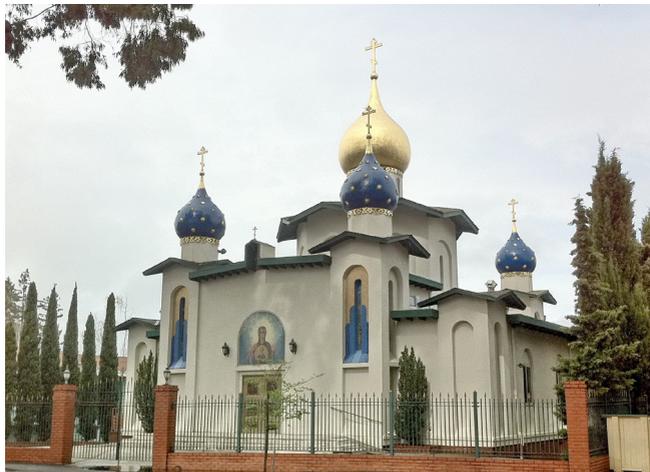


*Have a Blessed
Great Lent!*



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

MESSAGE FROM FATHER STEFAN

Orthodox Christians have now entered a very special time of the Liturgical Year - Great Lent (великий пост). For some, it is a huge burden and hardship, causing stress, tension and various degrees of physical strain, pain and unpleasantness. These symptoms can be expressions of two extremes. Either there is ignorance of the true meaning of Lent with its actual rules, or for those who strive to follow the rules, a demonic attack and unseen warfare!

Lent (which is the restriction of diet and unnecessary activities) plus prayer are the greatest remedies against Demonic Assaults according to the words of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (Mark 9:29: So He said to them, "This kind (the demons) can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.") It's evident that we should make every effort to be on track and strive to fulfill the Lenten call in a manner that will be most beneficial and saving for us.

Lent without personal (private) prayer and without a redoubling of attendance of Church Services is the most difficult and least beneficial variant one can attempt. Lent without Church Services and private prayers is just a diet and can only be accorded physical importance but not spiritual success and gain.

The basic rules of Great Lent are a lacto-ova vegetarian diet during the entire 47 days of Lent. There are allow-

ances for oil and wine to be partaken on weekends and on special commemorations while fish is allowed on the Feasts of Annunciation, Palm Sunday and Lazarus Saturday when caviar is often served. The first days of Lent are even stricter, as well as certain days of Passion Week. But the strictest days of the entire Lenten Season are on Great and Holy Friday and Great and Holy Sabbath Saturday.

Having enumerated the many strict rules, it's important to note that the Church Rules are lightened for children, the elderly, and the infirm. There is also a special dispensation for pregnant women while breast-feeding mothers need not fast at all.

If someone who has never fasted wishes to begin fasting, it's best to start slowly and gradually attain a stricter fasting regime. The strictest fast is not eating or drinking anything at all. (This is called for on the First Day of Lent and Great and Holy Friday.) The least strict is to refrain from eating meat and meat products. By eliminating meat, you are already taking the first steps toward proper fasting.

Many Orthodox Calendars have Lent guidelines, which mention foods that are allowed on various days of Lent. Anyone interested in observing Lent properly can contact their Parish Priest or Spiritual Father to help determine how to begin fasting and exactly what are the detailed rules.

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As stated above, fasting without personal prayers and attendance of church services is just a diet. Any attempt to develop one's participation in Orthodox fasting necessarily includes the establishment of a firm prayer rule and regular church attendance.

Services throughout the Lenten Season buttress one's spiritual resolve and guide us through Lent in the most advantageous way for spiritual growth.

