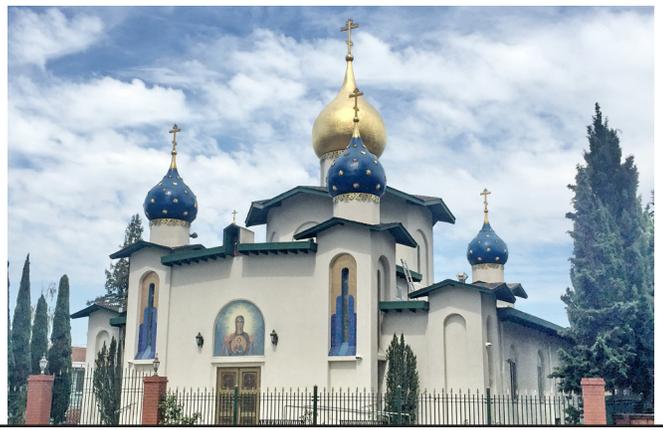


VOLUME 6 NUMBER 5

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CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

Церковь Всѣхъ Святыхъ въ Землѣ Россійской Просіавшихъ

MESSAGE FROM ARCHPRIEST STEFAN

As I celebrated the 45th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood on September 30, my thoughts turned to many, many people who have been instrumental in providing love, spiritual support, and encouragement during my life-long journey serving the Orthodox Church.

First I would like very much to honor God and give thanks for the Grace of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood which God allowed me in the providence of the progression of my life. I remember the bishops who ordained me: Archbishop Anthony of San Francisco, who ordained me Deacon in the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco and Metropolitan Lavr, then Bishop of Manhattan who ordained me Priest in the Holy Trinity Church in Vineland, New Jersey. Archbishop Nikon of Washington and Florida tonsured me a Reader in 1964 and was scheduled to ordain me to the priesthood in 1973. But he became ill and asked Vladyka Lavr to substitute for him.

Going back in time, I deeply thank Archpriest Nikolai Martsishevsky for molding me spiritually from the days I became an Altar Boy in the Vineland parish. The monks and fathers of Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, New York were also instrumental in my spiritual development, specifically Archimandrites Kiprian, Sergei, and Vladimir and Hiromonks Theodore and John. A deep and very special thanks also go to Archpriest Vsevolod Drobot, rector of churches in Albany and Schenectady, New York, where I spent many weekends, accompanying him to his parish services. Archpriest Vsevolod became a very important guide, mentor and a shining example to me during my early seminary years.

At this special time, I also remember my parents Vladimir Stepanovich and Maria Dimitrievna, who became a Novice Nun, as well as my God Parents, Archpriest Vladimir Schatiloff

(my Uncle) and Tatiana Wright Hicks. All these great people are now reposed but I'm sure they continue to pray for me.

I thank God for my family beginning with my wonderful wife, Tatiana, who has been traveling this path with me as Matushka for 45 years, plus our wonderful children, their spouses and our little treasures – the grandchildren. I thank God for letting me be Rector of three parishes, Holy Trinity in Vineland, New Jersey, Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in San Francisco, and especially here at Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, California. This parish, with its parishioners, Choir, Sisterhood, Church Council, Parish School, and our deacons, Archdeacon Sergio (now in Newark, New Jersey) and Deacon Alexandre, have all been truly wonderful and inspired me to attempt to be a good parish priest.

I must also deeply thank and express respect and love for my Ruling Archbishop Kyrill for his kindness and support, to Bishops Irenei and Theodosy, and to all the clergy of the Western American Diocese. I thank my Seminary Classmates George Cheremeteff, Archdeacon Vitaly Kichakov, Protopresbyter Father Alexander Lebedeff, Bishop Jerome (Shaw) and Archbishop Peter (Loukianoff) of Chicago for their warm greetings on this special occasion in my life.

Finally, I ask all of you to pray that God gives me health, strength, and as my ordination day always reminds me – Faith, Hope, Love, and Wisdom! ■



Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko wearing two crosses

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION FOR ARCHPRIEST STEFAN

SHOULD PARISHIONERS PROSELYTIZE THE ORTHODOX FAITH?

The answer to this question depends on how we understand the term “proselytize”. Generally, it’s understood as taking action to convert someone from one religious belief, or from atheism, to another religious belief. Specific examples that are well known to many of us are the proselytizing done by members of Jehovah’s Witness and the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, better known as Mormons. They visit neighborhoods, knocking on doors and inviting themselves into homes to pitch their religions. After leaving pamphlets and flyers, they follow up with invitations to attend prayer gatherings and finally to become full members of their sect. The newly converted are then responsible to go out and proselytize the church’s beliefs to others.

The Orthodox Church does not condone this form of proselytizing to enlarge the Church even though the Holy Gospels say the following: (Matthew Chapter 28, verses 19, 20) “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”

Some sectarian groups validate their practice of going door to door by this command. However, Christ’s words were not said to the multitudes of people gathered to hear His Sermon on the Mount. Instead, it’s important for us to read these verses in context of the event that took place.

In Matthew Chapter 28, verse 16-20, the Resurrected Jesus appeared to His chosen disciples after they followed His instructions to go to Galilee. “Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not make this admonition in His Sermon on the Mount, where thousands of people gathered, but only to His chosen disciples, the Holy Apostles, who were tasked to establish His Church in all the known corners of the world.

