



Quarterly Bulletin of Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church

Diocese of the West - Orthodox Church in America

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No. 28

AUGUST

2026

Priest Edward Henderson

On the 95th Anniversary of Our Parish's Establishment

This year, we celebrate the 95th anniversary of our parish's establishment. The June edition of *Russian Life* (*Русская Жизнь*) [Vol.CV, No.14684] features a detailed history of our parish, authored by our starosta, Valeriy B. Okulov, which we hope to translate into English very soon. Rather than summarize this article, I wish to reflect upon our parish's history.

The Holy Apostle Paul writes: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and His ways past finding out!" (Rom. 11:33) Two major events in Russian history preceded but also laid the foundation for our parish's establishment: 1. Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion of Russia in 1812, and 2. the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917. Russia's victory over Napoleon led the Imperial Government to establish armaments production facilities in Izhevsk and Votkinsk, so that future potential invasions from the West would not threaten access to such equipment. The Bolshevik Revolution, the subsequent Civil War, and the 1918 uprising of the

workers in these factories in Izhevsk and Votkinsk resulted in the displacement of many from their homeland, some of whom eventually found themselves settled in Berkeley as refugees. These refugees formed the initial community of our parish.

Thus, out of the forge of war, revolution, displacement, suffering, and tragedy emerged our parish. God gave us the Holy Prophet and Forerunner, John the Baptist, as our heavenly patron. He is, as the Sacred Scriptures proclaim, “the voice of one crying in the wilderness,” who prepares “the way of the Lord.” (Matt. 3:3) God raised him up “to give knowledge of salvation to His people,” “to give light to those sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:77-79) Such reflects our call as Orthodox Christians both individually and as a community.

We now find ourselves living in a post-Christian age and in one of the most secular parts of the country. False beliefs and the exaltation of wickedness pervade our community. Yet, a life in pursuit of wealth, power, and pleasure leave the soul empty. Only God can fulfill man's soul and satisfy its hunger (Ps.106:9, LXX). Only the Truth, that is, the Truth that God has revealed to us about Himself and His way to salvation, can set us free (John 8:32). Thus, we must be a beacon of this Truth. We must continue to welcome all who seek the truth about God, about this world, about human nature, and about the meaning and purpose of life.

God brought the people here who established our parish. Our history reveals that this parish possesses strong roots. As Orthodox Christians, we are rooted in the Gospel and in Sacred Tradition. Our Russian heritage is primarily a Christian heritage and culture formed by the Orthodox Church. By God's grace and because of these strong roots, we can, together as the Body of Christ, here and now, weather the stormy temptations and trials that beset us. We need not worry about being fashionable to the times or even relevant in the secular sense. Saint Paul admonishes us not to be “conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Rom. 12:2)

Therefore, let us honor our parish's history and legacy by our witness to the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us support our parish and one another, striving at all times to grow in our love for God and our neighbor. For Our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us that those who follow Him “shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

Namesdays, Birthdays, and Anniversaries

August 1- Birthday of Valentina Laletina

August 3- Wedding Anniversary of Paul and Irene Gessling

August 4- Namesday of Maria Katich

August 6- Wedding Anniversary of Innocenty and Angelina Yiu

August 8- Birthday of Nicholas Timokhin

August 16- Birthday of Boris Gerlovin

August 17- Birthday of Konstantin Timokhin

August 21- Birthday of Michael DeFlores

August 26- Namesday of Maxim Tikhomirov

August 30- Birthday of Elena Latour

September 30- Namesday of Vera Mikhailova and Sofia Katich

October 8- Birthday of Vera Mikhailova

October 13- Anniversary of Fr. Edward's ordination to the priesthood, Birthday of Anna Suvorinova

October 20- Birthday of Innocenty Yiu

October 22- Birthday of Maria Katich

October 23- Birthday of Edward Corena-Osorio

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

Archpastoral Visit

On Sunday, July 5, His Grace, Bishop Vasily of San Francisco and the West, made his archpastoral visit to our parish and presided over a Hierarchal Liturgy for the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist and honoring the 95th anniversary of the parish's official establishment. Accompanying His Grace were Deacon Serge Liberovsky, Subdeacon Jacob McAuley, and Reader Alexei Listvinsky. At the conclusion of the liturgy, His Grace awarded grammotas to Elena LaTour and Cynthia Hilton. After the festal luncheon, Fr. Edward took His Grace on a tour around Berkeley and to the U.C. Berkeley campus.

Schedule of Services

Sundays: Divine Liturgy at 10:00am

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

August, September, October services

Tuesday, August 18		Vigil	6:00pm
Wednesday, August 19	Transfiguration	Liturgy	10:00am
Thursday, August 27		Vigil	6:00pm
Friday, August 28	Dormition	Liturgy	10:00am
Thursday, September 10		Vespers	6:00pm
Friday, September 11	Beheading of St. John the Baptist	Liturgy	10:00am
Sunday, September 20		Vespers	6:00pm
Monday, September 21	Nativity of the Theotokos	Liturgy	10:00am
Saturday, September 26		Vigil	5:00pm
Sunday, September 27	Exaltation of the Cross	Liturgy	10:00am
Monday, October 5		Vespers	6:00pm
Tuesday, October 6	Conception of St. John the Baptist	Liturgy	10:00am
Tuesday, October 13		Vespers	6:00pm
Wednesday, October 14	Protection of the Theotokos	Liturgy	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.

Upcoming Events

August 14-27: Dormition Fast

October 20-23: Diocesan Assembly in Colorado Springs, Colorado