The three Sundays preceding Lent prepare our hearts for the journey with each Sunday taking us higher and deeper into the Lenten saving experience. The first Sunday of Lent firmly plants us on the Dogmatic Teachings of the Church, celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy. The second Sunday shows us the Church's teaching on Mystical Theology and the need to strive to treasure the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The third Sunday gifts us with a spiritual oasis, placing us under the shade of the Holy Life Giving Cross which directs us at once to Passion Week and our salvation through Christ's Cross. The fourth Sunday calls us to rise up the Steps of Saint John's Ladder of Divine Ascent, defeating in us the passions and sins that drag us down into hell. The fifth Sunday gives us St. Mary of Egypt as an example of being lifted out of the deepest depravity to the heights of Sanctity. St. Mary of Egypt shows us that no sins, if we confess them and reject them, can keep us from salvation.

With this week the first part of Lent is completed and we enter into the remembrance of the Last Days of Christ, Lazarus Sabbath Saturday which assures us of the General Resurrection, Palm Sunday and the Days of Passion Week. Attending Church as many days as possible on the Parish Schedule, we take advantage of a great treasure and Grace-filled Mystery, which is Great Lent.

May God Bless everyone and may your spiritual path through Great Lent be a successful and joyous experience culminating with the JOY OF PASCHA! (This year Eastern Orthodox, Western Catholic and Protestant Easter /Pascha are all on the same day!) ■

THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS FOR FATHER STEFAN

ARE WOMEN REQUIRED TO WEAR A HEAD COVERING WHILE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION IN A RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH?

It is a requirement for women to have their heads covered when attending Church Services especially during Confession and Holy Communion. This tradition comes from Old Testament times and is confirmed in the New Testament. Saint Apostle Paul himself admonished the women of the Church of Corinth for not wearing head coverings. (1 Cor. 11: .. a woman ought to have a veil on her head...)

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HEAD COVERING?

There are various quotes from Tradition and the Holy Fathers on this subject. Some point to women being subject to their husbands. Some compare women to the angels who "veil their faces before God's presence." The most compelling explanation is that only women can truly imitate the Holy Virgin Mary, the Holy Theotokos, who, in the greatest humility, always had her head covered.

THE GREEK, SERBIAN, AND ANTIOCHIAN CHURCHES DO NOT REQUIRE HEAD COVERINGS DURING COMMUNION. WHY IS THERE A DIFFERENCE?

It would be better to say that some jurisdictions of the Orthodox Church have more traditional adherence to this rule. Others less. If you go to the so-called "old countries" of Greece, Syria, Serbia, Russia and others, you will find that the general rule is for women to have their heads covered. American Orthodox communities are more likely to deviate from the Traditional rules.

continued...

ST. DIMITRI OF ROSTOV

IF A PERSON FROM ANOTHER JURISDICTION TAKES COMMUNION AT OUR CHURCH, SHOULD SHE FOLLOW THE TRADITIONS OF HER OWN CHURCH OR THE CHURCH WHERE SHE TAKES COMMUNION?

It is always courteous to follow the local tradition, especially if it is stricter than at your own parish! On the other hand, when someone is a guest in your parish, a little leeway should be accorded to those who come from less strict parishes.

HOW DETAILED SHOULD CONFESSION BE?

The rule of thumb is to confess your own sins without elaborate explanations or rationalizations. However, ALL sins should be confessed without reservation. The more a person cares about his/her Spiritual State, the more detailed a Confession may be. When many sins lie heavy on the soul, it's better to request an in-depth confession, possibly during early evening before the start of Vespers or on another day which is convenient for the Confessor and the Parish Priest. If we leave our lengthy confession to just before the start of Divine Liturgy, or even worse just before Communion, we are doing a disservice to the whole body of the parish. On the other hand, some confessions may inadvertently become long and emotional. That's when parishioners, standing in Church, should show patience and compassion.

Parishioners may find it helpful to read beforehand various lists of sins based on the Old Testament Commandments, the New Testament Beatitudes, or confession lists compiled by Saint John of Kronstadt and Saint Dimitri of Rostov. However, reading the list to the priest is not the best alternative. True repentance comes from the depth of one's heart and said in one's own words. ■

I confess to the Lord my God and before thee, venerable father, all my countless sins, committed by me unto this very day and hour, in deed, word and thought. I sin daily and hourly by my ingratitude toward God for His great and countless blessings and benevolent providence over me, a sinner.

