



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

Ten Years of Ministry

On Sunday, October 13, 2013, His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin ordained me to the Holy Priesthood. After spending one week serving the divine services at Saint John's Monastery in Manton, I moved into our parish rectory on Sunday evening, October 20. Looking back and reflecting on my life, I can honestly state that these past ten years have been the best years of my life. Nevertheless, the great achievements accomplished in our humble parish are not mine alone but ours. Likewise, the challenges we have faced and will face in the years to come have been and are also ours to work through. The Holy Apostle Paul's words: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13) ought to encourage us. Likewise, his question to the Christians in Rome: "If God is with us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31) ought to give us hope.

After the death of Archpriest Kirill Hartman in 2010, our parish entered into a "time of troubles". Our community became very divided, the liturgical life fell into disorder and decline, and many left our parish, never to return. Our parishioners looked back to the days when Fr. Nikolajs Vieglajs served here as a golden age lost forever. Yet, God did not abandon us. We had enough parishioners who had long served this parish who also were not willing to give up. They, more than anyone, strengthened by Christ, did the most to save this parish.

What have we accomplished together? We healed from those three difficult years after Fr. Kirill's death. We restored the liturgical order of our parish in accord with the liturgical patrimony of the Russian Orthodox Church and the directives of our diocese and national church. We invested in our choir so that they would sing orderly, prayerfully, and beautifully. We introduced English into our divine services without abandoning Church Slavonic. We improved the physical state of our church and parish hall. We welcomed not only more people but a greater diversity of people.

In 2019, the Russian Orthodox Church glorified, as new martyrs, the Archpriest Nikolai Chernyshev and his daughter Barbara. Our starosta, Valeriy B. Okulov, had for many years championed the cause of their glorification. This glorification resulted in our parish sending me to Izhevsk and Votkinsk to receive relics of these new martyrs, thus reconnecting our parish with her founders, who formed this community nearly a century ago.

Our parish has also continued to face challenges. Nearly four years ago, COVID-19 struck our nation resulting in government ordered lockdowns and restrictions on public religious worship. As the pandemic came to end, we faced a war in Ukraine. Yet, our parish community remained united and the challenges brought out the best in us. Our Lord Jesus Christ's words: "you will hear of wars and rumors of wars" (Matt. 24:6) seem more relevant today than ever. Likewise, we face the economic and social challenges of living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Many have left our parish through no fault on our part but because of these economic and social challenges. We are seeing one generation of parishioners go on to their heavenly reward with no one from the younger generations to carry on their work here.

When Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke of the difficult days His followers would face, He also said: "See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass." (Matt. 24:6) The founders of our parish survived the godless revolution, a civil war, the loss of their homes, wandering in exile, but God brought them here. Fr. Nikolajs Vieglajs, in his youth, saw the devastation of the First World War and the revolution. As a priest, he risked his life to spread the Gospel in his homeland and survived Nazi occupation. He formed a vital part that link of brave souls who saved the ancient Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God. After the Second World War, he lived through the hardships of the Displaced Persons camps. Yet, God brought him here to us!

Let us not be troubled but persevere in living out our Orthodox Christian faith. Let us continue to build up our parish community, supporting her by our prayers, by our labors, and by our generosity. Together, with Christ's strength, we can face any challenge and, building upon the foundations set by those who came before us, our parish can continue to serve our greater community as a beacon of faith, hope, and love.



photo: ordination of Fr. Edward Henderson, October 13, 2013 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco

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 and Tatiana Ozerov

January 25- Namesday of Tatyana Lukoyanova and Tatiana Ozerov

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

Sunday, December 3		Great Vespers	6:00pm
Monday, December 4	Entrance of the Theotokos	Liturgy	10:00am
Monday, December 18		Great Vespers	6:00pm
Tuesday, December 19	Saint Nicholas	Liturgy	10:00am
Saturday, January 6	Christmas Eve	Vigil	5:00pm
Sunday, January 7	Nativity of Christ (Christmas)	Liturgy	10:00am
Thursday, January 18		Vesperal Liturgy Vigil	10:00am 6:00pm
Friday, 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 Daniel Alva at daalva@protonmail.com.

Upcoming Events: November 5: Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 28: Nativity Fast Begins