For us, the Orthodox Faithful, the most important words that were said by Our Lord Jesus Christ at this time were

(Matthew Chapter 5, verse 16): “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

We should live our Orthodox Faith in such a manner that our behavior, actions, and interactions with surrounding people with whom we live and work prompt them to wonder, what makes us tick? The answer, of course, is the Orthodox Christian Faith. Getting people interested and guiding them to discover for themselves the fullness of Truth preserved in the One, Holy and Catholic, Apostolic Orthodox Christian Faith is a worthy goal to have. If we don’t know the answers to their questions, we should direct them to someone knowledgeable, such as their Parish Priest.

One thing is certain: We may never know how much influence we have in converting people through our words and deeds. But those seeking the Truth will always find it in the Orthodox Church through God’s Saving Grace. ■

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

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Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America, Russian
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OUR FAITHFUL AMERICAN CONVERTS

Ludmilla Bobroff

How do American converts find Orthodoxy? There are many variations. Some find the faith through marriage. Others by raising children, having a spiritual experience, or after a long, personal search. Four converts, who are parishioners in our church, share their experiences on how they found the Ancient Church and how they are growing in the Orthodox faith.



MARK HOWELL

Mark Howell is the husband of Nina (Korniush), father of Gabriel, age 17, and Kyra, age 14. He works for Pribuss Fire Protection as a Fire Sprinkler Fitter. Mark became interested in Orthodoxy when he and Nina were dating in the early 1990s. Mark was 26 years old and on occasion would attend church with his girlfriend. When he and Nina got married, Mark was not required to convert to the Orthodox faith because he had been baptized in the Roman Catholic Church. However, two years later, his desire to convert took hold.

“At that time, a close friend of mine, who was Catholic and married to a Russian Orthodox young woman, passed away,” says Mark. “My friend had a Catholic funeral and was buried at a Catholic cemetery. During the service, his wife seemed to be more of an observer than a praying mourner. I wondered if the reason was because she and her husband were of different faiths. I didn’t want that for myself and our future family.

“I began to have in-depth conversations with Serge Hidchenko, Nina’s best friend’s father. The more I learned about the faith, the more I was drawn to it. Serge explained to me that the Orthodox Church remains unchanging and always relevant in one’s life.” Serge’s words touched Mark’s heart

and he was baptized in 1997 by Father Stefan with Serge Hidchenko as his Godfather.

“The second reason I decided to convert was to prevent any kind of separation from my future children. I come from a divorced family and wanted very much to have a cohesive family of my own. Nina and I waited quite a while before having children to make sure we had a solid foundation between ourselves. When the children started arriving, we both felt our job was to give them a strong moral compass. We’re very proud of how they are turning out.”

Gabriel has been an altar server since age 8. Nina belongs to the Sisterhood. At church events, Mark and Kyra stand by to help with whatever chores are asked of them. At home, the children and parents say “The Lord’s Prayer” nightly. During Great Lent, they recite “The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian”. Both Gabriel and Kyra know the prayers by heart.

“As for services being in Old Church Slavonic, I don’t always understand what is being said during the service,” says Mark. “But I do understand the service itself. Nina answers my questions if I’m confused, and Father Stefan is always willing to speak to me and provide reading resources to increase my knowledge.”

BILL GILCHRIST



Bill Gilchrist is a recent widower, having lost his wife Lesley (Pelagia) in February. During their married life together, they adopted two boys and two girls. Three were from the Ukraine and one was from Russia. Their ages at adoption were 8, 7, 6, and 22 months. Today, the children are 18 to 25

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years of age and all have left home for higher education and marriages. Bill is an empty-nester but still a faithful parishioner in the Burlingame Church.

“Lesley and I have always believed that God was responsible for leading us here,” says Bill. “My wife and I prayed for many years to find the Truth. After adopting the children, Lesley, who was a trained therapist, thought it would be good to have them go to the Burlingame Parish School so that they might know their roots. We learned about this school through our friend and neighbor, Svetlana Avdeeva. Over time, we were given a number of books to read and had many conversations with Father Stefan, other converts, and members of the clergy who helped explain to us the Orthodox Faith and its practices. We loved the Orthodox Theology, and by attending services, we were able to draw closer to God.”

Father Stefan baptized the children first. Bill hesitated. Having been a Protestant for 45 years, he needed more time to grasp Orthodoxy. “With decades of Protestantism behind us, I didn’t know what to believe,” he explains. “There are thousands of different Protestant Churches, each one believing differently. Which one is right? Endless Bible study was not the answer. It was a breath of fresh air to no longer need to interpret Holy Scripture on our own, or to try and find out which pastor or church “has it right”.

The couple took their conversion seriously. When the children were still living at home, they gave each of them Prayer Books. Before dinner, they would say the Trisagion as a family (“Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal...”), The Lord’s Prayer, and “O Heavenly King...” At bedtime, the family would light the lampadas, hanging in the icon corners. Daniel would faithfully search out an icon or a print of the Saint of the Day and place it on the icon stand. Daniel loved doing all this while the girls were more lackadaisical about evening prayer time.

“This lack of reaction by the girls bothered me,” says Bill, “but Lesley would always tell me to back off, explaining, ‘Let them believe in their own quiet way.’”