I have sinned through idle talking, judging others, stubbornness, pride, hard-heartedness, envy, anger, slander, inattention, negligence concerning my salvation, carelessness, indifference, impertinence, irritability, despondency, rendering evil for evil, bitterness, disobedience, complaining, self-justification, contradicting others, self-will, being reproachful, gossiping, lying, light-mindedness, tempting others, self-love, ambition, gourmandizing, eating and drinking to excess, vanity, laziness, entertaining unclean thoughts, acquisitiveness, impure glances, absence from divine services because of laziness and carelessness, absent-mindedness at prayer both in church and at home.

I have sinned in deed, word, thought; in sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch and the rest of my mental and physical senses; of all my sins I repent and beg forgiveness.

(Here one should mention specifically any other sins which may be burdening the soul.)

I also repent and ask forgiveness for all those sins that I have not confessed because of their multitude and my forgetfulness.

Forgive and absolve me, venerable father, and bless me to commune of the holy and life-creating Mysteries of Christ unto the remission of sins and life everlasting.

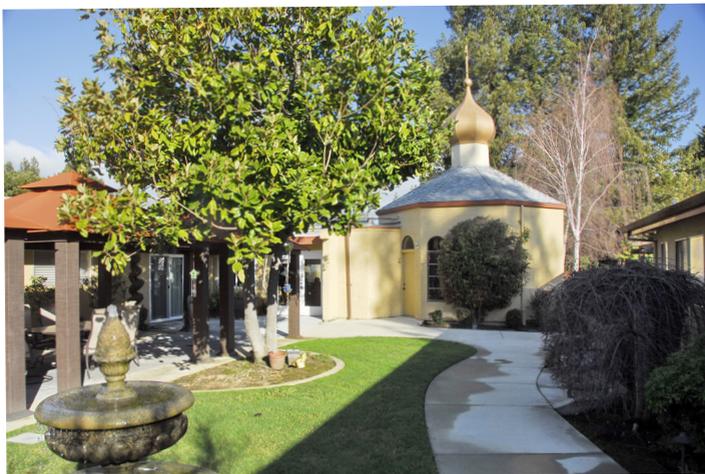
FATHER STEFAN'S SECOND PARISH

LUDMILLA BOBROFF



Father Stefan has been the parish priest at the health care center since the late 1970s. Standing with him (left to right) are Administrator Caitlin Mar, Klavdia Vasilievna Motoviloff, Marina Roudenko, and Nikolai Alexandrovich Hidchenko.

The Church of All Russians Saints in Burlingame is not the only place of worship where our Mitred Archpriest Stefan Pavelenko serves Liturgies. He is assigned to the Chapel at the St. John Kronstadt Health Care Center in Castro Valley, as well as President of its Board. Hundreds of elderly Russian men and women have spent their last years of life at the health care center before their repose. St. John Kronstadt Health Care Center came into being



The Chapel at St. John of Kronstadt Health Care Center was built for Russian-speaking Orthodox residents. Other residents and patients also come to hear the prayers and the singing.

in the mid-1970s when Protopresbyter Father Nikolai Ponamarev, Lydia Zemtsev-Maltsev of the Russian American Nurses Association, and Boris Vertlugin, prominent businessman in the San Francisco Russian community, started working on a project to open a home for aged Russian Americans. Another hard-working person on the committee was Nina Ivanovna Ostroskaya, vice director of the Board of Directors and grandmother to our current Parish Council Member Dmitri Andruha.

At first, they considered building a facility in Calistoga where a large Russian community resided. With the blessing from Archbishop

Anthony (Medvedev) of San Francisco, they purchased a plot of land next to the Saint Symeon Russian Orthodox Church in Calistoga. Participating in the blessing of the land was young Altar Server Stefan Pavlenko who had just moved to San Francisco with his bride, Tatiana.

