



*I am the vine
you are the branches.*

John 15:5

Be Grapevine

A NEWSLETTER OF ST. LAWRENCE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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*Holy Apostle
John the Theologian
May, 21/8*

CALENDAR

- May 20 11:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- May 27 Pentecost
- May 31 7 p.m. Academy Spring Sing
- June 3 4:30 p.m. LGS Monastery Dinner

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Christ has Ascended! Into Glory with a Shout!

What a wonderful year 2018 has been so far by the grace of God. We experienced tremendous spiritual richness in Lent and Pascha, a wedding blazing with love of neighbor, inspired guest speakers, the feast of Mid-Pentecost, the historic three-day visit of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America to our parishes, little Felton, and the opening of Saint George cathedral in San Francisco, and the holy feast of Ascension.

When, by the grace of God, we are granted this degree of spiritual motivation and inspiration, we must guard and take advantage of the opportunity. Sloth, ingratitude, dull-mindedness, distractions and temptations, and every passion, will work to rob us of the spiritual opportunity at hand. For when we are spiritually focused and warm-hearted towards Christ, sin is overcome and our salvation is advanced and the devil and the demons, knowing this, struggle more intensely during these times of grace to stagnate our spiritual growth.

Most specifically, we must not take for granted the visit of the Archbishop whose physical presence blesses, validates, and sanctifies a community. For, over the last ten years, our auxiliary bishops have visited for meetings and ordinations. Bishop Andonios, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, knows us well, is loved by our clergy, and is readily available by email or telephone. The clergy have traveled to New York to be with Archbishop Demetrios. We also meet with him whenever he is present on the west coast for various duties. But now the Archbishop has given us the incredible gift of himself. For, as is said often, only when the bishop is present is the Church visibly complete.

Among all the blessings delivered to us this weekend, perhaps the most important was His Eminence Demetrios' exhortation for us to recognize that we live in a "post-truth" era. Not that truth has passed but that our society is no longer interested in what is true, provable, observable, and documented. Rather the society is obsessed with emotions and subjective, personal opinions. As Orthodox Christians who prefer contemplation of the mysteries of ineffable grace, we must never forget that reality is rooted in the simple and undeniable truth of Jesus the Christ. "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn. 14:6), the "Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt. 16:16). All reality is revealed and known

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FROM THE PARISH



ACADEMY CORNER

May 21	2:45 p.m. Youth Choir
May 25	11:15 a.m. Spirit Rally
May 28	Memorial Day (No School)
May 30	2:45 p.m. Youth Choir
May 31	7 p.m. Spring Sing
June 1	9:30 a.m. Late Start

Thank You from the Academy!

The Academy would like to thank everyone who attended our Nearly Summer Soirée and participated in our cash drawing. We'd like to thank everyone who contributed wine and other items for the raffle, and especially Milt Silver for contributing his wonderful woodwork and wine, and Mariana Squatrito for her beautiful pottery, and Anna Burkett for her amazing embroidered Ukrainian Rushnyk cloth.

Upcoming School Year

Applications are open for new students! Please contact the school for more information.

HOMILIES ONLINE!

An easy way to prepare for Sundays and feast days throughout the year is to listen to the previous year's homily at www.slocc.com/audio. Take a listen!

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through Him, and Him alone.

So we must always strive to press through the confusion of secular-mindedness, the unnatural passions, and demonic temptation to discover the truth. Have a question? Find the answer! Have a doubt? Reaffirm your belief! Hear a rumor? Confront it! Presented with one side of a story? Seek out the other half! Ignorant in things of the Faith? Study! Spiritually lethargic? Take action! Feeling lonely? Invite someone over! Have your feelings hurt? Communicate!

In his book "Speaking to God," Archbishop Demetrios says of the secular-minded confusion we face daily, and at times even within the Church, "They connect fragments of the truth with strings of lies, they present diametrically opposed ideologies. They arouse the passions, and incite the instincts. They rouse storms in the heart, they cause gaps in our convictions, and they overturn the scale of values." He concludes, "God, Absolute Simplicity, make Christianity our ideology; a way of thinking for all plagued by the epidemic of confusion."

Individually, we cut through this confusion through prayer and study, but especially through repentance. We must come to the sacrament of Confession regularly. But it is equally important to repent daily in our evening prayers. And perhaps most importantly, for the contemporary man, to repent immediately and openly with each offense given or sin committed, repenting throughout each day in correlation with our sin throughout each day; as a manner of existence.

Corporately, we cut through this confusion by way of worship, teachings, and open dialogue. Orthodox worship is a "school of theology." Corporate prayer is itself pedagogical; it is intended to form and instruct. Good teaching addresses current trends, fills gaps in the community's spiritual knowledge, and confronts error. Open dialogue, as defined by the Church, not by popular opinion, is the respectful articulation of the Faith as it applies to parish experiences and needs. Open dialogue is facilitated by the clergy and parish administration but it cannot be achieved without the respectful assertiveness of the faithful.