Now that the house is empty, Bill still has a Prayer Rule. His job for Emerson requires lots of driving selling Industrial Process Control Equipment. So he listens to prayers recited on his iPad and chants sung by various Church choirs. Before services at the Burlingame Church, he downloads English translations onto his Kindle sent by Father Dimitri Jakimowicz (frdimitrij@gmail.com). He wishes that the ROCOR website would provide English translations for all the services so more converts and parishioners who don’t understand Church Slavonic can follow the readings during vigils and liturgies.

LOUIS BUSTA



Louis Busta, a convert since 2006, is a member of the Church of All Russian Saints Choir. His journey to Orthodoxy began at Biola University in La Mirada, Southern California. Being an Evangelical Protestant, Louis enrolled in their Biblical and Theological Studies program, thinking he might pursue a career as a minister or as an academic theologian.

“During my studies, I became disillusioned with Protestantism,” he says. “I couldn’t understand how 3,000 denominations, all believing the Bible was the sole source of Truth, could have such widely different views on what the Bible means. A friend asked if I wanted to visit an Orthodox Church with him. I agreed to go, thinking that Orthodoxy was just a type of Christianity practiced by Greeks and Russians.”

Louis and his friend attended St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Riverside, California and were amazed by the beauty of the Liturgy. “Immediately, I felt I had to find out more about Orthodoxy,” he says. “By reading different books and talking to priests, I discovered that the Orthodox Church was the original Church that Christ and the Apostles established. Furthermore, the fullness of the faith has been preserved for 2,000 years.”

A year and a half later in 2006, Louis, his friend, and his friend’s girlfriend were received through Chrismation by Father John Reimann and Father Michel Najim at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles, California.

Louis did not stop studying the Orthodox faith after converting. He learned how to read Cyrillic and follow the services in Church Slavonic while attending the Nativity of the Theotokos Church in Menlo Park in 2009. He was recruited to join the choir there. To pronounce words in Church Slavonic correctly, he turned to the Internet and YouTube.

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“Church Slavonic is a very beautiful liturgical language and I enjoy hearing it,” says Louis. “A priest once told me I don’t have to understand every word of the service for God to touch my heart. He reminded me that the first thing that is said at Matins after the Great Litany is, ‘The Lord is God, and has revealed Himself to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

“God is the one who reveals himself to us in the services,” Louis continues. “Even if we were to contemplate every word of the services, it’s ultimately God who enlightens us and shows Himself to us. I have been to many churches where the services are conducted in Slavonic, Greek, and Arabic. While I may not understand the language, I know God is there, and something holy is happening.”

Long ago, Louis gave up on his plan to become a Protestant minister and is now an Order Management Analyst for a cybersecurity software company. He started singing with the Burlingame Church Choir in 2015 after Choir Director Andrei Roudenko stopped him after Liturgy and asked if he could sing.

“Andrei is a true professional, teaching all of us that our music is meant as a prayer, not a performance,” explains Louis. “I am very grateful to be a part of the Church of All Russian Saints as a parishioner and a choir member. It’s a wonderful community and I thank God He has led me to the parish.”

ALLISON (“ALEXANDRA”)



DE VINCENZI

For Allison De Vincenzi, an international tax attorney, becoming Orthodox was completely unexpected. While growing up in a Catholic family, she was familiar with the faith but had never been to an Orthodox Church. In 2014, a friend took her to the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco and showed her the relics of Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco.

“Upon seeing Saint John’s relics, I experienced an overwhelming sense of emotion,” says Allison. “I could not understand where this emotion was coming from exactly, so I quickly walked out of the Cathedral. I proceeded to cry for about 30 minutes. At that moment, I knew I had to explore this emotion and Orthodoxy. I felt a force was pushing me to do so. In retrospect, I believe Saint John reached out and “grabbed” me that day. He knew where I belonged before I did.”

Allison started attending the Church of All Russian Saints in 2016. Seeing a newcomer standing by herself during Liturgy, Aleksandr Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko, director of the Parish Russian School, invited Allison to stand by him in the cliros in order to read the service in English. “Thanks to his guidance, I learned the Cyrillic Alphabet and could follow along using the transcript he created,” says Allison. “He has been a tremendous mentor in my journey to Orthodoxy.”

Attending church week after week, month after month, Allison started thinking of converting. However, she couldn’t determine when the “right time” would be. Then, in early April 2017, her supervisor at work asked if she would be willing to move to Hawaii to work in-house for a client.

“When I agreed, my first thought was, ‘I must convert’ says Allison. “That way, I would be bringing Orthodoxy with me to Hawaii and I would not be alone. The ‘right time’ had found me.”

The job transfer fell through but nevertheless, on Lazarus Saturday in 2017, Father Stefan baptized Allison with Tsaritsa Alexandra of the Royal Family as her Saint. She received Holy Communion during the Great Saturday Divine Liturgy and again at the Paschal Divine Liturgy. Her parents approved her decision to convert after she explained the Orthodox Church followed the Old Calendar so she would still be able to participate in family events during holidays.

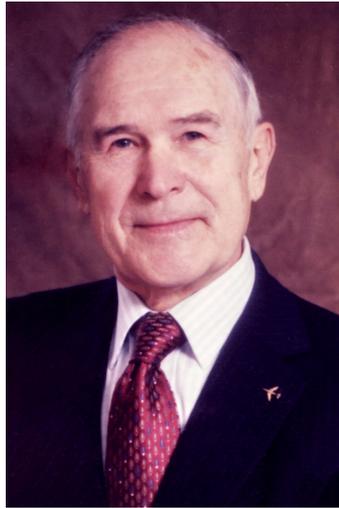
Fasting periods determined by the Church are not a problem for Allison because she has been a vegetarian since age 6 and a vegan since age 15. The reason for her strict diet from such an early age was because she loves all animals and doesn’t want to eat them or the products they produce.