Unfortunately, this plan to build a facility for aged Russians failed. Newly evolving California environmental impact



The facility with 49 beds is located in Castro Valley in the East Bay.

restrictions made the project an impossibility. Consequently, the project was abandoned.

The committee then turned their sights toward the East Bay. Although there was no Russian community in Castro Valley, a small 39-bed facility was acquired. As residents died or moved out, more and more Russian American seniors moved in. Within a short time, it was almost 100 percent Russian occupancy.

As the years passed, the facility was expanded to a 49-bed capacity. Rehabilitation services were provided for short-term patients and long-term residents. The Medicare and MediCal facility had a staff of physicians, physical and speech therapists, licensed nurses, dietitians, plus an activities director. Wireless Internet and cable TV were available to patients, as well as telephone access, personal laundry services, beauty and barber services, and an outdoor patio with walking paths.

For the Russian patients, an Orthodox Chapel in honor of St. John of Kronstadt was added to the building. In addition, Katya Tarasov, one of two Russian-speaking activity directors, was hired to organize the showing of Russian films, celebrate birthdays with catered Russian food, and to arrange musical performances by children and adults.

Usually on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, Father Stefan arrives at 10 a.m. to hear Confession and serve Divine Liturgy. Marina Roudenko accompanies Father Stefan and performs the duties of chanter and reader (psalmist). Long-time volunteers Irina Leonidovna Collaco sings in the choir during Liturgy while Nikolai Alexandrovich Hidchenko is the Altar Server.



Marina Roudenko, far left, is the chanter and reader (psalmist). Long-time volunteer Irina Leonidovna Collaco (center) sings in the choir along with resident Klavdia Vasilievna Motoviloff.



Father Stefan serves Divine Liturgy twice a month at St. John of Kronstadt, oftener during holidays.

Father Stefan also visits St. John Kronstadt during Paschal Bright Week Wednesday and on the fourth day of the Nativity/Christmas when children come to sing for the Holiday Prayer Services and offer a short singing concert. During Theophany, Father Stefan walks room to room, blessing all residents with Holy Water. In an emergency,

he even rushes to Castro Valley to hear Confession and give Holy Communion to the dying Orthodox patient. These duties have been performed by Father Stefan since the late 1970s, long before he was assigned to the Burlingame Church.

Today, St. John of Kronstadt is run by Administrator Caitlin Mar, who has raised the standards of the facility to become one of the best health care centers in California. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services ranks it 5 out of 5 stars for quality measures, staffing, and health inspections. Nevertheless, the facility is home to less than 10 Russian-speaking residents.

One of them is Klavdia Vasilievna Motoviloff, once an active volunteer in the San Francisco Russian community. For many years, she sang with the Holy Virgin Cathedral Choir, worked with the Cathedral Sisterhood and was an



Father Stefan walks through the halls, blessing all residents with Holy Water. Altar Server Nikolai Alexandrovich Hidchenko (far left) assists him.

active member of the All Cossacks Union since immigrating to the United States.

Klavdia Vasilievna was one of six children born in Tomsk, Russia, to Vasily Ivanovich Kolenko and Evdokia Andreevna Kolenko. As the family made their way to Turkestan to escape the Revolution, they became destitute. Thanks to the generosity of Vladika Ioann, the future Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco, young Klava and her family arrived safely in Shanghai. For a while, they lived in Vladika Ioann's orphanage before being evacuated to Tubabao. Seven months later, the family boarded a ship for Paraguay where the young woman met Vladimir Konstantinovich Motoviloff, her future husband. Ten years later, they immigrated to the United States with their two children, Nadia (Buick), and the late Nikolai Motoviloff. Their third child, Tanya (Bolshakoff), was born in San Francisco.

Vladimir Konstantinovich Motoviloff died in 1989. Sadly, he and his half-brothers never crossed paths during their lifetimes due to political unrest in the Soviet Union. All three brothers were direct descendants of the famous Nikolai Aleksandrovich Motoviloff, who conducted a long and illuminating conversation with Saint Seraphim of Sarov which was later published in a book. In 1992, after the repose of her husband, Klavdia Vasilievna traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia to have a joyous reunion with the Motoviloff family.

