

Social activities were also planned during the Conference, including hiking up to Silver Creek Falls and swimming at an indoor pool. Eugene loved the hike. “Not only did I get acquainted with Orthodox youth in the diocese,” he said, “I did so among the stunning views of the creeks and waterfalls.” I found the hike to be beautiful but strenuous. With

Vigil service and Communion preparation prayers that night, I must admit I was sore and tired by the end of the day.

While planned activities were enjoyable, so were the unplanned ones where we spoke with kids from different states, sharing common interests. Something new was added to this year's conference – a youth talent show. Surprisingly, quite a few young people agreed to perform. Eugene was asked to be the Master of Ceremonies. I signed up to recite the poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade" by Alfred Lord Tennyson. The audience gave all performers an enthusiastic round of applause.



Ninety young people from Western states attended the youth conference at St. Martin the Merciful Orthodox Church.

"One thing the talent show brought forth was how much talent the Orthodox community has," said Eugene at the end of the show. "I was surprised to see everything from music to literature to sports being represented here."

For me, the St. Herman West Youth Conference was an edifying time. I recommend it strongly to all Orthodox Christian youth. If the purpose of the conference was to help young people grow in the service and love for the Church, then it certainly met its goal.

CHOIR NEWS

Andrei Roudenko

What began many years ago as private phone calls to elderly relatives who could no longer attend church services, to allow them to at least hear our services, evolved into our current LiveStream broadcasting facility. Our LiveStream implementation has enabled people from all over the United States and abroad to "be" at our services and concerts.

The design that Andrei Maximow originally spearheaded has served us well. Now, to further improve broadcast quality and reduce operational costs, we are transitioning to a new system that will be accessible through our parish Web site (<http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org>). Live broadcasts, as well as previously recorded Church Services since late February 2016, will also be available on our own YouTube channel at: <http://bit.ly/burlingamechannel>. For best viewing and sound, avoid using AOL browser. The best browsers to use are (Google) Chrome and Firefox.

After participating in the numerous services that commemorated the Birth and Baptism of the Lord, our choir resumed study of works for services and our upcoming concert program. As in previous years, our concert, at 1 PM on Sunday, March 27, the Sunday after Торжество Православия (Triumph of Orthodoxy), will feature prayers that will be sung at services during Великий Пост (Great Lent) and Страстная Неделя (Passion Week).

Our previous concerts were well-attended and included a successful fundraising component, which supported our parish Stewardship program. We hope that our parishioners and area friends will continue their support of our musical and fundraising efforts.

JANUARY NAMESDAYS



Celebrating their January Saints' Days are, front row, Nina Petrovna Medovshikova, Father Stefan, and Tania Ionoff. Back row, Matushka Tatiana, Tanya Bolshakoff, Nina Howell, Tanya Hidchenko, and guests.

FEBRUARY NAMESDAYS



February Namesday celebrants include (front row) Dima Bobroff and Father Stefan. (Back row) Ksenia Vasilyev, Eugene Lytnev, Mara Klestoff Alexei Kovalenko, Olya Pavlenko Schafranek, the Generalov family, and Kyril Sinelnikoff.



Talented craftperson, Maria Heinrich, created and donated the Happy Saints' Day banner for the monthly celebration. For inquiries, email Maria at: thecraftypurpleowl@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL

MARCH 13 – Blini prepared by the Sisterhood

MARCH 13 – Joint Saints' Day Celebration for Saints Marianna, Leo, Lev, Timothy, Feodora, Marina, Kira, Jacob, Galina, Victoria, and Alexei. If you would like to prepare dessert to be served after the blini, please contact Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko at tpavlenko@hotmail.com

MARCH 27 – Concert by the Church of All Russian Saints Choir

APRIL 3 – Pasta Lunch prepared by the Sisterhood. We will also celebrate Saints Svetlana, Lydia, Alla, Larissa, Galina, Nika, and Foma. If you would like to prepare a LENTEN dessert for this joint celebration, please contact Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko at tpavlenko@hotmail.com

APRIL 10 – Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy

APRIL 17 - Children's Kulich Faire

APRIL 17 – Lenten Retreat at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco

APRIL 24 – Palm Sunday Luncheon featuring the Sisterhood's famous Fish Cotleti. Our Altar Servers will be holding a Silent Auction to raise funds for Liturgical Fans.