But what has been difficult, she says, is missing services because of work demands, finding like-minded people, and navigating the modern world while holding onto one’s beliefs.

IN MEMORIAM - NIKOLAI VASILIEVICH MISERSKY – 1927-2018

The Church of All Russian Saints has been blessed since the start of its existence with a small group of individuals and families who dedicated all their efforts toward the establishment and growth of their beloved church. Nikolai Vasilievich Misersky was one of those life-long faithful parishioners.

Born in Manchuria, China in 1927, Nikolai was the youngest son in a three-generation family who initially lived and worked in a small railroad station town. The family decided to move to Harbin when he was a child for better opportunities available there.



Nikolai Vasilievich Misersky

Nikolai finished his schooling in Harbin but before he enrolled in the theology program at the university, tragedy struck the family. Within a year, his grandmother, grandfather, father, and older brother all died. Because his mother (Elena Ignatievna Misersky) became a widow, he had to help financially.

Nikolai held a variety of jobs in China. In 1946 at age 18, he married his childhood sweetheart, Maria Ivanovna Stepanenkoff (affectionately known as Musia). His bride was 17 years old. They had two children, Marina and Yura. While Musia studied pharmaceuticals, Nikolai worked at several jobs.

Then the Chinese government ordered all Europeans to leave the country. The young family considered immigrating to the U.S. but were barred from entry due to the Chinese Exclusion Act. Brazil was their choice for temporary residence.

Life in Sao Paulo was difficult at first, but later Nikolai became a manager and Musia became a supervisor at a large Brazilian



(Left to right) Granddaughter Natasha, grandson Nikolai, daughter Marina, Nikolai Vasilievich on his 90th birthday, Yura, granddaughter Elena, grandson-in-law Steve McKee.

company. The family of five, which included Nikolai's mother, shared a three room place with another family. Later on, they moved into a lovely two-story house.

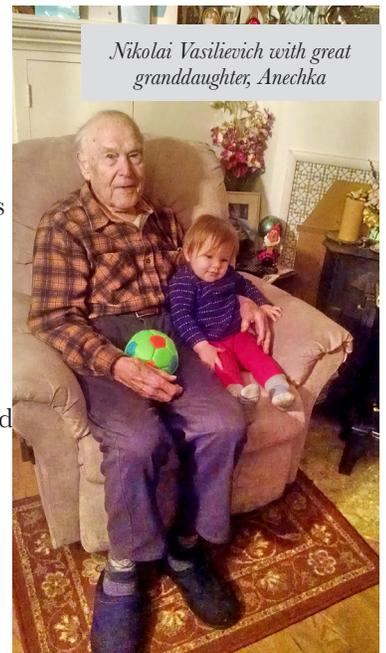
Musia's sisters were living in San Francisco and she longed to rejoin them and be close to family. So when the opportunity arose to immigrate to the U.S., the family decided to go, initially settling in San Francisco.

As always, the Miserskys gravitated to church. Upon arriving in the U.S., they attended the Old Cathedral on Fulton Street in San Francisco, then the Church on Sixth Avenue, then the "new" Cathedral on Geary Boulevard. After Nikolai landed a job with United Airlines, the family moved to Burlingame and joined the Church of All Russian Saints. Musia and the children sang in the choir while Elena Ignatievna became a Reader.

Nikolai immediately joined the Parish Council. He worked as an assistant to whoever was appointed Starosta (Elder), always declining the top position for himself. Nevertheless, he shared many of the Starosta's responsibilities: making candles by hand in the early years, ordering wine for Holy Communion, purchasing and keeping track of candles, making sure the lampadas were lit, accepting lists of names for commemoration at the Divine Liturgy, and always answering questions.

In 2006, Nikolai Vasilievich was appointed to be a lay delegate at the Reunification Conference in San Francisco, representing the Burlingame Church in the Western Diocese. When his wife, Musia, reposed in 2013, he continued helping the Starosta in any way he could.

On August 24, 2018, the much-beloved assistant Starosta passed away at home just hours after having breakfast with members of his family. Many friends, relatives, and parishioners attended both the Panihida and the Burial Service, with some mourners coming as far away as Australia. He left behind a son, Yura, a daughter, Marina, three grandchildren, Nikolai, Natasha, and Elena, one son-in-law, Steve McKee, and a two-year-old great granddaughter, Anna (Anechka). Memory Eternal to our beloved Nikolai Vasilievich. **Vechnaya Pamyat!** ■



Nikolai Vasilievich with great granddaughter, Anechka

REMEMBERING IYA DIMITRIEVNA SCHMIT

Aleksandr Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko, Director

Parents and students of the Parish Russian School held a Memorial Luncheon on October 21 to remember their beloved teacher of 40 years, Iya Dimitrievna Schmit, who reposed on September 22, 2018. The lunch was organized by Svetlana Olegovna Avdeeva-Vasilieva with lots of help from teachers, parents and friends.