Today at St. John Kronstadt, Klavdia Vasilievna sings in the choir when Father Stefan serves Liturgy and acts as a Russian translator when asked. Her family visits weekly and brings her monthly to the Holy Virgin Cathedral. She has her own telephone, which she uses frequently, and is happy with her new home and its excellent staff. ■



Klavdia Vasilievna Motoviloff enjoys the activities organized by Activities Assistant Katya Tarasov.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

DMITRI BOBROFF

At its meeting on December 2016, the Church of All Russian Saints Parish Council approved the following set of church projects for 2017 as part of its Stewardship Program. Of course, not all these projects will be completed in 2017, but hopefully, we'll be able to start them. Similarly, our goal of \$60,000 in pledges will only fund a portion of the projects.

Some projects already have Project Managers who have begun to work. Others still lack Project Managers. Any volunteers?

- **Regild the main gold cupola.**
- **Regild all gold crosses on the cupolas.**
- **Design and install memorial stained glass windows in the nave (Project Manager: Dima Bobroff).**
 - **Revitalize our church website with a new design and add features that will enable easy, timely update of content (Project Manager: Alexander Loboda).**
 - **Remodel and expand the north side of the Altar into a new Ponomarka. Remodel the south side Ponomarka for church books and Father Stefan's vestments (Project Manager: Alyosha Baranoff).**
 - **Replace current wood railing on the amvon/solea in front of the Altar with an attractive new brass design.**
- **Implement energy-efficient upgrades throughout the church, parish hall, and classrooms (Project Managers: Oleg Bolshakoff, Ivan Afanasiev, and others).**
 - **Acquire a full set of bells, train bell ringers, and conduct discussions with parishioners on significance and meaning of bell ringing.**

Over the past four years, the number of Stewards has hovered around 40. Thanks to them, we have started and completed a number of major projects. However, when we add up the number of formal parishioners with the number of people who regularly attend our church, the high number gives us hope more will become Stewards. Please consider it. Anyone can become a Steward. One does not have to be a formal Parish member to be a Steward.

Our Church is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit religious organization registered in the State of California. Your Stewardship donation is fully tax-deductible.

Please make your donation soon.

ATTENDING THE WEST COAST YOUTH CONFERENCE

DANIEL GILCHRIST



(Left to right) Eugene Lytnev, Nicholas Shmelev, Daniel Gilchrist, and Yevgraf Jackimowicz arrive in Sacramento for the Youth Conference.

Jackimowicz drove Yefgraf, Eugene, and me to Sacramento. On this day, we met other participants and got settled. In the evening, we had a tasty Lenten meal followed by a moleben in front of an icon of St. Herman, our patron saint, asking him to bless our work during the conference. Before beginning and ending each scheduled day, we read morning and evening prayers inside the church in both English and Church Slavonic. I always looked forward to saying these prayers in front of icons lit by flickering candles and felt peaceful and restful.

To top off the year 2016, I attended the Tenth Annual St. Herman's West Youth Conference which was held at the Church of the Ascension of our Lord in Sacramento, California. I went with three other Burlingame parish members - Yevgraf Jackimowicz, Eugene Lytnev, and Nicholas Shmelev. The conference spanned five days from December 26th to December 30th. The majority of participants were of high-school age, although some attended middle school, others, college. The 65 participants came from California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, and Idaho. Since this was my second year of attending the conference, I felt at ease with the familiar faces of clergy and young people. It proved to be another edifying experience.

The first day of the conference was a travel and check-in day in which Father Dimitry

This year, His Grace Bishop Irenei of Sacramento presided over the conference for the first time. As a newly elevated Bishop, his first lecture to us was titled The Role of a Bishop. In this lecture, Bishop Irenei outlined the roles of the clergy in the church, then focused on the role of the Bishop.