PREPARATIONS FOR PASCHA

The Sisterhood is selling vanilla beans, tvorog (cheese for sirnaya pascha), regular and organic kulichi made by the Sisterhood, and ready-made sirnaya pascha. For more information and to pre-order, please contact: Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko at 650-430-9805; tpavlenko@hotmail.com or Luba Gauschieldt at 650-591-1605; belmontbrandy@aol.com

PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS

There will be no pelmeni-making sessions in March and April

RUSSIAN SCHOOL HOSTS A YOLKA PARTY

Lada Denisova

Yolka was a big hit this year with a large turnout of children, parents, grandparents, teachers and friends. All seats were quickly occupied and people were standing everywhere. The Church Hall was nicely decorated with spruce garlands, festive lights, snowflakes on the stage curtains, and a beautiful tall Christmas tree. All this contributed to the enchanting feeling of a Christmas party.

Traditionally, all Russian gatherings start with food. Our head chef, Tatiana Cheksasina, with the help of other parents, prepared delicious dishes for both children and adults. After everyone sang the Troparion and the Kondakion, Father Stefan greeted guests warmly. Russian School Director A.N. Miroshnichenko related the history of the 63-year-old school and explained which subjects are taught. He also introduced last year's Gold Medal graduate Ksenia Vasilyev who came to be of help to the organizers.

First on Stage were Luka and Jacob Effertz and Anastasia Pelevina, all from the ABC class. They sang a Christmas carol. The main performance was a folk fairy tale, titled "A Flock of Geese and Swans," directed by Svetlana Olegovna Avdeeva. The stage resembled a winter forest full of pine and fir trees where, according to the fairy tale, one could get lost. Twenty-four out of 35 Russian School students appeared in this amusing play. The costumes were especially creative. We received many compliments afterward for the performance. Parents even signed up their children to attend the school, which is the best recognition of all.

To raise money for various Russian School projects, we sold lottery tickets for three themed Gift Baskets. Each was appropriately filled with items relating to "Movie", "Barbecue" and "Starbucks". Kathy Kolenko was responsible for donating and preparing all three beautiful baskets. Svetlana Avdeeva donated two Introductory Tennis Lessons Gift Certificates. The winner of one set of tennis lessons was Father Stefan. (Everyone cheered!) Of course, Ded Moroz (Father Frost) appeared with riddles, dances and gifts for all the children.

The organizing committee wants to thank parents, teachers and students who worked hard to present this magnificent event. We are also grateful to the helpers who worked in the kitchen and those who contributed food items. To our wonderful children who learned their lines and acted on stage. And to Matushka Tatiana and the Sisterhood who coordinated Father Stefan's Namesday celebration with our tight schedule.

A YOLKA TO REMEMBER

January 10th, 2016

Photos by Marina Burnosova and Lena Gauschieldt



(Left to right) Jacob Effertz, Dasha Egorova, Veronika Saltanova, and Dasha Burnosova perform in "A Flock of Geese and Swans."



Alexey Zakharov and his daughter, Elizaveta, win the Starbucks gift basket.



Father Stefan leads the children in singing the Troparion and Kontakion in celebration of the Nativity.



Dressed as mice are (left to right) Sofia Pinaeva, Nastja Plevina, and Luka Effertz



Russian School teacher Irina Aleksandrovna Irklienko poses with her students.



As always, Grandfather Frost (Ded Moroz) receives a big greeting from the children.

