



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

Thanksgiving

The Holy Apostle Paul instructs us to give thanks “always for all things unto God.” (Eph. 5:20) As we come to the end of a difficult year, as we reflect upon this time and hope for a better year to come, let us first and foremost give thanks to God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us in 2021.

Firstly, in 2021, our parish remained opened and the divine services continued unimpeded. Our parishioners, by and large, remained healthy and able to come to the church to worship God, partake of the Church’s sacraments, and fellowship with one another. Many new people became part of our parish family, both Orthodox Christians and those seeking to join our Church. For the first time in decades, God called one of our parishioners to serve His Church and thus, we now have a seminarian preparing for his future ministry.

Last year, I appealed to you, asking to help raise funds for an external paint job that was long overdue. Our parishioners and supporters came together and we easily raised the necessary funds to complete this project. Likewise, we also made some very necessary structural repairs and upgrades in the church, the parish hall, and the rectory. Furthermore, we have installed several new icons within our church.

Within the greater local Orthodox community, we saw a return to customs we have kept over the years. On Pentecost, many of us gathered for the Vigil service at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco. In July, we once again together celebrated the feast of our local saint, Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco, at Holy Virgin Cathedral. Likewise, we resumed our annual pilgrimage to Fort Ross to celebrate Independence Day.

In September, I was able to make a pilgrimage to Russia. Traveling as part of a delegation from Fort Ross, we visited Irkutsk, Lake Baikal, Anga, Saint Petersburg, Kronstadt, Moscow, and Sergiev Posad. The main purpose of our trip was to open a permanent exhibition at the Saint Innocent Cultural Center in the village of Anga, the birthplace of Saint Innocent (Veniaminov). Our delegation included Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko- the rector of the Church of All Saints of Russia in Burlingame, Archpriest George Kurkow- rector of Saint Seraphim's Church in Monterey, their wives, Mother Macrina of Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, and Robin Joy Wellman, who worked at Fort Ross for over thirty years. We were warmly welcomed by clergy of the Irkutsk Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church, especially by His Eminence, Metropolitan Maximillian of Irkutsk and Angara. We served with him and his clergy both in Irkutsk and in Anga. While in Saint Petersburg, I had the great joy to serve at the Church of the Resurrection on Spilt Blood and form a strong friendship with the clergy who serve therein. Our delegation also visited the enormous rebuilt Naval Cathedral in Kronstadt and the home of Saint John of Kronstadt. In Moscow, our delegation had a personal audience with the American Ambassador, Mr. John Sullivan. We also made a pilgrimage to the Holy Trinity-Saint Sergius Lavra, where we venerated the relics of many saints, including Saint Innocent and Saint Sergius of Radonezh.

We see, as we have seen throughout sacred history, God leading His people through difficult times. Let us always remember this so that we may face any trial that may befall us, crying out with the words of the Psalmist, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever." (Ps. 135:1)



photo: Metropolitan Maximilian with visiting American and Irkutsk Diocesan Clergy

Namesdays, Birthdays, and Anniversaries

November 1- Birthday of Mariana Katich

November 15- Wedding Anniversary of Santiago and Claudia Drexler

November 20- Namesday of Valeriy Okulov

November 27- Birthday of Michael Temerin and Sofia Katich

December 5- Namesday of Michael Temerin

December 8- Birthday of Joseph Katich

December 13- Namesday of Andrew Fulgham

December 17- Namesday of Barbara Roquemore

December 19- Namesday of Nikolay Lukoyankov and Nicholas Timokhin

January 6- Birthday of Arseny (Arnold) Kloian

January 25- Namesday of Tatyana Lukoyanova

January 27- Namesday of Nina Kloian

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

Schedule of Services

Sundays: Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

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

November, December, January services

Saturday, November 6	Saint Demetrius Saturday	Panikhida	11:00am
Friday, December 3		Vigil	6:00pm
Saturday, December 4	Entrance of the Theotokos	Liturgy	10:00am
Thursday, January 6	Christmas Eve	Vesperal Liturgy Vigil	10:00am 6:00pm
Friday, January 7	Nativity of Christ (Christmas)	Liturgy	10:00am
Thursday, January 13		Great Vespers	6:00pm
Friday, January 14	Circumcision of the Lord Saint Basil the Great	Liturgy	7:00am
Tuesday, January 18		Vigil	6:00pm
Wednesday, January 19	Theophany	Liturgy Blessing of Waters	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.

Choir rehearsal is on Thursday at 7:00pm in the parish hall and 30 minutes prior to Vigil/Vespers and Liturgy. For further information about the parish choir, please contact Anastasia Klimko at anastasia.d.klimko@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events: November 7: Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 28: Nativity Fast Begins