The primary role of a bishop, he said, is to be an icon of Christ. As the twelve Apostles were sent by Christ to preach the Gospel to the world, so, too, are our bishops meant to watch over Christ's flock. Interestingly, Bishop Irenei pointed out that in the beginning of a hierarchical service, when a Bishop is vested, the acolytes create an icon of Christ. This is represented by the Omophorion worn on the Bishop's shoulders symbolizing the lost lamb of Christ. Bishop Irenei's lecture helped me understand and respect the work of our Bishops in the Church.

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Another lecture titled Intimacy and Identity was given by Father David Moser. He encouraged us young people to stay on the path of the Orthodox Church in the midst of serious decision-making times during our lifetimes.

At several workshops, we were taught what jobs were required during church services, including church reading, choir singing, and altar serving. Just like last year, I joined the church reading workshop and read in English the First Hour during Vigil. Others read in Church Slavonic. In order to receive Holy Communion during the Divine Liturgy, many of the participants went to Confession that evening, including myself. Early the next morning, Divine Liturgy was served in honor of St. Herman. Bishop Theodosy of Seattle presided alongside Bishop Irenei. The Divine Liturgy was a blessed celebration of prayers and worship. At the end, we sang “Many Years” for all the clergy and participants of the conference.

The social activities planned during the conference provided a chance to get to know other Orthodox teenagers. We toured the Capitol Building and visited Old Town Sacramento. Another activity enjoyed by most of the youth was indoor rock-climbing. We also had the opportunity to visit the new Monastery of St. Silouan in Sonora. There, we were greeted by the monks, brothers and sisters of the monastery and served a wonderful feast. We saw the monastic cells which have already been built. Unfortunately, we spent only an hour at the monastery because of the long drive to Old Town Columbia and Sacramento. Father Boris Henderson, an organizer of the conference, hopes to coordinate a building project this summer where youths will construct even more monastic cells. Although our time there was short, it was a lovely introduction to an Orthodox Monastery in the West.

For me, the chance to slow down during my busy high school year and be away from the secular aspects of the pre-celebration of the Nativity was cherishable. The St. Herman West Youth Conference provides an important role in our diocese to teach Orthodox Christian teenagers about our Faith. During our last meal together, Bishop Irenei explained that the goal of the conference is to equip us young people to be able to incorporate the fullness of Orthodox Christianity into our daily lives. He ended with a thought-provoking statement, “Our Children are not the future of the Church. The Church is the future of our Children.” ■

THANK YOU
TO
Natasha and Ben Neilson
FOR GRACIOUSLY SPONSORING THE COST OF
THIS ISSUE.

BAPTISED
DECEMBER 2016
None
JANUARY 2017
Mark Cranin
Lillian Konovalov
Anna McKee
John Murphy

MARRIED
DECEMBER 2016
None
JANUARY 2017
None

REPOSED IN THE LORD
DECEMBER 2016
None
JANUARY 2017
None

CHOIR NEWS

ANDREI ROUDENKO

Our choir has been busy preparing for, and singing at, a variety of regular and special services. At the beginning of February, we were invited to participate in a very solemn and moving musical tribute in memory of the perished members of the Alexandrov Ensemble (a.k.a. Red Army Chorus), humanitarian worker and charity activist Dr. Elizaveta Glinka, members of the media and the crew of the airplane that crashed into the Black Sea on December 25, 2016. The four area choirs who participated in the tribute were the Church of All Russian Saints Choir, the Holy Virgin Cathedral Choir, the Diakonia (male) Choir and the Slavyanka Chorus. The event has been memorialized in a video recording that is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-I3v1URgYf0&feature=youtu.be> It is being circulated around the world, and, of course, in Russia.



On February 3, the Church of All Russian Saints participated with three other choirs at the stirring musical tribute in San Francisco for the perished Alexandrov Ensemble.

Recently we completed the final step in our project to sponsor a stained-glass window dedicated to the memory of Annushka Markevich. A check was turned over to the Stewardship Stained-Glass Window Fund. We are grateful to all those who attended our concert last fall, and who generously supported our initiative.

