



Quarterly Bulletin of Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church

Diocese of the West - Orthodox Church in America

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Priest Edward Henderson

Our Heritage and Our Future

Two years ago, I wrote to you concerning the future of our parish. I wished to raise concerns I had over church attendance, involvement in parish activities, and overall support for our parish. By God's grace, many of these issues have resolved themselves. Our parish family is growing. Attendance at the divine services has increased. The parish hall is more crowded now on Sundays after Liturgy and we seem to have a volunteer system for the Sunday lunches that is working quite well.

From July 14-18, I attended the 21st All-American Council and our annual Diocesan Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, after many years of archpastoral ministry, retired, and a new bishop has been elected: Archimandrite Vasily (Permiakov), who will, God-willing, be consecrated on Saturday, August 16, at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco.

During the All-American Council, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, the primate of the Orthodox Church in America, made these observations: “our rapid transition to English has meant a rapid obscuring of our heritage. In particular, the Church Slavonic and East Slavic heritage common to the territorial dioceses of the Orthodox Church in America is not merely a matter of now-fading ethnic identity; it is something sacred. Until 1970, our Church was part of the Russian Orthodox Church. This means that the saints and traditions of the Russian Orthodox Church belong to us, too, regardless of our own ethnic background. The rapid loss of Church Slavonic and our sense of connection to East Slavic Orthodoxy has weakened our connection to the great cloud of witnesses who went before us, who suffered and labored for the Faith over the course of centuries so that it could eventually be brought to North America and proclaimed in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. We must never be tempted to Protestantize our history, leaping from the apostolic era to autocephaly.”

Such words gave me great encouragement over our parish’s future. Although we are blessed to be part of our local diocese and the local Orthodox Church in America, we have not abandoned our heritage. At the same time, we have been able to share our Orthodox faith with the larger community here. For ten years now, we have used both Church Slavonic and English in our divine services. We use these languages in a manner that ministers to the needs of our flock. Our liturgical and spiritual life remains rooted in the heritage of Holy Rus’. We have seen many new people come, both Orthodox Christians seeking to renew their life in Christ here and converts of diverse backgrounds whose hearts are open to the Gospel and our faith.

The Orthodox Church is growing in this country and our parish is growing. We have great potential for even further and deeper growth if we all do our part. Your support is absolutely necessary, more so now than ever. Firstly, let us strive at all times to grow in our faith. Come to the services and pray, both at church and at home, that God will further bless our parish. Deepen your commitment to church life. Secondly, we need your practical support. By offering your labors and financial support, you will greatly help our parish now and ensure a stronger future. Let us all discern how we can better serve Our Lord Jesus Christ, His Church, and one another, remembering the words of the Holy Apostle Paul: “there are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.” (1 Cor. 12:5-6)

Namesdays, Birthdays, and Anniversaries

August 1- Birthday of Valentina Laletina

August 3- Wedding Anniversary of Paul and Irene Gessling

August 6- Wedding Anniversary of Innocenty and Angelina Yiu

August 16- Birthday of Boris Gerlovin

August 21- Birthday of Michael DeFlores

August 26- Namesday of Maxim Tikhomirov

August 30- Birthday of Elena Latour

September 30- Namesday of Vera Mikhailova and Sofia Katich

October 8- Birthday of Vera Mikhailova

October 13- Anniversary of Fr. Edward's ordination to the priesthood

October 20- Birthday of Innocenty Yiu

October 29- Birthday of Jakub Kierdaszuk

If you would like your namesday, birthday, and/or anniversary included in the future, please contact Fr. Edward at revedwardhenderson@gmail.com.

Archimandrite Vasily (Permiakov) elected Bishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West

On Wednesday, July 16, during the 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, Arizona, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America canonically elected Archimandrite Vasily (Permiakov) to be the next bishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West. He succeeds His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, who retired on Tuesday, July 15. Archimandrite Vasily is scheduled to be consecrated to the episcopacy on Saturday, August 16, at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco.

100th Anniversary of Pilgrimage to Fort Ross

2025 marks one hundred years of pilgrimage to Fort Ross by Orthodox faithful. To celebrate this centennial, a conference will be held at Saint Seraphim's Orthodox Cathedral in Santa Rosa on Friday, October 3, and a Solemn Divine Liturgy is scheduled at Fort Ross, led by hierarchs of both the Russian Orthodox Church and the Orthodox Church in America on Saturday, October 4. For more information, please visit: www.fortrosspilgrimage.org.

Schedule of Services

Sundays: Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

Saturdays: Vigil *or* Great Vespers at 5:00pm

August, September, October services

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| Monday, August 18 | | Vigil | 6:00pm |
| Tuesday, August 19 | Transfiguration | Liturgy | 10:00am |
| Wednesday, August 27 | | Vigil | 6:00pm |
| Thursday, August 28 | Dormition | Liturgy | 10:00am |
| Wednesday, September 10 | | Vespers | 6:00pm |
| Thursday, September 11 | Beheading of St. John the Baptist | Liturgy | 10:00am |
| Saturday, September 20 | | Vigil | 5:00pm |
| Sunday, September 21 | Nativity of the Theotokos | Liturgy | 10:00am |
| Friday, September 26 | | Vigil | 6:00pm |
| Saturday, September 27 | Exaltation of the Cross | Liturgy | 10:00am |
| Sunday, October 5 | | Vespers | 6:00pm |
| Monday, October 6 | Conception of St. John the Baptist | Liturgy | 10:00am |
| Monday, October 13 | | Vespers | 6:00pm |
| Tuesday, October 14 | Protection of the Theotokos | Liturgy | 10:00am |

More detailed service schedules are available on the parish website and at the candle desk.

Confession is available after Vigil/Vespers, before Liturgy, and as arranged with Fr. Edward.

Upcoming Events

August 14-27: Dormition Fast