LENTEN RETREAT

Irene Hanlon

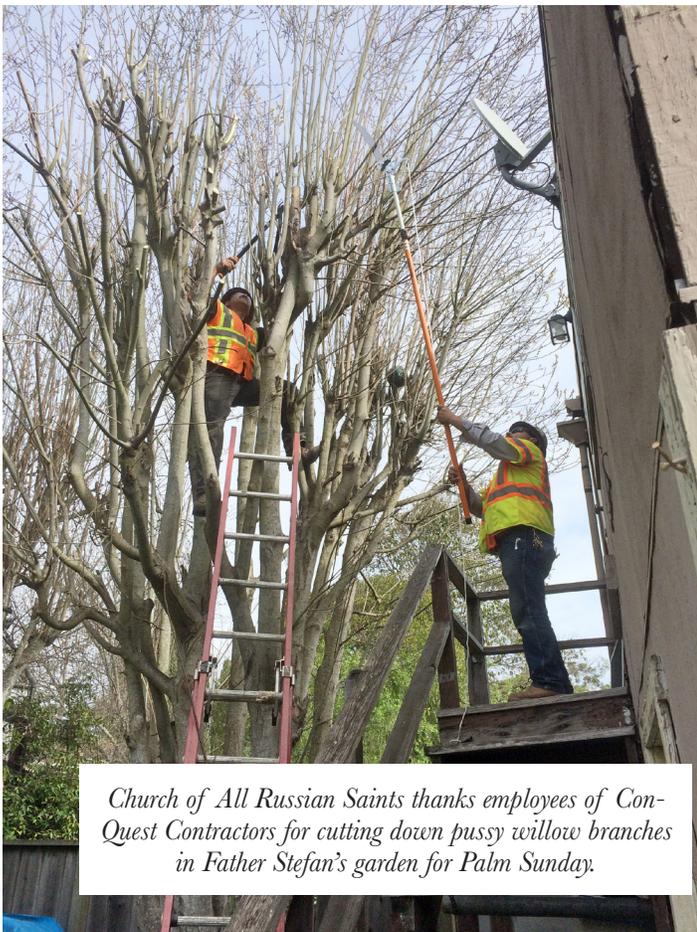
The Western American Diocese announces the 9th Annual Lenten Retreat will be held on Sunday April 17 after Early Liturgy at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco. The topic is “Redeeming Modern Life”.

We have two fantastic speakers lined up. Khouria Krista West will give a talk entitled “Envisioning the Kingdom: the Why and How of Beauty in the Church.” She is the author of “The Garments of Salvation” and “The Opinionated Tailor” podcast.

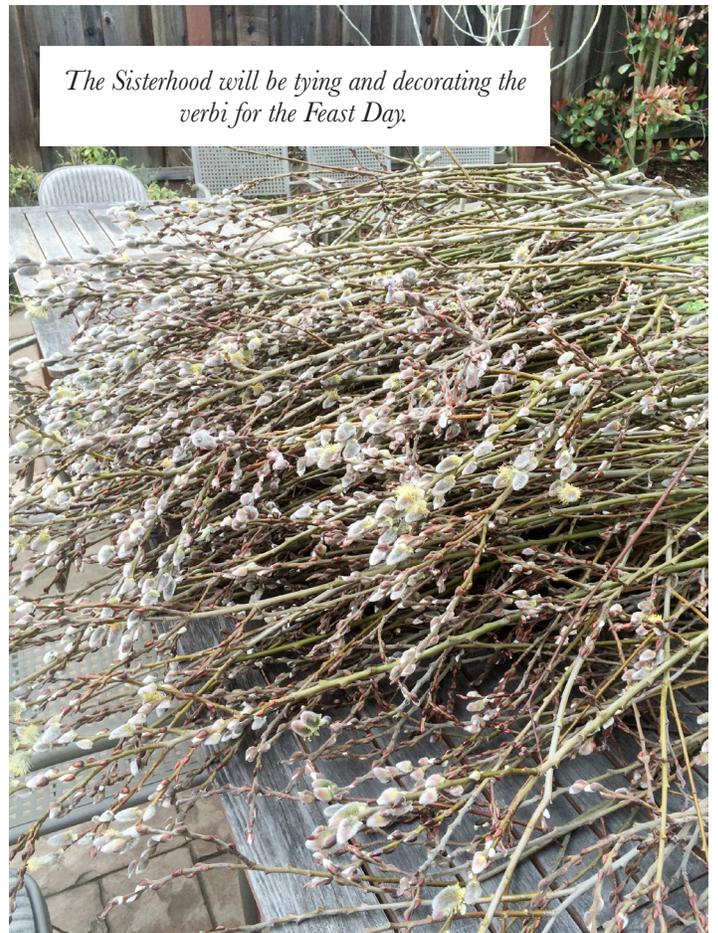
Priest Andrew Cuneo will discuss “Can We Think about Paradise Too Much? The Beautiful Perils of Modern Life.” Fr. Andrew is rector of St. Katherine Orthodox Mission Church (OCA) and professor at St. Katherine College.