As we enter Great Lent (Великий пост), the busiest time of the year for clergy and choir members, our choir is preparing for its next presentation, a recital of works of the Lenten period. The concert will be held on March 19, the third Sunday of Lent (Крестопоклонная / adoration of the Holy Cross). In addition to serving as a musical Lenten mini-retreat, featuring prayers that will be heard at upcoming services, we will once again include a Stewardship fund-raising component to our event. Please save the date and come to support our efforts. ■

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

V. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko, Rector (650) 430-9805	Andrei Roudenko Choir Director (650) 922-0250
Ivan Afanasiev, Starosta (650) 589-7617	Dmitri Andruha (415) 517-2692
Alexei Baranoff, Treasurer (916) 799-0898	Dimitry Bobroff (408) 257-6918
Yura Misersky, Secretary (650) 579-2667	Oleg Bolshakoff (415) 759-8582
Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko, Head Sister (650) 430-9806	Alexander Loboda (650) 654-5447
	Marina Roudenko (650) 483-3412

LIVESTREAM SERVICES

For those who are homebound, hospitalized or unable to attend Church Services at the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, we have enabled live video streaming via the Internet. Live, as well as previously recorded Church Services are available at
YouTube channel:
<http://bit.ly/burlingamechannel>

Alternatively, the link to the Church Services is also available on the church website at:
<http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH + APRIL

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Pasta Buffet prepared by the Sisterhood

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Concert by the Church of All Russian Saints Choir

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Annual Parish Meeting after Divine Liturgy (light lunch)

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Kulich Faire and Easter Bazaar

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Lenten Retreat at the Holy Virgin Cathedral
(see article)

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Palm Sunday Luncheon featuring the Sisterhood's famous
Fish Cotleti and oysters

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Blessing of Easter baskets at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Pascha! Breaking-of-the-Fast after Divine Liturgy and the
Blessing of Easter Baskets.
(Sign-up is required in advance for the razgovlenie)

PREPARATIONS FOR PASCHA

The Sisterhood is selling vanilla beans, tvorog (cheese for sirnaya pascha), regular and organic sirnaya pascha. For more information and to pre-order, please contact: Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko at 650-430-9805 or Luba Gauschildt at 650-591-1605

NAMESDAY COFFEE HOURS

Namesday Coffee Hours for March and April celebrants will be held only if volunteer hosts contact Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko in advance at 650-430-9805

PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS

No pelmeni-making sessions will be held in
March and April

CROSS STITCHERS NEEDED

Most of our icon cloths (rushniki) are very old and can no longer be successfully cleaned. We use these cloths for special occasions and processions.

If you know how to cross stitch and would like to embroider an icon cloth, please let us know. All levels of experience and creative input are welcome. We can put together a kit for you, or, if you prefer, you can choose your own fabric, thread colors and design.

If you like to do another type of embroidery (not cross stitch), that's fine too. There will NOT be any pressure to finish by a particular date.

For more information, please email or call Tatiana Pavlenko at tpavlenko@hotmail.com (650) 430-9806.

JANUARY NAMESDAYS



Celebrating their January Namesdays with Father Stefan and Matushka Tatiana are (left to right) Tatiana Woodward, Nina Eyvazov, Tania Ionoff, Nina Howell, Tatiana Hidchenko, and Tanya Bolshakoff. February Namesdays were not celebrated because no one volunteered to host the Coffee Hour.

FATHER STEFAN'S NAMESDAY

MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 2017



His Grace Bishop Theodosy of Seattle reads the Gospel during the morning service.



His Grace Bishop Theodosy of Seattle (on the left) and His Grace Bishop Irenei of Sacramento both served Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Stephen.



Father Stefan received many heartfelt toasts from his parishioners. Here Alik Klestoff and Galina Roukotova pay tribute to his many years of service to the Church and his love for his flock.



The Church Hall is full of clergy and parishioners, celebrating Father Stefan's namesday. Left to right are Conny Sench, N.V. Misersky, Father Vladimir Morozov of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco (OCA), Bishop Theodosy, Bishop Irenei, and Father Stefan.



