

# CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

Церковь Всѣхъ Святыхъ въ Землѣ Россійской Просѣдвшихъ

**VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3**

*May/June 2018*



**THE PASCHAL EPISTLE OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN HILARION OF EASTERN AMERICA AND NEW YORK, FIRST HIERARCH OF THE RUSSIAN CHURCH ABROAD, TO ARCHPASTORS, PASTORS, MONASTICS AND GOD-LOVED FLOCK**

## CHRIST IS RISEN!

I express my heartfelt greetings to you my brother archpastors, dear in the Lord fathers, brothers and sisters, on this holy, brightest and all-joyous day of the Resurrection of Christ, and in the name of the Three-day Risen God, the Lover of Mankind, extend to you the embrace of Paschal rejoicing and fraternal love! Bowing down to Christ, the Giver of Life, together with the entire Church, I fervently pray for His mercy, that He grant us the unearthly, desired peace that He gave His disciples, and blesses our prayerful and fraternal communion in His name.

Christ is Risen! These were the first words with which the Most-Blessed Mother of God, the Apostles, the Women Myrrh-Bearers and other followers of Christ greeted each other, when, after the heavy torments, crucifixion, death and the burial of the Savior, they first learned of His Resurrection. Some brought forth this joy, saying "Christ is Risen," and others responded: "The Lord is risen indeed" (Luke 24:34). And now, as then before the Early Church, the Resurrected Christ Himself stands before us. We,

*continued...*

“having beheld the resurrection of Christ,” gaze upon His glory with our mind’s eye, hearing, as did the Myrrh-bearers, His sweet words, “Rejoice.”

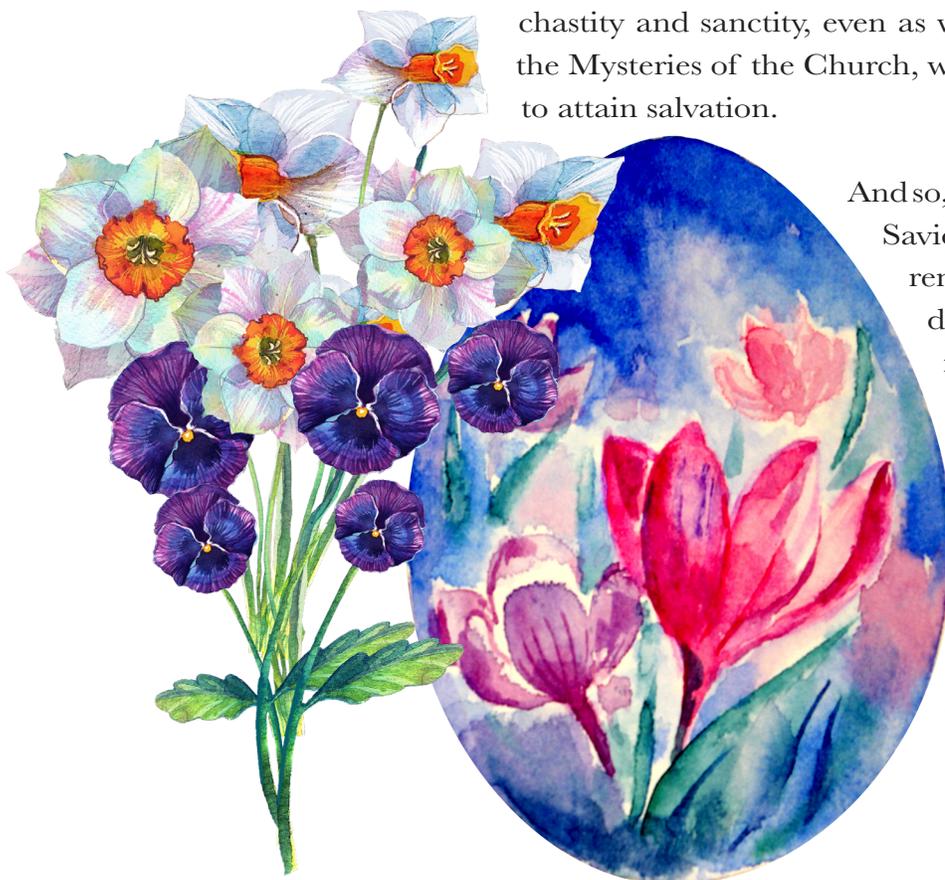
How much hope is offered to us by this call of the Savior, how much light it showers upon our souls, wiping away our tears of sorrow, temptation and tribulation! It is the Paschal joy with which martyrs bolstered themselves as they toiled in prisons and labor camps, the Martyrs and Confessors of the Russian Church whose lives we continue to prayerfully commemorate and praise in this hundredth anniversary of the tragic events of the murder of Hieromartyr Vladimir, Metropolitan of Kiev and Archbishop Andronik of Perm, the Royal Passion-Bearers and Holy Grand Duchess Elizabeth and Nun Barbara. Carefully examining and lovingly kissing their lives, works, sufferings and deaths, even while rejoicing in the depth of our souls for the Resurrected Christ, let us try to emulate our beloved martyrs in their staunch faith, spiritually enriching ourselves through the veneration of their memory, patiently and humbly bearing our own life’s cross. As Feodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky wrote, “where there is the cross, there is also resurrection.” He was even during his lifetime revered as a defender of Orthodox Christianity by the brethren of St. Alexander Nevsky Lavra, where he is buried.