Father Stefan stands with the family: son-in-law Daniel Shultz, daughter Nina, and husband Harvey (Foma Petrovich).

Iya Dimitrievna (nee Podmoshenskaya) was born in Riga, Latvia. She lost her father to the Communist camps. When the German army occupied Latvia during World War II, she fled with her mother and older brother to Germany. The family immigrated to the United States when young Iya was 12 years old and reunited with the grandmother, who had been an accomplished ballet dancer.

The brother, Gleb Podmoshensky, grew up to become a monk named Father Herman. Along with Father Seraphim Rose, they founded the Saint Herman of Alaska Monastery in Platina, California. Father Herman also started the publication, The



Many parents, teachers, and friends contributed food and labor to the luncheon, organized by Svetlana Olegovna Avdeeva-Vasilieva (second from left).

Orthodox Word, and renewed the pre-revolution Russian language journal, Russky Palomnik (Russian Pilgrim). Father Herman reposed in 2000.

At the luncheon, Iya Dimitrievna was remembered for her deep love for her students as she taught them Zakon Bozhii (The Law of God), as well as the Russian language, literature and culture. Speakers included Father Stefan, A.N. Miroshnichenko, Andrei Roudenko, Irina Irklienko, Svetlana Avdeeva, Anya Derugina, and Natasha Lytneva. They recalled how she presented the children with icons and prayer books on their Saints' Days, and how she organized summer gatherings at her house where the students listened to her spiritual talks and played old Russian games. After Nativity, the Schmits welcomed the entire school to their home for a Yolka party and gifted the children with small bags of homemade gin-

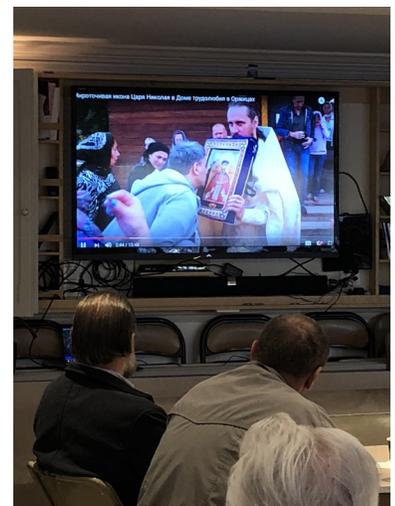
gerbread cookies and other sweets. When the Schmits traveled abroad, Iya Dimitrievna always brought back postcards or European candies for each child. She constantly thought about the children.



Director Aleksandr Nikolaevich Miroshnichenko praises Iya Dimitrievna's long time dedication to the Parish Russian School.

Iya Dimitrievna organized a charitable organization with a group of Russian ladies called the Society Honoring Russian Nobility. They would prepare a luncheon in the Church Hall and with the proceeds, send parcels of dry food, clothes, and medications to elderly Russians and needy families with and without children.

In 1996, Iya Dimitrievna commissioned an iconographer to create an icon of Tsar Nicholas II in memory of her mother and with the hope of the future glorification of the Romanov tsar in Russia. Printed copies of various sizes were made and sold to fund the Society Honoring Russian Nobility. In God's Providence, one of the printed copies in Russia started streaming myrrh and is now traveling from church to church in Russia and abroad. It has been venerated by thousands of people. The copy in our church hangs on the wall near Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker. A video of the Tsar Nicholas II icon visiting village churches was presented at the luncheon.



Guests view a video of the myrrh streaming Tsar Nicholas II icon.

Also honored at the luncheon was Iya Dimitrievna's husband, Harvey (Foma Petrovich). The American convert, who learned to speak Russian fluently, always supported his wife in all her pious endeavors. On behalf of their daughter, Nina, and son-in-law Daniel Shultz, Harvey thanked everyone in the Russian School for all the kind words that were said and all the love they gave to Iya Dimitrievna.

The beloved teacher is now buried next to her brother, Father Herman, at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Sebastopol, California.

PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF SAINT SILOUAN THE ATHONITE MONASTERY

Ludmilla Bobroff

On September 23/24, Dimitry and I attended Vigil and Divine Liturgy at the newest monastery in the ROCOR Western Diocese – Saint Silouan Monastery, located two miles outside the town of Sonora, California. The monastery was celebrating its Patronal Feast Day and parishioners from surrounding Serbian and OCA churches and from Sacramento drove to the monastery for prayer, Holy Communion, a cross procession and afterward, a festal meal outdoors. Sadly, only Deacon Andrei Garine from the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco attended. No one else came from the San Francisco Bay Area, which Deputy Abbot Father Ignatius pointed out.



Deputy Abbot Father Ignatius greets me warmly as he does all visitors to the monastery.

The monastery was founded in 2015 when a long-time Sonora resident gave 50 acres to the Diocese to build a monastery. The woman's only request was to be allowed to live in a mobile home on the property until her death. Soon after, her old ranch house was consecrated as a church and Father Ignatius and Brother Andrew moved into two cells. With time, additional cells were built, a vegetable garden was planted, and a small house with several bedrooms was built for the generous benefactor so she would be more comfortable in her old age.

When we visited in September, Father Ignatius and Brother Andrew were joyfully greeting visitors. Besides the monastics, two young men were residing there to test themselves for monastic life. The young men participated knowledgeably in the services, one as a Reader and the other as an Altar Server. With a big smile, Father Ignatius told me the good news that Father James Steele of St. Elias Church in Diamond Springs was appointed to serve Vigil and Divine Liturgy every other week at the monastery. Father Ignatius hoped scheduled services would bring more people to the monastery.

