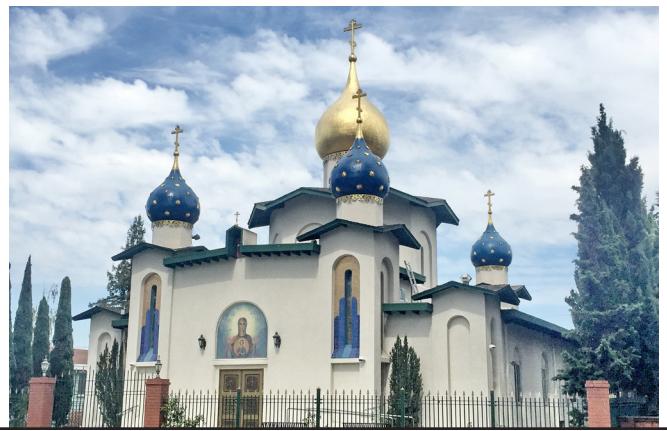


**VOLUME 6 NUMBER 2**

*March/April 2018*



# CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

**Церковь Всех Святых из Земли Российской Проявившихъ**

## MESSAGE FROM ARCHPRIEST STEFAN

Since you are reading this in early March, hopefully you have already made the decision to observe Great Lent correctly by fasting, increasing your personal prayers, and attending as many Church services as you are able. If you haven't started your Lenten Journey yet, don't delay. It is never too late to start.

Our Orthodox Christian Liturgical Life is a series of cycles which calls for fasting, feasting, repentance and joyous celebrations. The Great Fast or Lent is the longest and strictest season for repentance and fasting. This year, it started early on Monday, February 19th. After going through the preparatory Sundays and the strict first week of Lent, we are now on the prayerful and sobering path guiding us to Passion Week, Easter/Pascha and the Holy Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Although the Lenten Season is moving forward, perhaps we may have already stumbled on our appointed path and need support and suggestions on how to proceed in our spiritual journey. There are two extremes we should avoid - overzealous strictness that can burn us out before we get any headway and laxity in obeying the existing rules, which weaken and even negate any progress we might have achieved.

What are the rules of Lent? First we must resolve to combine any fasting that we do to redoubling our

church attendance. In addition, we must pay serious attention to our private prayer rule and to make a conscientious effort to do kind and sincere good works in the Love of Christ to our fellow man who needs our physical, monetary or moral support.

Upon learning the actual rules for fasting during Great Lent, people are surprised that fish is not allowed the entire time except for Palm Sunday and the Feast of the Annunciation. This year, however, Annunciation falls on Great and Holy Sabbath Saturday which means no fish is allowed while wine and a light non-oil meal is permissible. Speaking of oil, olive or vegetable oil is allowed only on weekends and on certain specific days during the Lenten season, usually a Holy Day (Holiday) or a time when services are very lengthy and tiring and the faithful need extra calories for strength to stand through the services. One example is Saint Andrew's Vigil which falls on Thursday, March 22. The Reading of the Great Canon takes a long time.

Having said that, I want to remind everyone that certain demands are lightened for the elderly, the young, pregnant or nursing mothers, those with chronic diseases, and for those who perform heavy burdensome jobs. In the past, the Church exempted men who dug graves by hand and those who did hard labor before machines took over.

*continued...*

As for everyone else who is fasting, you should not be eating meat and meat products which includes red meat, pork and fowl. The meat fast starts the week prior to Great Lent (Butter Week - Maslenitsa) and continues through the Paschal Divine Liturgy on Easter Night. If you are eating meat, you are not fasting!

The next food group we don't consume during Great Lent and three other Fasting periods is dairy, eggs, and all products with dairy and eggs in them. This is a Lacto-Ovum Vegetarian Diet, which began on February 19th and will continue through the Paschal Night Divine Liturgy which ends during the early morning hours of April 8th.