The day begins with Divine Liturgy in English at 7:30 a.m. and continues until the talks end at approximately 4 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to stay and enjoy fellowship before touring the Cathedral and attending the English language Vespers service. Everyone is welcome. Attendees to the annual retreat range in age from high school students to senior citizens.

Cost for the half-day session is \$15; full day session \$30. Price includes breakfast and lunch. For more information and registration, go to www.lentenretreatsf.org For questions, email lentenretreatsf@gmail.com or call Irene at 916-225-4025.



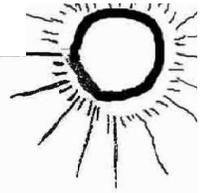
Church of All Russian Saints thanks employees of Con-Quest Contractors for cutting down pussy willow branches in Father Stefan's garden for Palm Sunday.



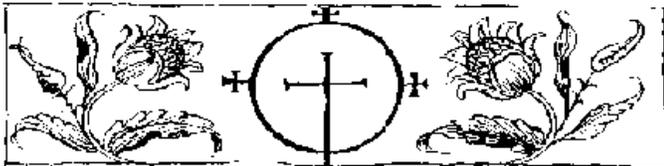
The Sisterhood will be tying and decorating the verbi for the Feast Day.

CHILDRENS' ACTIVITY PAGE

Help the boy get to church on time!



COLOR THE CHURCH BEAUTIFULLY FOR PASCHA



A T O P P R S U R Y R O L G R
I E M A D A N O E F O R T Y E
N R H D L C S H U M I L I T Y
P E I E T I L C C L V R E I A
V C S I A C T I H U A E N N R
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I N O I T C E R R U S E R R I
R F F T H R S N I G V N V T H
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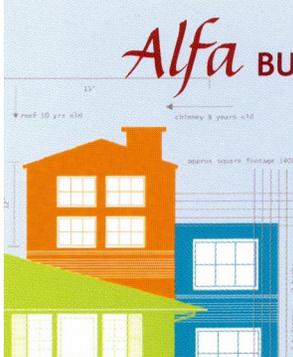
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We welcome your suggestions on the type of articles you would like to see in the Parish Newsletter. Send your ideas to Ludmilla Bobroff at Ludmillaa@aol.com or telephone (408) 257-6918. Please write Parish Newsletter in the Subject Line. Deadline is one month prior to publication.

Next Newsletter -MAY 2016

Schedule of services can be found on the Church website:
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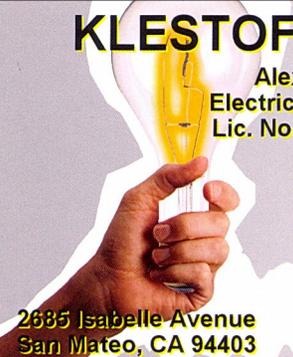
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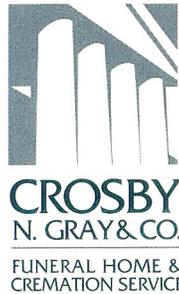
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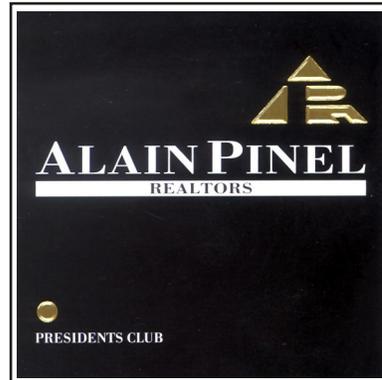
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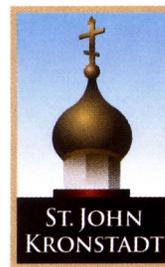
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