On September 24, His Grace Theodosy, Bishop of Seattle, celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Silouan. In his sermon, Bishop Theodosy said he had the honor in the early 90s to meet Elder Sophrony, who was a disciple and pupil of Saint Silouan the Athonite, when both were living on Mt. Athos.

The future saint was born of Russian Orthodox parents and named Simeon Ivanovich Antonov. He left his native Russia at age 27 to become a monk on Mt. Athos. After long years of spiritual trial, he acquired great humility and inner stillness, receiving the grace of unceasing prayer and seeing Christ in a vision. The greatest value for one's soul, he said, was loving one's enemies.

While the Elder monk was instructing his pupil, young Sophrony took detailed notes. Upon Father Silouan's repose in 1938, Sophrony wrote a book titled "St. Silouan the Athonite" in order to introduce his Elder's spiritual teachings to the world. Eventually, Archimandrite Sophrony founded the Monastery of St. John the Baptist in England and lived long enough to see his beloved Elder glorified by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Today, the monastery in Sonora is being improved and expanded by volunteer labor. Several times, our treasurer Alexei Baranoff has taken a few employees of Con-Quest Contractors, Inc. to build foundations, frame cells, and fix a leaky water main. Last summer, several of our youth volunteered to work for a week on the grounds. Help is always needed and welcomed.

The Monastery is located at 21285 Old Sonora Columbia Road, Sonora, California 95370. Stavrophore Monk Father Ignatius can be reached by texting 831-345-8719. ■



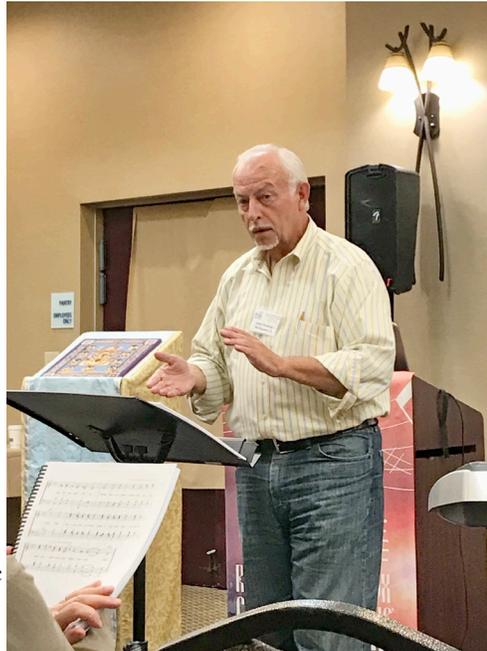
Walking alongside Bishop Theodosy, Father James Steele blesses visitors with Holy Water during the Cross Procession. Father James has been appointed to serve Divine Liturgy twice a month at the monastery.

CHOIR NEWS

Andrei Roudenko

ORTHODOX SCHOOL OF

BETHANY. This month our choir is holding its bi-monthly fundraising drive for the Orthodox School of Bethany in the Holy Land. Our continued support for the school – a donation at the end of each even-numbered month – has been greatly appreciated. Donations by check written to the Church of All Russian Saints with “Bethany School” indicated in the memo section can be given to Marina or Andrei Roudenko (choir), or to Alyosha Baranoff (parish treasurer). Donations can also be placed in the mailbox that is on the wall across from our candle-stand, at the back of the church. Our final drive of the year will be in December.



Andrei Roudenko was one of several conductors giving lectures at the Russian Orthodox Church Choir Musicians Conference.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH CHOIR MUSICIANS CONFERENCE (ROCM).

The annual ROCM conference was held in Albany, NY, this year. Marina and Andrei represented our parish. The theme of the conference was “Obihod (Common Chant Tradition) in Contemporary Practice.” There were several excellent presentations and workshops, and lots of rehearsals during which attendees from throughout the U.S., Canada and even London, England, studied selections from Vigil (Всенощная) and Liturgy. Selections included works by well-known composers over the past few centuries as well as our contemporaries. There were several works that are destined to adorn our services in the future. All in all, the experience was educational, enjoyable and fruitful for the musical future of our parish. Among the conductors who worked with conference attendees were Eugenia Temidis, presenter at the St. Sergius Chapel at the Synod of Bishops in NY; Peter Fekula, director of the Synodal Choir in NY; and Burlingame’s Andrei Roudenko.

CONCERT. Our parish choir will present a concert on Sunday, November 4. This is the day when we commemorate the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God. Accordingly, all of the concert selections will be works that glorify the Holy Mother of God and Icons that glorify Her. Our concert will be dedicated to the memory of recently-reposed Nikolai Vasilievich Misersky, who dedicated his life to service of the Orthodox Church in general and our parish in particular. Parents of our parish school children have kindly offered to host an after-concert reception, to which all attendees are invited. **SAVE THE DATE:** Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 1:15 p.m. ■

BAPTIZED

AUGUST 2018

Alexander Rodik

SEPTEMBER 2018

**Mark G. Bogatsky
John Robert McEnroe
Victoria Starinsky**

MARRIED

AUGUST 2018

None

SEPTEMBER 2018

None

REPOSED IN THE LORD

AUGUST 2018

**Valentine Anissimov
Natalia Belonogoff
Tatiana Engurazoff
Nikolai Misersky
Marina Torru**

SEPTEMBER 2018

**Taissia Alekseyeva
Maria Auerbuch
Nadejda Pilipenko
Elena Romanova**

UPDATE ON CHURCH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Dimitry Bobroff



The first stained glass window is best seen from the front of the Church, looking toward the choir loft. It was placed there so Father Stefan can see the stained-glass window as he exits the altar with the Holy Communion Chalice.