Lifting up prayers of gratitude to God for His abundant mercies, blessings and guidance, which we were fortunate enough to hear during Great Lent, and which we continue to receive from the All-Merciful Hand of the Almighty as He shines forth from His Tomb, we piously beseech our Holy New Martyrs and Confessors to help us preserve our temple. This temple, unmade by hands, is comprised of the souls of our flock in the Fatherland and the souls of the children of the wanderers who had lost everything, scattered throughout the world, and the other flock of our Mother Church, living in purity, chastity and sanctity, even as we live in Christ, in prayer and in the Mysteries of the Church, without which it is impossible for us to attain salvation.

And so, heeding the call of the Resurrected Savior, let us all rejoice, let no one remain in sorrow, for “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Amen.

*With Paschal joy in the Resurrected Christ, Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.*

*Pascha of Christ 2018.* ■



# THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR ARCHPRIEST STEFAN

## How Do I Convert to the Orthodox Church?

**C**HRISt IS RISEN! When someone becomes aware of the Orthodox Christian Church, that person may decide they want to convert and actually become an Orthodox Christian. What should be done next? Praying, fasting, attending church services and deepening one's understanding of the history, teachings and practices of the Church are essential factors in the process. Very much will depend on the person's religious background as to what steps must be taken.

If you are thinking of converting, attending Church Services regularly at a local Orthodox Church and developing a relationship with the Parish Priest and parishioners is essential. The Parish Priest will guide you with specific instruction that pertains to your particular circumstances but in general, there are some important guidelines. You should become familiar with the Liturgical Year of the Orthodox Church, Fasting times and Holy Days. Simply viewing only a few services will not prepare you for the Orthodox Christian Liturgical Life. You should attend Church for a year or more to become acquainted with the richness and depth of what is offered to the faithful.

Set up and maintain a "Holy Corner" in your home, a place where you can hang or place Icons, an oil vigil lamp and your prayer book and Psalter. Here, you can quietly and peacefully fulfill your prayer rule at the appointed times.

It's good to search out Orthodox literature, books and pamphlets, articles and web pages on the internet, and to listen to lectures and "Ancient Faith Radio," along with attending retreats and symposiums on Orthodox subjects at your own parish or as announced at Cathedrals or Churches in your area.

Once you have become thoroughly convinced with all your heart that the Orthodox Church is the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church founded by Christ, spread to the whole world by the Apostles and preserved through the generations by the Holy Fathers, Martyrs and Faithful - then you are ready to be Baptized into the Orthodox Church.

You will need to write a petition to the Ruling Bishop of your Diocese, relating the history of your spiritual journey to Orthodoxy. Depending on your individual circumstances, the Bishop will determine by what means you should be united to the Holy Church. Usually, this is Baptism by triple immersion in the Name of the Father and of The Son and of the Holy Spirit. But in certain circumstances, it could be by Holy Chrismation or even just by Confession and Communion. The Ruling Archbishop makes this determination.