Besides the two days that Fish is allowed mentioned above, there is one day that Fish Roe or Caviar may be included in a meal. That is Holy Lazarus Sabbath Saturday which falls this year on March 31. It should be noted that there are days during Great Lent when it is appointed to actually Fast. In other words, not eat or drink anything the entire day. Among them are the first day of Lent (which already occurred on February 19th) and Great and Holy Friday of Passion Week which falls on April 6th. These strict rules are found in the book called the Typikon. In this book, total fasting days extend to the third day of Lent and to the first days of Passion Week. This is an acetic burden that few actually fulfill, even in monasteries. Be aware, however, that those in good health who applied these strict rules to their Lenten Experience found them to be eminently rewarding and surprisingly attainable!

The beginner should be cautioned to start slowly and progress to higher levels of fasting in a sober and measured way. After attaining a more dedicated fasting regime, they should strive to preserve and deepen all aspects of the Lenten Journey by including sincere private prayer, frequent and more attentive participation in the Liturgical Services and kindness and compassion towards family and neighbors.

May the Lord guide us and preserve us through the Great Lenten Season to joyously celebrate His Holy Resurrection in a truly Orthodox Christian manner! ■

## FINAL WORDS FROM PELAGIA

On Feb. 13, Father Stefan and Father Dimitri Jakimowicz conducted a funeral service for parishioner Pelagia (Lesley) Gilchrist, wife of Bill, and mother of Daniel, Thomas, Lyubov, and Inna (Carrie). At the pominki (wake) held afterward in the Church Hall, Daniel read the final message that Pelagia had written to her children and parishioners.



*Recently Reposed Pelagia Gilchrist*

"At the very end of time, at the end of your life, you will have to assess whether you have been a decent Orthodox Christian, or whether you have been a Pharisee full of pride, greed, conceit, and self-serving behavior. I had a dark night of the soul when demons came to me and my life seemed to be nothing but futility. I thought "Why not join the God haters?" Then I realized I had fallen into despair.

"I wanted God, but all I knew that I could do was to judge myself a Publican, with a broken heart and unworthy of heaven. Because of my faults, such as not engaging with my neighbors when I should have, and failing to build the Orthodox Church in a true, loving way, God used my suffering to draw me closer to Him.

"Our suffering here during our earthly lives is short term and light when weighed with God's eternal paradise. Whatever your sufferings may be, glorify God in all circumstances. I have been praying for all of you and God willing, I'll continue to be able to pray for you as you travel through this sorrowful world.

"I wish I could have gotten to know all parishioners better because you have been wonderful to me. It brings tears to my eyes. God bless you, God bless you: I love all of you. And in all circumstances, Slava Bogu!" ■

# THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR ARCHPRIEST STEFAN

## DOES THE ORTHODOX CHURCH APPROVE OF CREMATION?

Two of our many Christian duties and responsibilities are to properly bury our Orthodox relatives and to make sure the poor are buried in a dignified manner. The question then arises, can Orthodox Christians be cremated and if not, what are the burial options?

For the past two thousand years, the usual form of burial for Orthodox Christians has been either interment, which is burial directly into the ground, or entombment, which consists of placing the dead in a mausoleum. Both methods are acceptable. When a person dies, the soul leaves the body and stands before God who created it. Meanwhile, the body is buried in the earth and after decomposing returns to the earth. (“Earth thou art and unto the earth shall thou return!”) At the Last Dread Judgment, everyone will be resurrected. Our souls will return to our regenerated bodies and we will stand before God and all of mankind to be judged according to our deeds.

### Our Body is a Temple

When we are born, special prayers are said for us and our birth mother. On the eighth day, more prayers are said and we are assigned our Christian name. On the 40th day, we are Churched. On the day we’re Christened, our body is anointed with oil, Baptised and Chrismated. Throughout our life, we are blessed with holy oil and holy water. Most importantly, we receive the True Body and True Blood of Our Lord as sacred food for our body and our spirit during the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

Because our bodies are sanctified throughout our lifetime, Apostle Paul tells us we should be aware that our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. We should respect and keep our bodies pure and holy. Religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, paganism, and atheism consider the spirit to be good but material things to be evil. Therefore, they reject the importance and sanctity of the physical body and condone cremation.

### Burials Mentioned in Scripture

Many burials are mentioned in the Old and New Testaments. The supreme examples are Holy Lazarus being raised from the dead on the fourth day and Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself being entombed - not cremated - before His Resurrection. The Holy Relics of the Saints are also examples of the sanctity of our remains (ostanki).