Thank you to all the Stewards who have pledged to our 2018 Program. Our pledges stand at almost 80% of our goal of \$60,000. With only two more months left, we appeal to our other parishioners and church-goers to become Stewards and donate to our 2018 Stewardship Program in order to meet our goal.

Our Stewardship Fund balance has shrunk due to the expenditure of \$77,000 to replace our roof. Upcoming major projects will require substantial sums of money as well as volunteers to manage the projects.

An unwelcome surprise was the recent discovery of wet rot on quite a few wooden beams on the roof. These beams will need to be replaced.

We have been talking about stained glass windows for almost two years. The good news is that finally our first stained glass window has been installed and has garnered very positive reviews from parishioners. Our artists, Svetlana Avdeeva and Olga Parr, are busy finalizing the designs for the second and third windows (the long ones) and are working with Ken Minasian of Oceana Stained Glass in San Mateo to begin fabrication and installation. Father Stefan has also been fully involved in the approval of the designs. All eleven windows will be different but will have a unifying common theme. ■

PLEASE DONATE FOOD TO CALL PRIMROSE

Our local non-profit food bank, named CALL Primrose, is once again collecting bags and boxes of food to help less fortunate families in our community. During the 2017 drive, our church donated 58 bags of food along with \$3,295 in checks.

Let's see if we can surpass that total this year.

The food bank announces a few changes to the 2018 Food Drive. Since all Holiday Meal Boxes must have the same food items, it's important to purchase all of the requested food items. The cost will be approximately \$40 if purchased at Safeway.

Please fill up your bag or box with the following items:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 - 15 oz. Can | Canned Yams |
| 2 - 15 oz. Cans | Canned Corn (low salt preferred) |
| 2 - 14 oz. Cans | Canned Green Beans (low salt preferred) |
| 2 - 14 oz. Cans | Canned Fruit |
| 1 - 14 oz. Can | Cranberry Sauce |
| 1 - 6 oz. Box | Stuffing Mix |
| 1 - 14 oz. Box | Instant Mashed Potatoes |
| 1 - 8 oz. Box | Corn Bread/Corn Muffin Mix |
| 1 - 24 oz. Bottle | Vegetable Cooking Oil |
| 1 - 16 oz. Pkg. | Pasta Noodles |
| 1 - 20 oz. Can | Pasta Sauce |
| 2 - 3 oz. Pkgs. | Chocolate Jello Pudding/Pie Mix |
| 1 - 14 oz. Can | Condensed Milk |
| 1 - 6 oz. | No Bake Graham Cracker Pie Crust |

The deadline to bring your boxes and bags to the Church Hall is WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018. For questions, please contact Alexei Baranoff at coarstreasurer@gmail.com or 916-799-0898.

Thank you to *Ben and Natasha Nielsen* for graciously sponsoring the printing cost of this issue in memory of Nikolai Vasilievich Misersky.

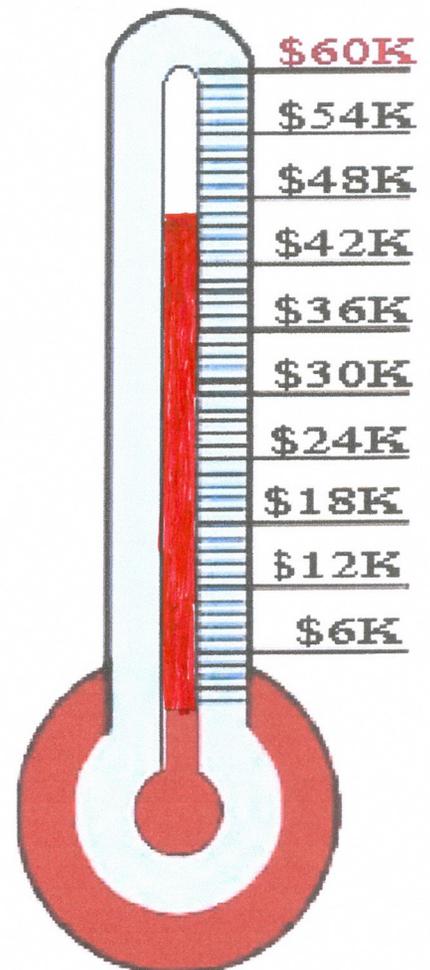
Church of All Russian Saints Stewardship Program

2018 Goal = \$60,000 in Stewardship Pledges



Parish Projects

- ❖ Design and install memorial stained glass windows in the nave.
- ❖ Earthquake-proof the cinder block fence in the back of the church.
- ✓ ❖ Replace church roof and drainage system to prevent further water damage.
- ❖ Repair exterior cracks on church walls, seal the exterior walls, and repaint the exterior of the church. Repair crack in handicap ramp.
- ❖ Replace the two doors in the downstairs church hall with steel doors.
- ❖ Revitalize our church website with a new design and add features that will enable easy, timely update of content.
- ❖ Sponsorship for various efforts (a few examples):
 - Nativity and Paschal gift to choir members (~\$1,200 per Feastday)
 - Liturgical supplies (wine, oil, incense, etc) (\$150 per month)
 - Livestreaming video costs (\$50 per month)
 - Newsletter printing cost (\$72 per issue)
 - Telephone cost (\$80 per month)
- ❖ Volunteering for various efforts (a few examples):
 - Sisterhood
 - Parish Choir
 - Sunday after Liturgy Coffee Hour
 - Church floor cleaning; dewaxing carpet runner
 - Parish School



Please do your part in helping us reach our 2018 goal of \$60,000.