May the Lord guide all who wish to enter His Church and give them the will power to bring their God pleasing desire to fruition! CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN! ■

## BAPTIZED

**FEBRUARY 2018**

Victoria Bagdasarov  
Elizabeth Fruman  
Aleksandr Ivanov  
John Rud

**MARCH 2018**

None

## MARRIED

**FEBRUARY 2018**

None

**MARCH 2018**

None

## REPOSED IN THE LORD

**FEBRUARY 2018**

Pelagia Gilchrist  
Anna Hasanova

**MARCH 2018**

None



# REPORT ON THE 2018 PARISH MEETING

Anya Derugin

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Church of All Russian Saints commenced on March 4, 2018. Chaired by Boris Parr, it was organized, orderly and informative.

Father Stefan opened the meeting by remembering in prayer the parishioners who reposed in Our Lord during the past year. He then acknowledged the many volunteers who worked on various committees to help the church run smoothly. Specifically, he thanked Ludmilla and Dimitry Bobroff, Xenia Maximow, and Lena Gauschildt for the longevity and wonderful success of our Church Newsletter.

He acknowledged Oleg Bolshakoff for his help in maintaining our heating and cooling system; Alik Klestoff for our electrical maintenance; Dimitry Bobroff for our new security cameras; Alexander Loboda in helping with upcoming improvements to our Internet Site; Alexsei Kovalenko with our Livestream; and Alexander Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko for directing the Parish Russian School.

In regard to church services, he thanked Marina Roudenko and Yura Misersky for reading and conducting the choir during weekday services; Nikolai Misersky, Alexei Achtar-Zadeh and Alexsei Kovalenko for running the candlestand; and Larissa Krassovsky for helping bake prosfori.

For assistance in the altar, Father Stefan acknowledged Alexei Baranoff and Daniel Gilchrist, as well as Marina Roudenko who chanted 25 Divine Liturgies at the St. John Kronstadt Skilled Nursing Facility in Castro Valley.

The departure to the East Coast of Protodeacon Sergei Shoomiloff and his wife Sonya was a sad event for our church family but fortunately, Father

Stefan said, we gained the services of Deacon Alexandre Sarandinaki for the altar and his wife, Tanya, who is teaching students in the Russian School to sing.

As for Trebi, Father Stefan reported that we have had 15 funerals, 29 baptisms, and one wedding.

With his term of office expiring, Starosta Ivan Afanasiev agreed to stay on as warden for another three years and was unanimously re-elected. One of the improvements that occurred in 2017 under his watch was the replacement of the church chandelier light bulbs from 40 watts to 4 watt LED bulbs in an effort to conserve electricity.

Treasurer Alexei Baranoff reported that thanks to the generous gifts left in the wills of reposed parishioners Larissa Tarahteeva and Ilisey Sokolik, plus donations by parishioners to the Stewardship Fund, the church is operating in the black rather than at a loss. However, the treasurer warned that a big expense coming up in 2018 will be the installation of a brand new roof at an estimated cost of \$72,000.

Director of the Parish Russian School Alexander Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko reported that our parish school has 45 active students and 12 teachers. The school secretary, Svetlana Vasileva is actively organizing the church library. She is looking for standing book shelves with doors that close. If anyone has such a bookshelf to donate or wishes to borrow or inquire about any books, they should contact Svetlana Vasileva at Svetlana\_avd@yahoo.com

Head Sister Matushka Tatiana reported that the Sisterhood hosted 12 luncheons in 2017 while the pelmeni group made 33,000 pelmeni for sale. Matushka Tatiana thanked Luba Gauschildt and

all the Sisterhood volunteers for their help in the kitchen; Misha Bogoslovsky for adorning the church with beautiful flowers; and the Alexeeff family for cleaning the church floors.

Choir Director Andrei Roudenko reported that the Lenten Choir Concert was scheduled for March 18th and dedicated to the memory of the 10-year repose of Metropolitan Laurus and the late Russian baritone Dmitry Hvorostovsky. Proceeds from the concert will go toward assisting the victims of the Napa Valley/Santa Rosa fires.