What happens if an Orthodox Christian is cremated? In such a case, no services are appointed at the time of death nor during cremation (no panikhidas or otpivanye). However, after the 40th day, a commemorative panikhida service can be served and commemorations may begin during the Divine Liturgy as for any reposed Orthodox Christian. ■

## BAPTISED

### DECEMBER 2017

Leo Davidov  
Aleksandre Keush  
Michael Krause  
Sophia Lyamanov

### JANUARY 2018

Vladimir Brinza  
Luke Joslin

## MARRIED

### DECEMBER 2017

None

### JANUARY 2018

Natalia Korotky and  
Alexsei Achtar-Zadeh

## REPOSED IN THE LORD

### DECEMBER 2017

Vasily Iamkovoi  
Kate N. Loukianoff  
Tamara Pekarsky

### JANUARY 2018

Claudia Alexis Gibeau  
George Golinsky  
Natalie Kondrasheff

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

# FAREWELL PROTODEACON SERGEI AND SONYA SHOOMILOFF

Ludmilla Bobroff



*Sonya and Father Sergei pose with their daughter, Katya, and son-in-law Sergei Tcherikoff, part of the reason the Shoomiloffs are moving to the East Coast.*

In late February, Father Sergei and his wife Sonya bid farewell to their beloved Church of All Russian Saints, moved out of their Redwood City home, and with their 14-year-old dog, Maverick, flew to New Jersey to begin a new life on the East Coast. What prompted this major move, parishioners ask?

The answer is – their family. Both son and daughter moved to the East Coast, married Russian Orthodox spouses, and now grandchildren are appearing. The Shoomiloffs want to be physically closer to their family and play a greater role in their lives.

The couple will be missed by many people in the Russian community living in the Bay Area because

of their many years of service and involvement. Protodeacon Sergei was ordained a deacon in 1990 after spending his childhood serving as an altar server in San Francisco churches. Upon his ordination, he was assigned by Bishop Anthony of San Francisco to the Protection of the Holy Virgin in Palo Alto where he assisted Father Vladimir Derugin for ten years. When Father Deacon Alexander Kochergin, serving in the Burlingame Church, suffered severe back problems, Father Sergei replaced him.

The move to Burlingame was a good one for the entire family. The children, Aleksei and Katya, attended Russian School and became active in the Russian Scouts. Father Sergei established a warm bond with

*continued...*

Father Stefan. Sonya started singing in the Church Choir, then switched to the Sisterhood where she felt she was needed more. Their circle of friends grew wider and wider.

And so the years passed happily until Aleksei and Katya, at separate times, decided to visit the East Coast to see what it offered them. Both met future spouses from Russian American families, who were very active in church and in the ORUR Scouts. Both marriages took place on the East Coast. Aleksei married Christina Gorbenko and they now have a four-year-old daughter named Aria who speaks fluent Russian. The young couple are expecting a baby boy in April. Aleksei works as a project manager for Omni Builders in New York City. Christina works from home as a web designer.

A year and a half ago, Katya married Sergei Tchertkoff, grandson of Archpriest Seraphim Slobodskoy who was the author of the book, “The Law of God.” Sergei is a police officer in the Sheriff’s Department of Rockland County, New York. Katya is an Executive Assistant for a Medical Recruiting Company.

With their children happy and settled in New Jersey, Sonya and Father Sergei started thinking seriously about following them. First, Father Sergei had to find a way to earn a living. Trimble, the company for whom he works as a senior software engineer, agreed to let him work from home. Secondly, their house which they owned for 30 years, sold in a week with 13 offers pouring in. Next came finding a suitable house in New Jersey via the Internet. That was very difficult. The couple finally decided to postpone their search until they were on site. Then came packing and moving, another major job. In New Jersey, Father Sergei has received a blessing from Metropolitan Hilarion to serve at Our Lady of Kazan

Russian Orthodox Church in Newark. He did so the first weekend they arrived on the East Coast.

Both Sonya and Father Sergei say the move is bittersweet. While they are excited about living close to their family, they are sorry to leave so many friends who have become like family to them. The Sisterhood hosted a big going-away party for them at the beginning of February with close to 100 friends attending.

