



Quarterly Bulletin of Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church

Diocese of the West - Orthodox Church in America

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No. 25

NOVEMBER

2025

Priest Edward Henderson

Thanksgiving

On November 27 of this year, we will gather together with our family and friends in order to give thanks to God for His many blessings upon us. At Matins, we often sing the words of the Prophet David, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever." (Ps. 135:1, LXX) As we come to the conclusion of another year, I would like to reflect upon the many blessings and challenges of this past year.

By God's mercy, the Orthodox Church is seeing great growth in membership throughout this country. We have seen this also in our own parish. This has enriched our own community and especially our liturgical life as we have added more services to our schedule. With new people, we have heard new voices in our choir, which, under the director of Daniel Alva, enriches our services and fosters an atmosphere of prayer and reverence.

We have begun to reach out to the greater community through supporting the efforts of FOCUS North America, an Orthodox Christian charity that ministers to the poor and needy, as they begin a new ministry in this region.

In July of this year, our then-ruling bishop, His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin retired after many years of archpastoral ministry. Immediately after his retirement, a new archpastor was elected and consecrated, His Grace, Bishop Vasily. Our parish was blessed to receive his first archpastoral visit, occurring on the feast of the Holy Transfiguration, just three days after his consecration!

This year marked 100 years of pilgrimage to Fort Ross. In October, over 500 pilgrims gathered at this holy place, where saints have prayed and labored for the Gospel. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, primate of the Orthodox Church in America presided over a solemn hierarchal liturgy along with His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas, first hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, and a multitude of local clergy. A delegation from the Irkutsk diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church, led by His Eminence, Metropolitan Maximillian, also took part in these celebrations.

2025 was a year of improvements to the buildings on our parish property. Most visible were the painting of the parish rectory and the repairs to our apartment building on Adeline Street.

With these many blessings, there have also been many challenges. This year our challenges have been primarily financial. While the parish remains, overall, in good financial shape, we were faced with several major unexpected expenses, mostly associated with our repair and renovation work. Your generosity towards our parish is more vital now than ever. We have never been the most technologically savvy parish. God-willing, next year, we can make some improvements, especially so that our benefactors may be able to support us financially via means other than cash and check donations.

As we come to the end of a truly blessed year, I wish to finally give thanks to God for all of you, who are part of and support our parish. Let us all give thanks to God that He has brought us together to “fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,” confessing “the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” (1 Tim. 6:12) May God continue to bless all of you!

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 9- Namesday of Innocenty Yiu

December 13- Namesday of Andrew Fulgham

December 17- Namesday of Barbara Roquemoire

December 19- Namesday of Nikolay Lukoyankov and Nicholas Timokhin

December 23- Namesday and Birthday of Angelina Yiu

January 3- Birthday of Claudia Drexler

January 4- Namesday of Jared Brunner

January 6- Birthday of Arseny (Arnold) Kloian and Tatiana Ozerov

January 7- Birthday of Matvey Chernyavsky

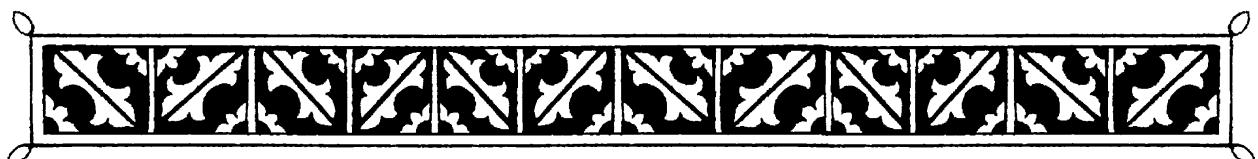
January 25- Namesday of Tatyana Lukyanova and Tatiana Ozerov

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.

Special Announcement

Annual subscriptions for the reading of memorial books at Sunday liturgies shall be discontinued for 2026. You may continue to keep your memorial books at the parish. However, they will only be read when requested, as is already the practice at weekday liturgies. You must be present at the liturgy in order to request the reading of your memorial book. Likewise, such orders shall be received until the “small entrance” at the Divine Liturgy (around 10:15am).



Schedule of Services

Sundays: Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

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

November, December, January services

Wednesday, December 3		Vigil	6:00pm
Thursday, December 4	Entrance of the Theotokos	Liturgy	10:00am
Thursday, December 18		Great Vespers	6:00pm
Friday, December 19	Saint Nicholas	Liturgy	10:00am
Tuesday, January 6	Christmas Eve	Vesperal Liturgy Vigil	10:00am 6:00pm
Wednesday, January 7	Nativity of Christ (Christmas)	Liturgy	10:00am
Tuesday, January 13	Leave-taking of the Nativity	Great Vespers	6:00pm
Wednesday, January 14	Circumcision of the Lord and Saint Basil the Great	Liturgy	10:00am
Sunday, January 18		Vigil	6:00pm
Monday, January 19	Theophany	Liturgy Blessing of Waters	10:00am

*In connection with the Advent retreat at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Vigil is cancelled on December 13.

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: November 2: Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 28: Nativity Fast Begins

December 13: Advent retreat at Holy Trinity Cathedral