Concerts during 2017 had their own dedications. While the March 19 Spring Concert did not memorialize any person, donations went to the Stewardship Fund. The Fall October 19 concert was dedicated to long-time choir member Konstantin Konstantinovich Senchukov who

had reposed in the Lord. Donations went to the Stewardship Fund, this time for Liturgical Supplies.

Parish Board member Andrei Alexeeff announced a church clean-up day before Pascha on Saturday, March 24 from 11 to 1 o'clock. (The clean-up was a great success. See Dimitry Bobroff's article on Parish Volunteers.)

The following Parish Council members were re-elected for a two-year term: Dimitry Bobroff, Alexander Loboda, Andrei Maximow, and Andrei Roudenko.

Voted to replace Sonya Shoomiloff on the Audit Committee was Allison (Alexandra) DeVincenzi. She joins Olga Medvedko and Lena Gauschildt on the committee. Alternate Audit Committee members are Elena Alexeeff and Maria Sky. ■



*The Church Hall was filled with parishioners but only those who paid monthly dues were allowed to vote.*



# OUR PARISH AND ITS VOLUNTEERS

Dimitry Bobroff

Our parish could not survive without its volunteers. Not only do they give financial support to our Church, but they also give freely and generously with their time and talents. These are the hallmarks of a thriving parish community.

## *Who are some of these volunteers?*



Choir members with Andrei Roudenko as the choir director  
Members of the Sisterhood with Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko as its head sister  
Deacon Alexandre Sarandinaki  
Altar servers  
Starosta and his helpers  
Parish Council members  
Church Newsletter team  
Parents and teachers of the Parish School  
Monthly pelmeni-making workers  
Creating verbi (pussywillow bouquets) for Palm Sunday  
Special Projects such as the Stained Glass Window design team  
And many more

Recently, Parish Council member, Andrei Alexeeff, issued a call via email for volunteers to clean the Church in preparation for Pascha. Andrei was hoping for a few to answer the call and help him clean the church floor from its accumulated wax droppings. **OVER 16 PEOPLE SHOWED UP ON A SATURDAY MORNING IN LATE MARCH!** (Specifically, Andrei Alexeeff, Oleg Bolshakoff, Christopher Ching, Pavel Denisov, Tatiana Denisova, Anna Derugin, Bill Gilchrist, Daniel Gilchrist, Kathy Kolenko, Olga Medvedko, Lia Rashaia, Galina Rukotova, Tamara Sheremeta, Anastasia Sarandinaki, Elias Sarandinaki, and Ksenia Vasilyev).

Andrei Alexeeff commented, “We had a very diverse group of helpers, from youngsters who were scraping the wax off of the floor to seniors who were cleaning the icons and doing general dusting. One lady even climbed a ladder and cleaned the cupolas and crosses on top of the kiots.”

Andrei and his wife, Elena, periodically clean the wax droppings on the floor. My favorite quote from Andrei is, “That job gives me the opportunity to be on my knees in the House of God, express my humility, and to serve my church community.” Andrei hopes to organize monthly volunteer sessions to clean the church, especially the wax droppings on the floor.

On a different day, volunteer Tony Klanjac, a Roman Catholic friend of our Church, disassembled, cleaned, shined, and oiled the top pipes of all ten candlestands to make them bright for Pascha. Tony often volunteers to help our Church with his talents.

Another friend of our church is volunteer Alex Shegoleff, who is a master carpenter. He recently designed, built, and installed a new exterior door for the water heater/furnace utility room at Father Stefan’s house.