In asking Father Sergei what he will miss most, he answered, “Father Stefan. He is a priest who follows in the footsteps of the Ever Blessed Bishop Anthony of San Francisco. Like Bishop Anthony, he loves his flock very much and passes along this love not only to his parishioners but to everyone he meets.”

When asked if anything unusual ever happened during a service, Father Sergei recalls the Blessing of the Pussy Willows. One year during vespers for Palm Sunday, Father Stefan could not find the correct prayer in his book. Bewildered by Father Stefan’s silence, the choir stopped singing. Altar servers dashed to the choir loft and to the altar to search for the correct book containing the prayer. All to no avail. Then, searching his own iPad, Father Sergei found the correct passage. He handed the iPad to Father Stefan to read the prayer and the service continued. This may have been the first time in the history of the Orthodox Church that a prayer was read from an iPad during a service.

Before departing, one of Sonya’s final posts on Facebook read, “We are so blessed to call all of you our family! You have seen us fall in love, marry, start our family, raise our children, see our children’s children. Now, we are off together on a new adventure to be closer to our children and grandchildren. We take all of you with us in our hearts and memories.” ■

# CHOIR NEWS

Andrei Roudenko



*These girls attend Bethany School which belongs to the ROCOR Ecclesiastical Mission in the Holy Land.*

Bethany School in the Holy Land. Thanks to the generosity of the choir and parishioners, our December 2017 fundraising effort for the Orthodox School of Bethany netted \$1,800. The funds were transmitted to the School in early January. Donations collected in February have not been tabulated in time to meet the Newsletter's editorial deadline. Nevertheless, we appeal to you again to donate to the April fund. Your ongoing support helps the girl students who are pictured, as well as teachers and other students in the school.

Lenten Concert Dedication. Over ten years ago during Sunday Liturgy, our choir members were shocked to learn that our Metropolitan Laurus (Lavr) reposed in the Lord earlier that day. We dedicated our 2008 Fall Concert to Metropolitan Lavr's memory. Our upcoming "Lenten" concert on Sunday, March 18 will likewise be dedicated to Metropolitan Lavr's memory. Unlike previous concerts, which were fundraisers for our parish Stewardship program, our fundraising efforts this time will be earmarked to help victims of the Napa/Santa Rosa fires. Although their plight is no longer in the headlines, their suffering and needs continue and demand our attention and support.

We will also commemorate the recently reposed famous opera baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky, with whom members of our choir have an interesting personal connection. See the related article "Dmitri Hvorostovsky - a Personal Remembrance" in this newsletter.

As in past years, our concert will feature works that parishioners will hear during our services as we approach Pascha (Пасха). In addition, we will commemorate Dmitri Hvorostovsky's legacy by singing several works that we performed together in Boston's Symphony Hall in 1995. Please save the date, Sunday, March 18, and join us for what we hope will be a memorable musical event, followed by a reception in our Church Hall.

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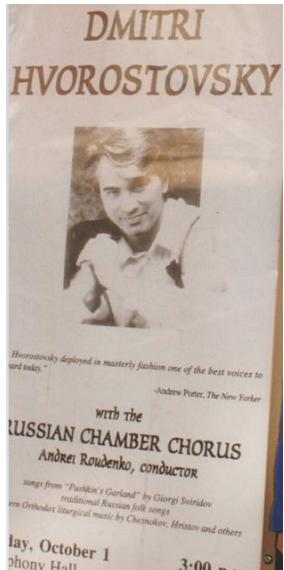
Marina Roudenko  
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# DMITRI HVOROSTOVSKY – A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE

Andrei Roudenko

**O**n Sunday, March 18, the Sunday after the Veneration of the Cross (*Крестопоклонная*), our parish choir will present our annual “Lenten” concert with donations earmarked to assist victims of the Napa Valley/Santa Rosa fires. In addition, we will remember the recently departed Dmitri Hvorostovsky, world-renowned Russian baritone, who graced all the world’s major opera houses and concert halls with his exceptional voice and persona. Below is a personal remembrance.

