



*I am the vine
you are the branches.*

John 15:5

The Grapevine

A NEWSLETTER OF ST. LAWRENCE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Nativity of the Theotokos

Great Vespers and Festal Matins

Sunday, Sept. 20, 6 p.m.

Liturgy Monday, Sept. 21, 8 a.m.

CALENDAR

Oct. 1	7 p.m. Board Meeting
Oct. 8	7 p.m. Bennett Timios
Oct. 11	3 p.m. Hardenbrook / Bennett Wedding

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The Nativity of the Theotokos

This present feastday is for us the beginning of feastdays. The Nativity of the Mother of God has as its purpose the uniting of the Word with flesh, this most glorious of all miracles, unceasingly proclaimed, immeasurable and incomprehensible. Therefore the present God-graced day, the first of our feastdays in the new year, offers all of us a common joy. Be of good cheer, behold, this is the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin and of the renewal of the human race! Truly one ought to celebrate this mystery and to offer to the Mother of God a gift by way of words: since nothing is so pleasing to her as prayer and praise.

Let there be one common festal celebration both in heaven and on earth. Let everything now celebrate, that which is in the world and that beyond the world. Now is made the created temple for the Creator of all, and creation is prepared to be a new divine habitation for the Creator. Now our nature, having been banished from the land of blessedness, receives the principle of theosis and strives to rise up to the highest glory.

The first creation of mankind occurred from the pure and unsullied earth; but their nature of worthiness was darkened and they were deprived of grace through the sin of disobedience. For this we were cast out of the land of life and, in place of the delights of paradise, we received temporal life as our inheritance by birth, and with it the death and corruption of our race. Neither the natural nor the written law, nor the fiery preaching of reconciliation by the prophets had power to heal the sickness. No one knew how to rectify human nature or by what means to raise it up to its former worthiness.

Therefore the Redeemer of the human race willed to arrange a new birth and re-creation of mankind: like as under the first creation, taking dust from the virginal and pure earth, wherein He formed the first Adam, so also now, having planned His Incarnation upon the earth, in place of dust, He chooses from out of all the creation this Pure and Immaculate Virgin. The Creator of Adam is now the New Adam, in order to save the old.

Mary, the glory of all mankind, was born of the tribe of David, and from the

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FROM THE PARISH



ACADEMY CORNER

“If you teach children—your own or other people’s—let this work become a service to God; teach with zeal, study beforehand in order to make your teaching clear, intelligible, as complete as possible, fruitful.”
—St. John of Kronstadt

HOMILIES ONLINE!

An easy way to prepare for Sundays and feasts throughout the year is to listen to the previous year’s homily at www.slocc.com/our-faith/ Take a listen!

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seed of Joachim and the womb of Anna. Joachim was a gentle man, pious, raised in God’s law. Living prudently and walking before God, he grew old without child: the years of his prime provided no continuation of his lineage. Anna was likewise God-loving, prudent, but barren; she lived in harmony with her husband, but was childless. As much concerned about this, as about the observance of the law of the Lord, she was daily stung by the grief of childlessness and suffered that which is the usual lot of the childless—she grieved, she sorrowed, she was distressed, and impatient at being childless. Thus, Joachim and his spouse lamented that they had no successor to continue their line; yet the spark of hope was not extinguished in them completely: both intensified their prayer about the granting to them of a child to continue their line. With intense and enduring prayer, both fervently besought God that He would undo their sterility and make fruitful their childlessness. And they did not give up on their efforts until their prayer was fulfilled.

Celebrating now and rejoicing in this sacred feast, I greet you in our common joy. All together rich and poor, lads and maidens, old and young, let all together keep the feast in honor of the Maiden, the Mother of God and the Prophetess: from her has issued forth the Prophet, foretold by Moses, Christ our Savior, our God and Truth. Amen.

—from St. Andrew of Crete, Discourse on the Nativity of the Theotokos



Walk For Life

Though the world may look a little different right now, Pregnancy Resource Center’s commitment to the women, babies, youth and families of Santa Cruz County remains steadfast. This year the PRC will host a Virtual Walk/5k Run 2020 on Saturday, Sept. 19. You can find out more and to register at www.prcwalk.org

In order to support the PRC this year, the Saint Lawrence Youth Group will have a table after liturgy for the next two Sundays collecting donations for this very important ministry to the community. Look for the table and take a moment to make a donation.

PERSON TO PERSON

FROM THE PARISH

Help for Fire Victims

In the recent fires a few families in our parish have lost their home and all their possessions. For anyone who would like to donate directly to these parishioners please make out your checks to SLOCC with the memo of Fire Alms. These funds will directly help the families during this difficult time.

Nominating Board Members

The sad truth is, we hear horror stories about parish boards that range from political drama, to mind-numbing numeric boredom, to an inescapable “club mentality.” This is not our board. Our board exists to fund our mission and vision, and maintain a sustainable financial practice. And the “spirit” of the board is dictated by those who voluntarily serve on it.