*Creating pussywillow bouquets for Palm Sunday are (left to right) Vera Polski, Vova Kondrasheff, Kolya Koretsky, Vova Labusov, Marina Misersky-McKee, Tania Ionoff, and Nina Eyvazov.*

***Thank you, thank you, thank you to all our hard-working volunteers.*** ■

# UPDATE ON STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Dimitry Bobroff

## 1. NEW CHURCH ROOF.

For a number of years, we have had a leak during rainstorms whose source we could never identify. In order to catch the dripping water, large buckets were placed initially in the classroom hall and more recently, in the attic space. Two months ago, Oleg Bolshakoff inspected the roof and determined that we needed to replace the entire roof. After receiving three bid estimates, Oleg recommended Izmirian Roofing at a cost of \$70,455, barring any nasty surprises when the roofers remove the current tar and gravel roof down to the wood deck. In order to install the new roof, air conditioning equipment on the roof will need to be moved and then re-installed. Izmirian's quoted estimate includes all of that. Work is supposed to start at the end of April. With any luck, dear reader, by the time you read this newsletter, work may be in progress or even completed.

## 2. STAINED GLASS WINDOWS.

Designs for three windows, created by artists Olga Parr and Svetlana Avdeeva, have been approved by our Parish Council. The artists met with Ken Minasian of Oceana Stained Glass in San Mateo and fine-tuned the designs, taking into account what is possible in cut glass and choosing the final colors. Once those decisions are formalized, Ken will begin the fabrication process. In the photo, you see the three of them discussing the designs at Ken's studio.



*Discussing the stained glass window designs with artists Olga Parr and Svetlana Avdeeva is Ken Minasian of Oceana Stained Glass in San Mateo.*

## 3. STEEL DOORS IN CHURCH HALL.

The northeast wooden door is badly deteriorating and needs to be replaced soon. The other door is not as bad, but both should be replaced with secure metal doors. All our other doors are metal. We have been discussing this for a while without taking any action. To move forward, we need a volunteer to manage the project. This entails getting three bids with estimates, making a selection recommendation, then overseeing the selected contractor during installation. Contact Dimitry Bobroff if you are interested in volunteering for this project.

In addition, we are looking for two more volunteer project managers. One project is to replace the existing brick border wall along the driveway with a concrete one. And the second project is to strengthen our cinder block wall in the back. Any volunteers? ■

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

V. Rev. Mitred Archpriest  
Stefan Pavlenko,  
**Rector**  
(650) 430-9805

Ivan Afanasiev,  
**Starosta**  
(650) 589-7617

Alexei Baranoff,  
**Treasurer**  
(916) 799-0898

Yura Misersky,  
**Secretary**  
(650) 579-2667

Matushka Tatiana Pavlenko,  
**Head Sister**  
(650) 430-9806

Andrei Roudenko  
**Choir Director**  
(650) 922-0250

Andrei Alexeeff  
(650) 787-2145

Dimitry Bobroff  
(408) 257-6918

Oleg Bolshakoff  
(415) 759-8582

Alexander Loboda  
(650) 654-5447

Andrei Maximow  
(650) 954-0764

Marina Roudenko  
(650) 483-3412



# PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANTHONY'S GREEK ORTHODOX MONASTERY IN ARIZONA

Galina Rukotova

Translated by Dimitry Bobroff

Having read the book “My Life with Elder Joseph” by Elder Ephraim, I dreamt for three long years about receiving a blessing from Elder Ephraim who became the first to establish an authentic Athonite monastery on American soil.

Elder Ephraim’s autobiography greatly inspired me. While still a young man, he lived for 12 years in strict monastic obedience to Elder Joseph the Hesychast on Mt. Athos. After the repose of his spiritual father, Elder Ephraim became Abbot of Philotheou Monastery, also on Mt. Athos, where he successfully revived its spiritual life. In addition, he restored and repopulated four other Mt. Athos monasteries before being sent with five monks to the United States in 1995 to build monasteries with the hope of reviving the spiritual life of Greek communities in North America. By 2005, Elder Ephraim had founded 17 monasteries in the United States.

When I learned that Elder Ephraim resided at St. Anthony’s Monastery in Arizona, my desire to meet him and receive his blessing grew even stronger. Elder Ephraim and his monks arrived in the Sonoran desert town of Florence outside of Phoenix in 1995. Starting from scratch, they built the main church, living quarters for monks, a dining hall, guest facilities, plus a vegetable garden, a small vineyard, citrus orchards and an olive grove. As wonderful as all this sounded, I lacked the self-confidence to fly to Arizona by myself, yet all the plans I tentatively made with friends fell apart.