The first time I saw DH in person, I was sitting in the third row of choral risers on the stage of Boston’s Symphony Hall, waiting for the rehearsal of Tchaikovsky’s *Pique Dame* to begin. Onto the stage came Vladimir Atlantov (tenor), Sergei Leiferkus (baritone) and the young new phenome from Russia, DH, ushered in by Maestro Ozawa. After rehearsal, I met Dima and over the course of subsequent rehearsals and concerts, became, if not friends, certainly a favored acquaintance. In our conversations, Dima learned about the Russian Chamber Chorus of Boston, which I founded and conducted – a formidable ensemble that years earlier presented the U.S. premieres of Rachmaninoff’s All-night Vigil (*Всенощное Бдение*) in Church Slavonic, and Kastalsky’s Memory Eternal to the Fallen Heroes (*Вечная память героем*, featuring then Proto-deacon Andrey Papkov as bass soloist). Over time and after meeting Marina, our friendship grew, as did DH’s interest in our chorus. After coming to one of our rehearsals, DH later said, “I fell in love with this chorus and would like to perform with it!” In the ensuing years, DH was a frequent guest, feeling very comfortable in our home, often spontaneously going to our piano to entertain us and members of our choir with his majestic voice.



Indeed, the idea of a joint concert became a reality. First, we were featured on CBS Sunday Morning as we sang live on WGBH (Boston’s PBS station) Morning pro Musica with Robert J. Lurtsema. Next came our dress rehearsal at Symphony Hall. Then a quick photo-op moment in the Green Room with Marina, whom DH had come to admire, and then on to begin the concert!



During this period in the early 1990s, DH was particularly drawn to music of the Russian Orthodox Church. He recounted that at an early age, his grandmother took him to church services, which made a lasting impression. The depth to which sacred music moved DH was illustrated by his insistence that, contrary to tradition, we perform our sacred works in the final, not opening, section of our concert. “After singing these molitvi (prayers), it will be impossible to sing anything else,” he said.

Our concert with Dima was a magical musical event, and the friendship that led up to it and continued for years afterwards will always be the fondest of memories. It is in the spirit of these memories that we will feature works from our Symphony Hall program in our upcoming concert, praising and thanking God for all that He has provided, including the joy of having shared some wonderful times with Dima. Those who knew him personally, all the people of Russia, and music-lovers throughout the world will sorely miss Dmitry Hvorostovsky.

Вечная память. ■



# UPDATE ON STAINED GLASS WINDOWS PROJECT

Dimitry Bobroff



Olga Parr, left, and Svetlana Avdeeva show one of the approved designs.

to thank Olga, Svetlana, and Xenia for their many hours of work on this project. For many years, Father Stefan has expressed a desire to beautify the church with stained glass windows. Finally, his wish is coming true. ■

The Stained Glass Windows Committee, consisting of Father Stefan, Marina Roudenko, Dima Bobroff, and Alyosha Baranoff, met with Olga Parr and Svetlana Avdeeva on January 25 to review their final designs for the upper tier windows. Presented to the committee were three designs, one for the window directly opposite the altar in the upper tier, and two designs for the long windows, also in the upper tier.

There have been many changes of the proposed designs over the last year, as well as a critique by Vova Krassovsky last November at his studio in Pacifica. The final designs, which were unanimously approved by the committee, were drawn by Svetlana and Olga, with lots of artistic contribution by Svetlana's daughter, Xenia.

Olga and Svetlana will be meeting with Ken Minasian of Oceana Stained Glass in San Mateo to begin the fabrication of the three windows. Designs for the remaining nine windows will have a common theme, yet each will be different.

The cost of the windows is being fully funded by people and the choir who wish to commemorate their loved ones. All eleven windows have been committed.

The Church Council Members and Father Stefan wish to thank Olga, Svetlana, and Xenia for their many hours of work on this project. For many years, Father Stefan has expressed a desire to beautify the church with stained glass windows. Finally, his wish is coming true. ■

## 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](mailto: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 2018**

# A REPORT ON THE 2017 YOUTH CONFERENCE

Allison DeVincenzi

I was invited to attend as a young adult volunteer the Eleventh Annual Saint Herman's West Youth Conference, held in Seattle, Washington, December 26-28, 2017. It was hosted by the St. Nicholas Cathedral Parish. I was joined by seventeen other volunteers whose backgrounds ranged from being cradle Orthodox to recent converts. Our ages spanned from the early twenties to the mid-thirties. The common denominator for all of us was not only to grow our own spiritual lives, but to help grow the spiritual lives of the Orthodox youth.