Are you good with numbers or business? Do you like to plan or organize? Want to see the parish grow and expand? Are you committed to Orthodox Christian education? Do you want to participate in establishing our spiritual legacy? Nominate yourself or a neighbor!

Nominations for the Board of Trustees can be given to any current board members or to the nominating committee which will be announced shortly.

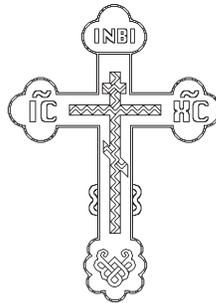
In the Shade

When you use the patio area and the shade umbrellas please lower the umbrella at your table when you leave. This will help prevent them from being blown over and broken when more gusty breezes start in the autumn months.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Timios for Jason

All men, high school and up, are invited to the Timios for Jason Bennett, 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, in the Upper Room of the church. Bring a few bucks to help with snacks/drinks, and married men remember your quarters for each two bits of advice you will be sharing.



NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Job Opportunity

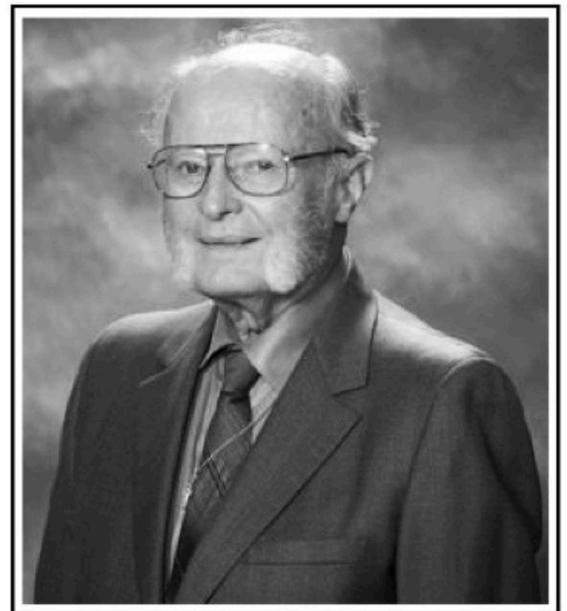
A family with connections to our parish is looking for childcare three days a week. Alegra needs help on MWF from 9-5. They live in Felton and have three girls, aged 1, 7, and 11. Anyone interested can call Alegra at 247-4191 for more details.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Treasures in Heaven

Tithing is like an eternal savings account. A set amount given regularly leads to riches, while random amounts given sporadically create a false impression of devotion.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (Matt. 6:19-20)



Memory Eternal!

Jim Wilkinson

June 29, 1928 ~ September 9, 2020

Troparion for the Nativity of the Theotokos

—Tone 4

Your birth, O Theotokos,
Has brought joy to all the world!
From you rose the Sun of Righteousness,
Christ our God!
He loosed the curse and gave the blessing;
He conquered death and granted us eternal Life.

SHOP THE ABBOT'S!

New This Week

- ☼ Smoker
- ☼ Lava Lamps
- ☼ Pool Ladder
- ☼ Bookshelves
- ☼ Coaster Sets
- ☼ Twin Stroller
- ☼ Vintage Icebox
- ☼ Baskets Galore!
- ☼ Tomatopress, bx.
- ☼ Sleeping/Nap Bags
- ☼ Hope Chest, on legs
- ☼ Changing Table, 3 tier
- ☼ MicroChip Pet Feeder
- ☼ Pamp. Chef Ice Shaver
- ☼ Flash Cards, Math, etc.
- ☼ Critter Cages, lrg./sm.
- ☼ Stir Crazy Corn Popper
- ☼ 1/8 Piper Cub, w/remote
- ☼ Yoga Back Bending Bench



SAINT LAWRENCE



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Return Service Requested

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Fri. Sept. 18 (5)	6 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Sat. Sept. 19 (6)	7 p.m. Great Vespers
Sun. Sept. 20 (7)	7:30 a.m. Matins 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 6 p.m. Great Vespers (L) 7 p.m. Festal Matins
Mon. Sept. 21 (8)	Nativity of Theotokos 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Tues. Sept. 22 (9)	<i>No Services</i>
Wed. Sept. 23 (10)	7 p.m. Vespers
Thur. Sept. 24 (11)	<i>No Services</i>

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For Sunday, September 20 (7)
 Galatians 6:11-18
 John 3:13-17

BIRTHDAYS

Caiden Pflueger	September 18
Pam Xenia Tovik	September 18
Randall Moore	September 19
William Mears	September 21
Shannon Clausing	September 22
Maria Dingman	September 22
Kenna Clausing	September 23
Kloe Beck	September 25
Eleni Young	September 25

SANCTUARY CLEANING TEAM

September 19 Maria S., Pres. Claudia C.,
 Shannon C., Ramah H., Sophia D.

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP

September 20 Dejon and Sara Lunsford

CONTACT THE GRAPEVINE

E-mail: office@slocc.com
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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.