Left to right, Nina Eyvazov, Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko, and Luba Gauschildt prepared both the afternoon luncheon and the evening dinner for guests.

Photos by Lena Gauschildt and Marina Misersky McKee

RUSSIAN SCHOOL YOLKA PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2017



Left: The Russian Folk Tale “Copper, Silver and Gold Kingdoms” is performed by, left to right, Daria Burnosova, Sofia Entar, Anna Shmeleva, and Veronika Saltanova. Timofei Loboda, playing the role of the tsar, stands behind them.



The audience, including Father Stefan and Matushka Tatiana, enjoy all the acts.



Performing a Christmas Scene around a Campfire are (left to right) Georgy Sorokin, Jacob Effertz, Polina Deshkevich, Tatiana Rudakova, Mikhail Rang, and Maximillian Ovsiannikov.

The children rush to Ded Moroz when he enters the Church Hall.



Sofia Pinaeva accompanies Eduard Petrushin on the piano as he recites “The Crow and the Fox” by I. A. Krylov.

LENTEN RETREAT AT HOLY VIRGIN CATHEDRAL

IRENE HANLON

The Tenth Annual Western American Diocese Lenten Retreat will be held at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco on Sunday, April 2. With all the political rancor being experienced nowadays, its theme – “Love Your Neighbor” - is particularly relevant. What exactly was Our Lord Jesus Christ saying when he proclaimed, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” And the second one is this: “Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” Mk 12:30-31.



Very Reverend David Moser

Two priests will be discussing these important commandments at the retreat. The first speaker is the Very Reverend David Moser, rector of St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church (ROCOR) in Boise, Idaho. A popular speaker at various Russian Orthodox Church youth retreats and conferences, Father Moser will explain the meaning of “Love your Enemies.”

The second speaker is the Very Reverend Moses Berry of the Theotokos Unexpected Joy Orthodox Church (OCA) in Ash Grove, Missouri.

Father Moses is the founder of the Saint Moses the Black Brotherhood and a frequent speaker at various Orthodox conferences for clergy and laity. The subject of Father Moses’ talk is “And Who Is My Neighbor?”



Very Reverend Moses Berry

The day-long retreat begins at 7:45 a.m. with Divine Liturgy in English at Holy Virgin Cathedral “Joy of All Who Sorrow”, 6210 Geary

Blvd., San Francisco. After Liturgy, breakfast will be served in the Main Hall, followed by Father David Moser’s lecture and Q&A. After lunch, Father Moses will speak and answer questions. The retreat ends with a Fellowship Hour and Vespers in English.

Registration is \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Half-day registrations are also available for those who wish to attend Liturgy at their own parishes in the morning.

Retreat organizers are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, and meal preparation during the retreat. Volunteers will not miss any of the talks. Donations of Lenten salads and desserts will also be appreciated.

Please direct all inquiries to retreat organizer, Irene Hanlon at lentenretreatsf@gmail.com. Individuals may register online at www.lentenretreatsf.org ■

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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 2017

See the schedule of services on the Church website:

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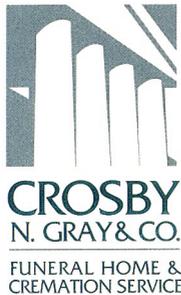
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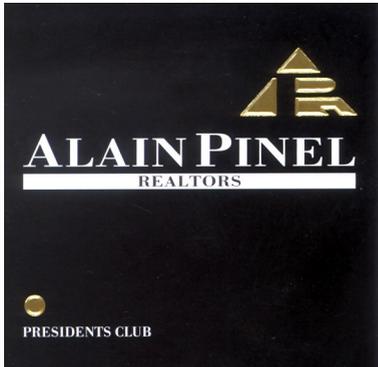
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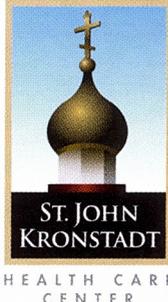
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