During the conference, our duties included everything from leading a workshop and panel discussion to kitchen clean-up and bed checks. The workshops focused on vocation, church ministry, stewardship, and outreach. They sought to guide the young attendees into becoming Orthodox adults despite the difficulties found in their coming-of-age in this modern world. In doing so, we relayed our own experiences while offering a platform upon which the youth attendees could reflect on their place in this world as Orthodox Christians.

As volunteers, we had the opportunity to partake in many of the conference activities, including beautiful services, lectures, and a service project. Father David Moser of St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church in Boise, Idaho gave an excellent lecture on "The Nature of the Soul." Father David described the soul as the



*Besides the clergy and adult helpers, approximately 75 youth from Western States attended the conference.*

vehicle to our salvation and relying only on the "map" given to us by the Orthodox Church, we could achieve our goal of becoming God-like. As part of our service project, the attendees and volunteers visited an assisted living facility where the youth choir sang several hymns for the residents prior to socializing with them. It was a unique experience to have many different generations sharing in one conversation.

This year, we welcomed His Grace Bishop Nicholas of Manhattan who was present throughout the conference. He brought the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God from the Synod and the relics of St. Anna, grandmother of Our Lord, from Mt. Athos. Venerating these holy items was a very special and powerful experience for me. I also enjoyed getting acquainted with other young Orthodox adults. We spoke about our experiences in Orthodoxy and how the Church has helped shape our world view, our professions, and our decisions in life. If given the opportunity, I would volunteer for the 2018 youth conference in a heartbeat. ■

# LENTEN RETREAT AT HOLY VIRGIN CATHEDRAL

The Tenth Annual Western American Diocese Lenten Retreat will be held at the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco on Sunday, March 25. Hieromonk Alexii (Altschul) and His Grace Irenei Bishop of Sacramento will discuss “Bringing the Church to the World.”

Hieromonk Alexii (Altschul) is a monk with the Serbian Orthodox Church. After 20 years of serving an inner-city parish in Kansas City, Missouri, he was tonsured in October 2013, following the death of his Matushka in March, 2012.

Formerly known as Father Paisius, he and his wife, Matushka Michaila, worked together reaching out to people in need, first as non-denominational Protestants, and then, after their conversion to Orthodoxy in 1993, through St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church. At that location, they saw, with the help of many dedicated servants of God, over 150 souls brought into the Orthodox Church. Besides being trained as a clinical social worker, he has written two books, and was the founder of the Ancient Christianity and African American Conference. Currently, Hieromonk Alexii has been blessed by His Grace Bishop Longin of the New Gracanica and Midwestern Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church in America to form the Holy Archangel Michael and All Angels Skete in rural Northwest Missouri.

Bishop Irenei, the afternoon speaker, is an Auxiliary Bishop of the Western American Diocese and Administrator of the Diocese of Great Britain and Ireland. He is also the Abbot of the men’s Monastery of St. Silouan of Mt. Athos in Sonora, California. A former Fellow in Patristics and Early Church history at the University of Oxford, Bishop Irenei has been heavily involved in bringing patristic study into wider access through the internet and in conference, symposium and retreat settings. He is an active speaker and lecturer around the world on Orthodox

theology and practice. Since 2017, he serves as the Secretary for Inter-Orthodox Relations of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

The day-long retreat begins at 7:30 a.m. with the Hours and the 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 Hieromonk Alexii’s lecture and Q&A. After lunch, Bishop Irenei will speak and answer questions. The retreat ends with a Fellowship Hour, tour of the Cathedral, and Vespers in English at 5 p.m.

Registration is \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Those who register in advance have the option of paying immediately or at the door. Click the yellow “Donate” button on the registration page if you wish to pay when you register. Half-day registrations are also available for those who wish to attend Liturgy in their own parishes in the morning.

