



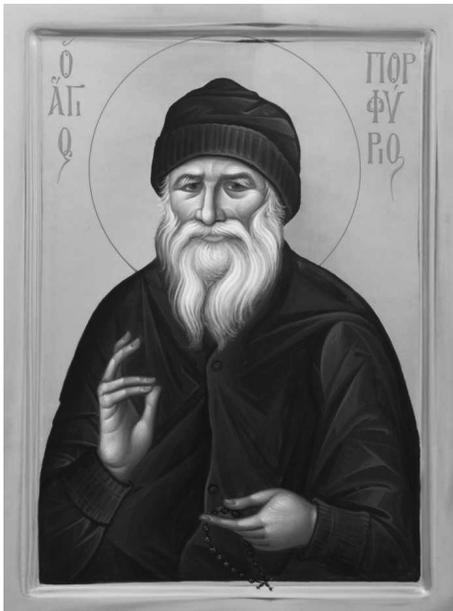
*I am the vine
you are the branches.*

John 15:5

be Grapevine

A NEWSLETTER OF ST. LAWRENCE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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*Saint Porphyrios
of Kavsokalivya
December 2*

CALENDAR

- Dec. 9** Women's Luncheon
- Dec. 13** 7 p.m. Board Meeting
- Dec. 15** 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy w/
Archimandrite Damaskinos

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The Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple “Beginning our return to Paradise”

Monday, December 3,

6 p.m. Great Vespers with Litya, 7 p.m. Festal Matins

Tuesday, December 4, 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy

A small girl is led by her parents through a pressing crowd. Amidst the people are mixed sheep and goats being led towards the Temple. The poor carry pairs of doves to offer for sacrifice, as her parents did in past years. The family of three pass through the great archway in the high wall and enter the expansive courtyard. Across the great open space before them, the immense and towering Temple draws them forward; it is their destination, their goal, and the three year old's new home. To those yet to unite with God, the Temple is a place of fear, blood sacrifice, and cautious priestly ritual. But for young Mary, it will be an encounter with He who is the Holy of Holies, and her (and our!) return to Paradise.



For after mankind fell into sin and was banished from Paradise, a Cherubim with a flaming sword was placed to guard the entrance (Gen. 3:24). And, as Saint Basil the Great puts it, “If the entrance to the holy is such,

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FROM THE PARISH



ACADEMY CORNER

Nov. 30	11:15 a.m. Spirit Rally
Dec. 3	2:45 p.m. Youth Choir
Dec. 4	8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Dec. 11	Hot Lunch
Dec. 17	9:30 a.m. Late Start 2:45 p.m. Youth Choir

Having children is a matter of nature; but raising them and educating them in the virtues is a matter of mind and will. I am speaking of educating children's hearts in virtue and piety—a sacred duty which cannot be transgressed. That's why we must offer them to the Lord.

— Saint John Chrysostom

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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and the entryway of the temple is so praiseworthy and majestic, then what is to be said of the Holy of Holies? And who is worthy to enter into the Holy Place?"

And yet, in a voluntary action that initiates our own salvation, Mary not only enters the Temple where few are allowed to go, but also enters the Holy of Holies, the inner sanctuary, and in doing so she opens for us the path of faith by which we may return to union with God, to walk daily with Him again in Paradise, eternally. Mary enters the Temple as our representative, our perfect and spotless offering, who will "hear the word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28) in an unconditional manner which all before her failed to accomplish.

Do we not also need to follow her example and enter into a new life in Christ? When we entered the Church, we renounced Satan, and sin, and the conforming our mind to the world. When we entered the Baptismal font, we made a new covenant, a promise to God, that we would join the war "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). When we enter the Liturgy, we offer ourselves prepared, having exerted ourselves spiritually from the previous Eucharist, and stand ready to be reinvigorated mystically by His sacred Body and Blood. When we return into the world, we entered it empowered and committed to continue the unseen warfare.

The Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple is not a quaint, historic event for which we offer a passing smile, or the quick kiss of an icon, or the robot attendance at a service. The dark forces of the enemy, that true "dark side" which ruled the world before the Incarnation of the Son, are on the run. The Mother of God has entered the Temple and the blood offerings are about to end. The secret weapon of our salvation, a pure virgin worthy of divine motherhood, has stepped onto the battlefield. To the enemy, she looks like a helpless little girl: defenseless, harmless, just another victim to be. But by the grace of the Holy Spirit, that little girl is about to bring the Kingdom of Darkness to an end.



Are we on her side? Are we on the side of the King of Light, her son, the Son of God? If so we must take the battlefield with her. We cannot hide under a bush or rock, or in secular occupations and impassioned coping methods. We cannot avoid the fight and, if we try, we will only be taken prisoner by the darkness. And taken prisoner, we will eventually become one with them. It cannot be helped. It is the nature of warfare. We cannot serve two masters. Pick one, and join the fight.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God,

F. Thaddeus

PERSON TO PERSON

FROM THE PARISH

Wet Umbrellas

With the rainy season now upon us please remember to stow wet umbrellas in the gray cans provided for that purpose to the right of the main doors as you enter the narthex. Placing them in the cans helps keep the narthex floor and carpet dry. Do not tuck umbrellas in other places throughout the narthex and nursery. Lastly remember to check that you have your own umbrella when headed home, as many do look alike.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

St. Nicholas Pageant News

Our annual St. Nicholas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 16, at 4 p.m. in the Upper Room of the church. All parish children are welcome to be part of this event. If your child is not in the Academy, please contact Anne Schoepp at 336-3019 or psalmanne23@gmail.com to find out how your child can participate. Academy children will rehearse during school hours.