45th ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER STEFAN'S ORDINATION



Father Stefan hears well-wishes from parishioners as he hands out pieces of prosfora.



Father Stefan steps forward to venerate the Cross held by Archbishop Kyrill.



His Eminence Archbishop Kyrill awards a second jeweled cross to Father Stefan for his many years in the priesthood.



Left: Six altar servers assist during the Divine Liturgy. In the front row are (left to right) Ilya Sarandinaki, Nicky Motoviloff, and Stefanchik Maximow. Back row (left to right) are Gabriel Howell, Walter Motoviloff, and Daniel Nadelson.

Celebratory Banquet



Father Stefan's sisters flew in from the East Coast. Standing is Kira Pawlenko, widow of Father Stefan's brother, Pavel. Seated on the left is Maria Grant. On the right, Olga Kinnear.



The Church Hall is packed with clergy, parishioners and guests from all over the Bay Area.



Matushka Tatiana thanks dedicated helpers (left to right) Nadia Sou-dakoff, Nina Howell, Kyra Howell, Irene Bogoslovsky, Nina Eyvazov, and Vera Polski.



Despite a tight schedule, Bishop Theodosy made time to congratulate Father Stefan.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

NOVEMBER 4 AT 1:15PM

CHOIR CONCERT IN MEMORY OF NIKOLAI
VASILIEVICH MISERSKY

NOVEMBER 14

LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS AND FOOD
BOXES FOR CALL PRIMROSE FOOD
DRIVE

NOVEMBER 18

SISTERHOOD THANKSGIVING LUNCH

DECEMBER 2

SISTERHOOD LUNCH SERVING FISH KOT-
LETI

DECEMBER 9

GINGERBREAD FAIRE FOR CHILDREN

PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS

NONE IN NOVEMBER

DECEMBER 20

IF YOU CAN HELP, COME TO THE CHURCH
HALL ANYTIME BETWEEN 10 A.M. AND 4
P.M. CALL LUBA GAUSCHIEDT FOR MORE
INFORMATION. 650-591-1605

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/>

REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR THE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Father Michael van Opstall, Chairman

The 2018 St. Herman's West Youth Conference will take place near Placerville, California from Dec. 23 to Dec. 28. The hosting parish is St. Elias Orthodox Church in Diamond Springs, two miles south of Placerville on Highway 49. The conference is for youth of the Western Diocese from ages 15-25. This year's conference will include the usual lectures, panel discussions, service activities, and social events. We will be in the Gold Country, and the theme of the conference is "Where your treasure is, your heart will be also -- Orthodox Identity".

We hope to explore some caves, and hunt for gold and gems at a local mine. The Serbian parish in nearby Jackson houses the relics of a 20th century Serbian-American saint, St. Sebastian (Dabovitch). We will visit this church and pray before his relics.

Registration is available at www.wadyouth.com

CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS

A Parish of the Western American Diocese of the
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia
744 El Camino Real, Burlingame, CA 94010
<http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>
Rector: Mitred Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko
Cell: (650) 430-9805

See the schedule of services on the Church website:

<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

PARISH NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor - Ludmilla Bobroff

Art Designer - Xenia Maximow

Photographers- Dimitry Bobroff and Lena Gauschieldt.
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 Sub-
ject Line. Deadline is one month prior to publication.

Next Newsletter - JANUARY 2019

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DENTIST



Andrei Roschkowsky, D.D.S.
351 N. San Mateo Drive
San Mateo, CA 94401
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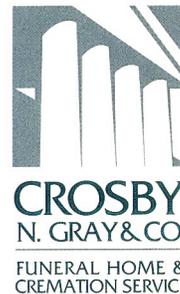
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23098 Connecticut Street
Hayward, CA 94545

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C: 510-789-3044

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520 S. El Camino Real
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San Mateo, CA 94402

Cell 650.740.8353
Office 650.548.1111 x813
Fax 650.548.1238
gerneta@apr.com

apr.com
www.galinaerneta.com



REAL ESTATE




Tatiana Kirasirova
REALTOR®
CalBRE # 01819256

180 El Camino Real
San Bruno, CA 94066
Direct: (650) 246-3516
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Mobile: (415) 370-4836
Tatiana@RealEstatebyTatiana.com
www.RealEstateByTatiana.com

REAL ESTATE



Mila Baranoff-Colver
REALTOR®
CalBRE # 00587727

2280 Del Paso Road, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
MBaranoff@GoLyon.com





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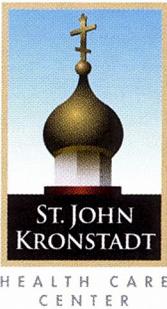
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510-889-7622 (FAX)