



# FOLLOWING THE STEPS OF CHRIST

## Quarterly Bulletin of Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church

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Diocese of the West - Orthodox Church in America

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Rev. Edward Henderson

### **The Newness of Life**

The Holy Apostle Paul once wrote that “just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Rom. 6:4) Such newness of life, according to Saint John Chrysostom, is one wherein “sin is mortified, and righteousness has risen again, and the old life has been made to vanish, and this new and evangelical one is being lived in.”<sup>1</sup>

Now begins the season of joy, as we celebrate Our Lord Jesus Christ’s Resurrection from the dead! Our great fast has concluded and we are welcomed by God Himself to the feast of feasts. Our Lord’s Pascha is not simply observed or remembered, rather we must participate in these great and awesome events.

Last year, we served the Paschal services to a nearly empty church. Most of you could only sing the Resurrectional hymns in your homes or watch the divine services on a

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<sup>1</sup> *Homilies on Romans*, X, NPNF1-11, p. 406.

screen, as our churches were closed to the public. Yet, we must give thanks to Almighty God that He deemed us worthy of such an ordeal. When the church first began to open, our people came starved of the divine services and the grace imparted therein. These restrictions woke within many of us a renewed devotion to the Church and the life to which she calls us. New people came to our church, in fact, in the last twelve months, more newcomers and inquirers into the Orthodox faith have come through our doors than in any year since my tenure as rector began. Many of our own people have become more diligent in their church attendance and in their participation in the Church's sacraments.

As we see the restrictions imposed upon us by both our ecclesial and civil authorities lessen, we look forward with joy to welcoming even more people: both long-time parishioners and new visitors, whether they be Orthodox Christians seeking to renew their life in the Church or inquirers. Moreover, let us not return to the lukewarmness that had afflicted us long before COVID-19 appeared, rather, let us walk in newness of life. Let us never take the Church for granted again, but anchor our lives in her life, her teachings, her worship, and her sacraments. Let us discern how we may better serve the Church and witness our Orthodox faith to this world.

This, perhaps, may be why God allowed the difficulties of the past year to fall upon us so that we would repent of our previous ways. Let us now strive to manifest this newness of life both personally and as a parish community, so that we may look back in years to come and be able, by God's grace, to say of ourselves, as Saint Paul once wrote, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ." (2 Cor. 2:14-17)

**Christ is Risen!**

**Христосъ Воскресе!**

**Χριστός ἀνέστη!**

**المسيح قام**

**Hristos a înviat!**

## **Namesdays, Birthdays, and Anniversaries**

May 6- Namesday of George Shkurkin and Alexandra Dunsky

May 13- Namesday of Santiago Drexler

May 14- Namesday of Tamara Mikhailovsky

May 15- Namesday of Boris Gerlovin

June 3- Namesday of Konstantin Timokhin and Helen Pouschine

July 13- Birthday of Santiago Drexler

July 14- Wedding Anniversary of Caleb and Tabitha Lewis

July 17- Namesday of Anastasia Klimko

July 24- Namesday of Olga Hughes and Olga Tinina

*If you would like your namesday, birthday, and/or anniversary included in the future, please contact Fr. Edward at [revedwardhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:revedwardhenderson@gmail.com).*

## **Saint Eugene's Orthodox Summer Camp**

July 11-17

located at:

Camp Arroyo

5535 Arroyo Road

Livermore, CA 94550

[www.steugenecamp.org](http://www.steugenecamp.org)

For several decades, Orthodox youth (ages 7-17) have come together for a week to play and pray at our diocesan summer camp. Offering all the activities of a summer camp, in addition, attendees have the opportunity to meet other Orthodox kids, be encouraged in their faith in a solid Christian environment, and grow spiritually.

For more information, contact the Camp Director, Fr. Andrew Smith at [director@steugenecamp.org](mailto:director@steugenecamp.org)

## **Special Announcement**

After many, many years, Saint Eugene's Orthodox Summer Camp will welcome at least two new campers from our parish. Zahar Jones and Jonah Buff have been awarded scholarships by our parish. We hope, in the future, to see more of our parish youth participate in our deanery summer camp!

# Schedule of Services

**Sundays:** Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

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

## May, June, July services

Saturday, May 1	Great and Holy Saturday	Vesperal Liturgy Reading from the Acts of the Apostles Midnight Office	10:00am 10:30pm 11:30pm
Sunday, May 2	<b>PASCHA</b>	Matins & Liturgy Agape Vespers	12:00am 1:00pm
Friday, May 7	Bright Friday	Vespers	6:00pm
Saturday, May 8	Bright Saturday	Matins Liturgy Vespers	9:00am 10:00am 5:00pm
Sunday, May 9	Thomas Sunday	Matins Liturgy	9:00am 10:00am
Wednesday, June 9	Leave-taking of Pascha	Vigil	6:00pm
Thursday, June 10	Ascension	Liturgy	10:00am
Monday, June 21	Day of the Holy Spirit	Matins Liturgy	9:00am 10:00am
Sunday, July 11		Vespers	6:00pm
Monday, July 12	Saints Peter and Paul	Matins Liturgy	9:00am 10:00am

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

## Upcoming Events

**June 28-July 12:** Apostles' Fast