Women's Luncheon

A time of food and fellowship has been arranged for all the women upstairs after church on December 9. Please plan ahead so you won't miss out on the fun. If possible, please arrange for babysitting (toddlers & up). We would like you to relax and be able to visit.

Calling All Parents!

Do you still like to play dress-up occasionally? Now is your chance. We are having the biennial Youth Group Parent Hunt on December 7. It is most fun for everyone if we have at least 12 parents to hunt (you do not have to have a child in the youth group to participate). Please call, text, or email Emily Adams with any questions, for information, or to join in the fun. 325-3331, Emily.a.s.adams@gmail.com.

Nativity Fast Confessions

Fathers Thaddaeus, Luke, Nathaniel, Silouan, and Methodius are all available for preNativity Confessions. An essential preparation of our hearts, minds, and souls for the beloved feast of Christ's mystical Birth, we fulfill our duty to confess at least four times a year during the seasonal fasts of Nativity, Pascha, Peter and Paul, and the Dormition. The therapeutic reality of Confession is "the more often the better." Let's clean out the stall of our crowded hearts, that there may be room to receive Christ.

THANK YOU

Art Show A Great Success

A precious moment we had shared together as artists with our guests both last Friday evening and Sunday afternoon surely enriched our fellowship in Christ in a special way. Thank you all for your participation, especially Father Deacon Menard who provided us with his pieces, giving weight to our art show in the center. We would like to thank all the artists who participated and all the volunteers for setting up and helping clean up. A portion of the proceeds will be sent to the victims of the Camp Fire through Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius Mission Church (OCA) in Chico.

May the fellowship of artists at Saint Lawrence enlighten your furtherance in art during this Advent season!

In Christ,
Archpriest John Takahashi



TRADING POST

Plan Ahead

There are now several Dave Ramsey financial books available in the church library at the office. Remember it's also a great place to find Nativity, or anytime, reading.

Free Epson Ink

10 Epson ink cartridges for a Stylus R800 or R1800, also combo pack of HP 45/78 available. Call Crystal at 239-2273.

Free

Twin-size Captain's bed with three drawers. Call the Mears 335-5156

NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Babysitter Needed

Bryanna and Dustin Pellizzer are currently looking for a new babysitter in the area (they recently moved to Ben Lomond) for two days a week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, for 6 month old Emiliya. If anyone is interested or knows anybody that would be, please let them know, (408) 849-5376 or bryanna_tabler@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Room For Rent

Dn. Paul Trigg has an upstairs room to rent. If you know of someone who needs a room, please call him for details: 336-8912.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Nativity Alms

In addition to increased prayer, almsgiving is expected to increase during the Nativity fast. This means, specifically, giving money to relieve poverty and material need. Doing this offers a counterbalance to people's urges to overspend and over-indulge in material goods during Christmas. It brings the faithful in contact with others who are far worse off financially, quelling feelings of personal deprivation that tend to arise in this culture where so many have so much.

SHOP THE ABBOT'S!

New This Week

- ✦ Levels
- ✦ Plungers
- ✦ Blenders
- ✦ Easy chair, rose
- ✦ Shoe organizers
- ✦ Vintage flat iron
- ✦ Juiceman Jr., bx.
- ✦ Bird/critter cages
- ✦ Res-Q-Ladder, bx.
- ✦ Rosetta Stone, Italian
- ✦ Foot massager
- ✦ Metal patio set/umbrella
- ✦ Dominoes, colored, dbl. 6
- ✦ Kitchen Aid hand mixer, bx.
- ✦ Gingerbread House kit, new
- ✦ Plush bouncing rocking horse
- ✦ Darth Vader candy server, new
- ✦ Little Tikes picnic table/benches
- ✦ Sign: "If at first you don't succeed skydiving may not be for you."



SAINT LAWRENCE

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Return Service Requested

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Fri. Nov. 30 (17)	<i>No Services</i>
Sat. Dec. 1 (Nov. 18)	7 p.m. Great Vespers
Sun. Dec. 2 (Nov. 19)	7:30 a.m. Matins 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Mon. Dec. 3 (Nov. 20)	6 p.m. Great Vespers (L) 7 p.m. Festal Matins
Tues. Dec. 4 (Nov. 21)	Entrance of the Theotokos 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Wed. Dec. 5 (Nov. 22)	7 p.m. Vespers
Thur. Dec. 6 (Nov. 23)	<i>No Services</i>

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For Sunday, December 2 (Nov. 19)
Ephesians 6:10-17
Luke 12:16-21

BIRTHDAYS

Crystal Duniway	November 30
Ethan Kaemmerling	November 30
Benjamin Tanguay	December 1
Nikka Besch Lobastov	December 3
Lucy Smith	December 4
Rodney Warren	December 4
Erfried Besch	December 5
Jeffrey Adams	December 6

CLEANING TEAM

December 1	Peter F., Vasiliki M., Mary P., Pres. Lucia R.
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CONTACT THE GRAPEVINE

E-mail: newsletter@slocc.com
Phone: (831) 335-0300 Fax: (831) 335-0353
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.