Then two months ago, a Russian woman stayed for one of our Sisterhood lunches and talked about her experiences at the monastery. Then and there, I decided to conquer my fear and fly to Arizona by myself if no one else was able to come. To my surprise, not only did I receive an unexpected week off from work but my friend and fellow-parishioner, Valentina Tolstoguzova, said she would accompany me on the four-day pilgrimage. Now I felt confident Our Lord Jesus Christ was blessing our trip to St. Anthony’s Monastery.

When Valentina and I landed at Phoenix Airport, we did not know what to expect. Waiting for us was a man from St. Anthony’s. He turned out to be a former Californian who made the decision to move his whole family to Arizona once he visited the monastery. “We all wanted to live next to the monastery in order to be near God,” he explained. “We could feel His presence there.”



*Galina Rukotova stands in the beautiful gardens of the monastery*

While driving along the desert, our guide showed us many sights. The closer we got to the property, the more excited I became, knowing I was entering a holy place. Pine trees and desert plants welcomed us, as well as the snow white Church of the Prophet Elias with its blue cupola. This church became my personal holy retreat where I could be alone with God. The key to the front door was available at the bookstore so I went twice. Inside, I felt close to Him and could open my soul and repent. I cherished this feeling within myself.

Our first stop upon arrival was at the bookstore where Hierodeacon Father Seraphim welcomed us. He treated us with sweets. After discussing the rules of the monastery, he accompanied us to the Vespers Service in the Main Cathedral, named in honor of St. Anthony the Great, father of ancient monasticism. Following the rules of the monastery, we received a blessing from Hegumen Paisius before Vespers began. Father Paisius, an ascetic, is the spiritual son of Elder Ephraim. He doesn't provide counsel to pilgrims but prays for his spiritual children and participates in hearing confessions.



*Hierodeacon Father Seraphim welcomed the ladies, related the rules of the monastery, and accompanied all pilgrims to Vespers.*

The Vespers Service was not long, but special. I did not understand a word of it except "Lord have mercy" since the service was said all in Greek. After Vespers were completed, the trapeza began with gifts from the monastery: salad, bread, beans, nuts, olives, oranges, lemons, and grapefruit, accompanied by prayers. The trapeza started with the ringing of a small bell. Ten minutes later, the bell sounded again, allowing pilgrims to pour glasses of water from a pitcher. On the third ringing of the bell, the trapeza ended. We thanked God for the food and exited the trapeza hall, receiving a blessing from the Hegumen.

Valentina and I were directed to the women's sleeping quarters. Our cell had three beds. We became acquainted with a friendly pilgrim from New Mexico named Maria. Being a return visitor to the monastery, she took us on a tour and told us about its rules. The cell itself was very pleasant. Icons hung above the beds. Drapes covered the windows. In the kitchen, pilgrims could make coffee and tea and snack on monastery fruits and bread.

At 7 o'clock in the evening, everything in the monastery came to a halt. "Silent time," as we called it, required us to rest before the night church service. During this time, we were not permitted to make any noise, walk out of our cell, take a shower, or talk. Only reading and praying were permitted.

At midnight, we walked with monks to the main church for services. Not being used to attending church in the middle of the night, I fought the desire to sleep. Only the moon and stars lit our path. Occasionally a cat accompanied us to the front door. The animals also obeyed monastery rules.

Upon receiving blessings from the Hegumen once again, we found our places in the church. Women

stood on the left side, while men stood on the right. Everyone was properly dressed. Bare arms or legs were not allowed. The church was dark, except for two hanging lights for the choir. Before the Liturgy started, two monks from each side lit candles and censed the church. Liturgy lasted until 4:30 a.m. For Communion, we were told not to say our name or kiss the Chalice. We wiped our lips ourselves with the cloth placed under the chin. Then we received the antidor without a cup of wine. As a rule, everybody in the church received Holy Communion.



*Valentina Tolstoguzova marvels at how the monks turned a desert landscape into lush gardens.*

During the service, I felt the spirit of Mt. Athos and the prayers of Elder Joseph the Hesychast, patron of the monastery. He encouraged me to think about and remember sins that I had not confessed before with tearful trembling.