Retreat organizers are seeking 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](mailto:lentenretreatsf@gmail.com) Individuals may register online at <http://wadiocese.com/lentenretreatsf.html>

Thank you to *Anatol and  
Julia Shmelev* for  
graciously sponsoring the printing  
cost of this issue.

# PARISH LIFE IN JANUARY



**Namesday** – All three children of Father Stefan and Matushka Pavlenko came to celebrate Father Stefan's Namesday on January 9. They are, left to right, Alyosha Pavlenko, Xenia Maximow, and Olga Schafranek.



**Choir Christmas Party** – Members of the Church Choir and their families gathered for their annual Christmas party which concluded with a laugh-filled gift swap.



**Yolka** – Many students from the Parish Russian School performed for guests during the Yolka party.



**Ded Moroz** – Look who participated in the circle dances with the children!

# PARISH LIFE IN FEBRUARY



**Wedding** — Father Stefan joined in wedlock Candlestand Attendant Alexsei Achtar-Zadeh and Natalia Korotky from the Ukraine. Natalia's daughter, Valeria, was the bridesmaid. A reception followed in the Church Hall.



**Goodbye Party** — Father Stefan said a loving farewell speech to the Shoomiloffs, thanking them for their many contributions to the Burlingame Church.

**Smallest Altar Servers** — Five-year-old Stefanchik Maximov, center, served for the first time this year. His stihar (robe) had to be pinned up. Six-year-old Elias Sarandinaki was more experienced. He had served in San Diego, but this was his first time with Father Stefan.



**A Vodka Toast** — Misha Bogoslovsky, who has known the Shoomiloffs for decades, offered a heartfelt "charachka" to the couple.

# FORGIVENESS SUNDAY BLINI



In the foreground going counter-clockwise are Lana Kondrasheff, Lana's mother, Vova Kondrasheff, and Cy Sinelnikoff.



On the left side, Leo Shoomiloff, Protodeacon Sergei Shoomiloff, Alex and Mara Klestoff.  
On the right side, Misha Bogoslovsky, Misha and Katherine Bakaldin.



On the left side, Tasia, Alyosha, and Kassiana Baranoff, Deacon Alexandre Sarandinaki. On the right side, Mila and Gene Colver.



Counter-clockwise starting lower left are Xenia and Stefanichik Maximov, Father Stefan, Ludmilla Bobroff, Stephanie Pavlenko, Katya and Savannah Andruha, and Anastasia Burton.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MARCH + APRIL

### SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Lunch prepared by Russian School Parents

### SUNDAY, MARCH 4

Annual Parish Meeting after the Lunch

### SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Pasta Lunch prepared by the Sisterhood

### SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Lunch prepared by Russian School Parents

### SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Concert by the Church of All Russian Saints Choir

### SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Lenten Retreat at the Holy Virgin Cathedral, San Francisco  
(see article for details)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Kulich Faire for Children

### SUNDAY, APRIL 1

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

### SATURDAY, APRIL 7

Blessing of Easter baskets at 5 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 8

Pascha! Breaking-of-the-Fast in the Church Hall after the Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of Easter Baskets

(Sign-up is required in advance for the razgovlenie)

### ORDERS FOR KULICH AND SYRNAYA PASCHA

Place your orders now for the Sisterhood's delicious kulich (Easter bread).

The cost for the two pound bread is \$12 per pound. The 1½ pound Syrnaya Pascha is \$20. To order, call Matushka Tatiana at 650-430-9805 or Luba Gauschieldt at 650-591-1605.

### PELMENI-MAKING SESSION

April 26

None in March

If you can help, come to the Church Hall anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Call Luba Gauschieldt for more information 659-591-1605

## 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/>

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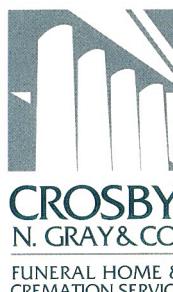
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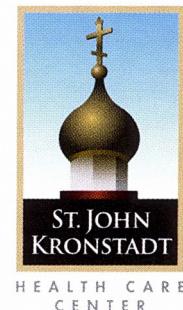
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