Being "in the world but not of the world" (John 17:14-15), we cut through this confusion by fulfilling the Ascension commandment: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19). "I have to do this?" Yes. Remember, all reality is revealed and known through Him, and Him alone. "But I'm not an Apostle!?" You're right, you're not. As His Eminence exhorted us, we are not called to be Apostles; we are called to be Christ.

In the Providence of God, these are the thoughts and words delivered to Saint Lawrence Church by our Archbishop Demetrios. It is what God put on his heart, so we must have needed to hear it. Let us ascend therefore towards Christ in submission to His providence. Let us put aside our lack of truth, and obsession with our own subjective opinions, and embrace the reality of Him and His holy Church. That we might all "agree with one another that there may be no divisions, that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought" (1 Cor. 1:10).

Christ has ascended! Into Glory with a Shout!

Fr. Thaddaeus

PERSON TO PERSON

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Spring on up to the Upper Room and join the Academy on May 31 at 7 p.m. for our annual Spring Sing concert featuring the Academy Orff Orchestra (music classes) and the St. Lawrence Youth Choir.

Please join us for a fun night of music! Free admission.



Save the Date

On Sunday, June 3, at 4:30 p.m. we will have the blessing of hosting a fundraiser dinner for the Monastery of the Theotokos, Life Giving Spring. Come support Mother Markella and the sisterhood in the beautiful and much needed building expansion project. If you are not able to attend, please consider making a donation directly.

NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Free Firewood

Please call Jeri Mears, 335-5156, for details.

Free to a Good Home

Perfectly working treadmill. Please contact Bill Thanos 831-345-3862.

Summer Coffee Hour

We need Summer help with coffee prep. If you can help with part, or whole, with prep and/or clean-up please let Lynn Price (209) 404-3110, or the office know.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Healthy Confrontation

Offenses, rumors, and miscommunications are only healed by the silence of perfect forgiveness or the sound of healthy confrontation. Truly forgive in trust and peace, or, go to the source. Then "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

Thank You To All Who Helped



As with the Paschal season and every feast day, a myriad of people put their hands to the plow in so many ways, many of them unseen and unacknowledged. We witnessed this once again with the visit of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios this past weekend. Receiving the bishop, participating in the Doxology service, and spending time with him made for a truly amazing day. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard getting ready over the past few weeks. A big thank you to Anna Burkett and her helpers for putting such an amazing meal together. Thank you to all who served, sang, decorated, cleaned the church grounds, set up, and took down. May God bless and reward all those who serve this community, rewarding each openly (and eternally!) for all that is done "in secret."



SHOP THE ABBOT'S!

New This Week

- ✦ Drum set
- ✦ Beer mugs
- ✦ Selfie sticks
- ✦ Drizzle boots
- ✦ Tents, various
- ✦ Tiny baby crib
- ✦ Model train set
- ✦ Wooden cradle
- ✦ Mini fondue set
- ✦ Child's tap shoes
- ✦ Paper cutters, sm.
- ✦ Metal plant stand
- ✦ Wheat grass juicer
- ✦ Vicks humidicator
- ✦ Hanging bird feeder
- ✦ Electric knife, in box
- ✦ Rolling pins, various
- ✦ Pet carriers, lrg. & sm.
- ✦ Electric food dehydrator
- ✦ Duo mesh clothes hamper
- ✦ Flex Form muffin pans, new



SAINT LAWRENCE

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Return Service Requested

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Fri. May 18 (5)	<i>No Services</i>
Sat. May 19 (6)	7 p.m. Great Vespers
Sun. May 20 (7)	9 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Mon. May 21 (8)	<i>No Services</i>
Tues. May 22 (9)	7 p.m. Vespers
Wed. May 23 (10)	7 p.m. Vespers
Thur. May 24 (11)	<i>No Services</i>

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For Sunday, May 20 (7)
Acts 20:16-18, 28-36
John 17:1-13

BIRTHDAYS

Stephen Aufdermaur	May 18
Adam Roberts	May 19
Patrick Hulter	May 21

ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas & Johnni-Sophia Woolworth	Married 16 years, May 20
Phil & Kati Adams	Married 30 years, May 21
Dan & Susan Shisler	Married 37 years, May 23
James & Monica Menard	Married 9 years, May 24

MEMORY ETERNAL

5/19/2012 Connie Naomi Le Roux

CLEANING TEAM

May 19	Maria S., Pres. Claudia C., Shannon C., Ramah H..
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CONTACT THE GRAPEVINE

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Submissions by e-mail are preferable!

Deadline for announcements: Tuesday noon for Friday's issue

Please specify how long you want the announcement to run. Default is 2 weeks.

*Historic Visit of His Eminence
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS of America*



Many more photos to view on the church website.

Opening of St. George Orthodox Cathedral, Daly City



Elevation of Fr. Luke to rank of Protopresbyter.

*Axios!
Axios! Axios!*