Afterward, we returned to our cells to catch up on our sleep for three hours. During the day, we said more prayers, participated in discussions and walked around the monastery grounds, admiring the 2000 varieties of plants, listening to the sound of water in the fountains, and marveling at the beautiful flowers in pots and stone basins. Unbelievably, Elder Ephraim and his monks had turned a desert location with cactuses and snakes into a holy place where pilgrims could leave their worldly life behind, feel God's presence, and find solutions to their problems through prayer and Holy Communion.

Did Valentina and I receive a blessing from Elder Ephraim? Yes, twice, but with some hardship. Elder Ephraim is very old and weak, staying in seclusion most of the day. We learned that he occasionally took walks in the garden in the early hours of the day with the help of monks. So for two mornings, Valentina and I woke up early and waited for him in the garden. He did not appear. Then, one of the pilgrims said Elder Ephraim liked to be driven to the town of Florence

to hand out food gifts from the monastery to the local residents. So we planted ourselves on the road leading to the monastery and waited and waited and waited for his return. The longer we waited, the smaller was our group.

Then, we saw the car! It stopped in front of us. A monk rolled down the window. Elder Ephraim reached out and gave all of us blessings, and handed me an apple which brought tears to my eyes. Realizing we all received blessings from this holy monk, our small group hugged each other with happiness.

The second time I received a blessing from Elder Ephraim was after Divine Liturgy when the starets walked down a garden path with the help of monks and blessed all the pilgrims who had lined up waiting for him. We heard that the 20th monastery is currently being built in Arizona to fulfill Elder Ephraim's original goal of constructing 20 monasteries in the U.S. since his arrival in 1995. However, all who love him dread its completion because they fear he will then depart this world.

May Our Lord God, Jesus Christ, bless Elder Ephraim, his spiritual children, and the Brotherhood. And may they continue to pray for all of us. The monastery's website is: <http://www.stanthonysonastery.org/>



*Elder Ephraim, with his hand on the boy's shoulder, gives blessings to the pilgrims. It was through Elder Ephraim's efforts that 19 Greek Orthodox monasteries have been built in the United States since 1995.*

# CHOIR NEWS

Andrei Roudenko

Musically, the prayers that our choir sings during our services fall into three general categories. These are:

1. Simple harmonizations of ancient chant melodies (originally set to Greek text) that accompanied the coming of Orthodoxy to Russia, and which subsequently were adapted to accommodate the linguistic differences between Greek and Slavic languages.
2. Free compositions, in which the melody and harmonization is entirely a creative effort by the composer, and
3. A hybrid of the two, wherein freely composed melodies are inspired by chants, and whose harmonizations exhibit various degrees of complexity, depending on the composer.

The composers whose works our choir sings range from those of:

1. The “Italian” era (from the 1750s to mid-19th Century), of which Bortniansky is among the best known,
2. The German “St. Petersburg” Period, in the latter part of the 19th Century, influenced by Mendelssohn and Schumann, of which Archangelsky, Allemanov, Lomakin, Bahmetev, Strokin and Vinogradov represent those who adapted this style to Russian Orthodox services,
3. The “Moscow School” of composers, who sought to return to uniquely Russian melodies and harmonization, featuring Smolensky, Ippolitov-Ivanov, Grechaninov, Rachmaninoff, Chesnokov, and Kastalsky, the latter being a master of applying polyphony to chant melodies, and whose compositions promised to bring about an exciting, new dimension to church music composition had it not been for the Bolshevik revolution and subsequent atheistic policies, which temporarily retarded further stylistic development, and

4. Contemporary composers of the 20th and 21st Centuries, who continued producing church music (Konstantinov, Ledkovsky, Kedrov, Archimandrite Matfey Mormyl) and are advancing the cause (Kovaldzh, Riabchenko) to this day.

