

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

## BULLETIN – SUNDAY AFTER THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – 10:00 am Wednesday ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org/>

### *Many Years – Birthday*

Marilyn Spurgeon September 22

Cicily Oakes September 24

Alexander Polosjuk September 25

### *Many Years – Anniversary*

Victor & Leanne Albers September 24

### ANNUAL MEETING TODAY

Plan to stay for the Annual Meeting of the parish membership following the Divine Liturgy today. We will be discussing and voting on this year's budget and drawing lots for new Parish Council members.

### NEW PARISH COUNCIL – FIRST MEETING

The new council will meet at 7:00 pm in the parish hall after the Paraklesis on Wednesday, September 23. **Please note the day change.**

### DIVINE SERVICES INDOORS

Last week, Santa Cruz County was moved from the *widespread* tier to the *substantial* tier on the new CA COVID Framework, meaning indoor worship, with continued mask wearing and social distancing, is once again allowed. Metropolitan JOSEPH insists that we follow these guidelines while in the church.

### ANTIOCHIAN MEN'S GROUP KICK OFF

With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, a diocese men's organization is being established. Monthly presentations on the last Tuesday of the month will be offered. Fr. David Hovik will start the group with a two-part series on the Jesus Prayer beginning Tuesday, September 29 at 6:30 pm live on Facebook at Facebook.com/DLAWAntiochianMen.

### VIRTUAL FALL GATHERING

Be watching for more information about the Virtual Fall Gathering that will be held in October.

### PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Please contact the church office with the names of the sick and hospitalized of the parish so they can receive proper pastoral care.

### ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Our Antiochian Women's September Sowing Bee will be Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 pm. You do not need a Facebook account to view the presentation. Just enter in the url search @AntiochianWomenDioceseOfLosAngelesandtheWest. The speaker is Kh. Heather Somner from St. Thomas Antiochian Orthodox Church in Snohomish, Washington. Kh. Heather is an accomplished iconographer and will be speaking on iconography.

### OCTOBER MEN'S BREAKFAST

All men are invited to a breakfast in the parish hall on Saturday, October 3 at 8:00 am.

## **COMMUNITY DINNER**

**Sunday, September 27**

**To-Go Meal Served At**

**2:00 pm**

**Donations of non-perishable food items and helpers to make and distribute the dinner needed. Please leave food items in the parish hall kitchen. Contact Kriss Saad at 419-2677 to volunteer.**

### CONGRATULATIONS & MEALTRAIN

Jacob and Kristy Sprenger welcomed Jonathan Alexander on September 9. May God grant him many years! Let's show them our love and support and bring them some hearty good and meals for these first few weeks. You may access the mealtrain for the Sprengers [here](#).

### ARRANGING SACRAMENTS: INFANT BAPTISM, MATRIMONY, & ADULT INITIATION

Contact the church office and set up an appointment with Fr. Christopher to discuss the arrangements for these sacraments.

**This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul—September 21-27, 2020**

9/23 Wed 6:00 pm – Paraklesis  
7:00 pm – Parish Council  
9/26 Sat 6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline  
9/27 Sun 8:20 am – Orthros  
9:30 am – Divine Liturgy – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
after Pentecost & 1<sup>st</sup> of Luke  
2:00 pm – Community Dinner

Looking Ahead –

October 3 Men's Breakfast  
October 4 Trisagion for Kh. Terry Elizabeth Beck &  
Bp. ANTOUN  
October 11 Trisagion for Douglas Shanoian  
Community Dinner  
October 18 Trisagion for Lily Saad

**GOOD NEWS**

The Schmidts thank all who have prayed recently for Dn. Richard and the medical team at Stanford. The preliminary diagnosis is that his kidney tumor is benign. Glory to God! More tests are recommended to confirm this diagnosis, so let us keep praying for Dn. Richard and Sh. Barbara during this time.

**SACRED MUSIC**

Glory to God! Due to the decline of COVID-19 cases in Santa Cruz County, we would like to have a soft re-opening of the choir and chanter stand. Contact Fr. Christopher and/or Darlene Johnson if you are interested in singing in the choir and/or Will Steiger if you are interested in chanting.

**THE WORD MAGAZINE**

The September issue of The Word magazine is available online [here](#) or you can access it by searching for Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, and once there, looking under "Organizations" for The Word Magazine.

**CALENDAR ITEMS**

If you have anything you would like put on the church calendar, including Trisagion prayers, please contact Dn. Anthony ([frdnathony@gmail.com](mailto:frdnathony@gmail.com)) for his review.

**TIMES FOR CONFESSION**

Confessions are heard after Vespers on Wednesday evenings (by appointment), on Saturday evenings following Great Vespers and by appointment during the week. If you desire to go to confession during Orthros, come prior to 9:15 am and send a message to one of the priests through one of the deacons. Thank you.

**CONFESSION**

The Sacrament of confession is a necessary part of the Christian spiritual life. In the course of our life, we "miss the mark" of the perfect Christian. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. When we drift away from God and ignore our sins, a festering wound is left in our soul.

Orthodox Christians are expected to go to confession at least once during each of the four fasting periods. Of course, confession is appropriate anytime there is something weighing on our hearts. If we are unable to go to confession, or if we choose not to, then we are asked to refrain from communion, so that we do not partake of the Body and Blood of Christ unworthily and bring judgment upon ourselves (1 Cor. 11:28).

Confession is an opportunity to return to God, be forgiven by Him, and be healed in the spiritual hospital of the Church. St. Paul declares that the wages of sin is death. So also, the effect of being healed from sin and reconciled to Christ is life and salvation. The priest is there, not to judge, but to offer guidance toward full spiritual health and salvation.

*"If you do not hate your ox when it is afflicted with pestilence, and if you do not hate your sheep when it falls sick, how could you hate a man, your brother who has caught the leprosy of sin? The burden of sin is crushing enough by itself; do not load your burden of hatred on top of your brother as well."*

*St. Nikolai Velimirovich*