Of the contemporary composers, Sergey Riabchenko deserves particular attention, as he is among the most prolific and is working here in San Francisco. Sergey received a Bachelor degree from Pushkin Music College in Russia, where he was the Grand Prix winner of the Moscow Young Musicians Festival. He received his Master degree from the Moscow Conservatory of Music with a degree in cello performance and teaching, and a minor in composition. Sergei performed with the Moscow

Symphony Orchestra until 1990. Upon moving to the United States, he taught for three years at San Francisco State University and performed with the Russian Chamber Orchestra and the Arlekin String Quartet.

Sergey has a special connection with our parish; members of our parish choir sing in his Diakonia choir plus a number of his works adorn our services. In our recent Lenten concert, we included three of Sergey’s compositions. His works fall into the “free compositions” category above, but with a decidedly expressive, prayerful and authentic Russian flavor.

It’s easy to take the creations of our church music composers for granted. Having Sergey among us and actively adding his body of works to our services is a reminder that we should regularly thank the Lord for the inspiration and talent that He has given to all those who author prayers and to those who set prayers to the music that we sing. ■



*The choir sang a variety of Lenten hymns during its March concert. Donations went to the victims of the Napa Valley/Santa Rosa fires.*



*At the post-concert reception, Andrei Roudenko welcomes His Grace Bishop Theodosius, Father Anatoliy Kimbirskiy and choir music composer Sergey Riabchenko.*

# GREAT LENT EVENTS



*LEFT: A dozen Burlingame parishioners and friends attended the Lenten Retreat at the Holy Virgin Cathedral whose theme was “Bringing the Church to the World.” Surrounding His Grace Irenei Bishop of Sacramento, who was one of the speakers, are Paul Brunker, Tanya and Ekaterina Dain, Daniel Gilchrist, Allison DeVincenzi, Bill Gilchrist, Ludmilla Bobroff, David Lee, Louis Busta, John Baglien, Effie and Simeon Comanescu.*



*Melania Maximow and Anastasia Sarandinaki show off their creations at the Kulich Faire.*



*Five-year-old Stefanchik Maximow is not only the youngest altar server in church but also an enthusiastic kulich decorator.*



*Kassiana Baranoff feels like a big girl sitting in between Emi Burton and Zoya Andruha.*



*At the Kulich Faire, every child was provided with a small kulich, glaze and sprinkles. Left to right are Andrei Lytnev, Nina and Misha Koltzova-Rang.*

# PASCHA EVENTS



*Above: Father Stefan blesses the large breads on Holy Saturday that are served to parishioners. With him are Father Deacon Alexandre Sarandinaki, and Archdeacon Peter Karakozoff.*



*Father Stefan joyously celebrates the Resurrection of Our Lord with Father Deacon Alexandre, his many altar servers, a large choir and a church full of the faithful.*



*Right to left are Elias and his little sister, Alexandra, Sarandinaki, Melania Maximore, and Anastasia Sarandinaki, singing "Hristos Voskrese" loudly and with vigor during the blessing of the Easter baskets.*



*At the conclusion of the Pascal Liturgy at 3:30 a.m., Father Stefan blesses all the Easter baskets lined up on the ground in front of the church.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY/JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

**MAY 6**  
**COFFEE HOUR**

**MAY 22 AT 4:30 P.M.**  
**PARISH RUSSIAN SCHOOL AKT**

**MAY 27**  
**LUNCH**

**MAY 28**  
**WESTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE ANNUAL  
PILGRIMAGE TO FORT ROSS**

**JUNE 10**  
**CHURCH FEAST DAY**

No lunchtime events are scheduled by the Sisterhood for July and August. All Sundays, starting from June 17 through August, are open for Coffee Hours. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Church Hall for anyone who wishes to host a coffee hour.

**PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS**

**MAY 31**  
**JUNE 28**  
**JULY 26**  
**AUGUST 23**

**IF YOU CAN HELP, COME TO THE CHURCH HALL  
ANYTIME BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 4 P.M. CALL  
LUBA GAUSCHIEDT FOR MORE INFORMATION.  
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**Next Newsletter - SEPTEMBER 2018**

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## **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:  
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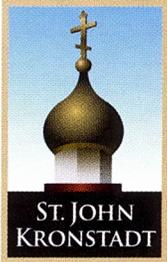
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