



*I am the vine
you are the branches.*

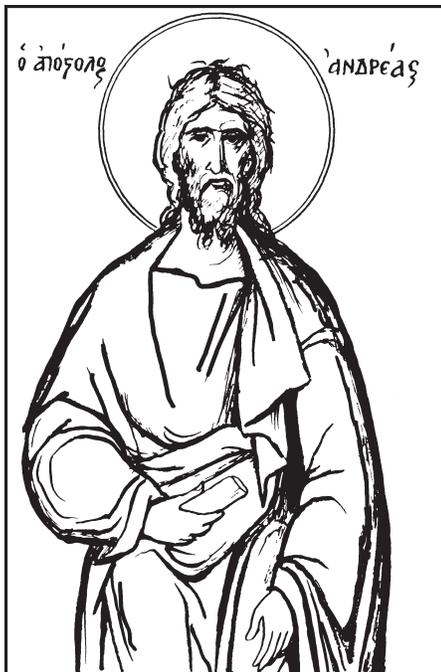
John 15:5

Hear Ye Hear Ye Grapevine

A NEWSLETTER OF ST. LAWRENCE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

6192 Highway 9 • Felton, CA 95018 • phone (831) 335-0300 • fax (831) 335-0353 • office@slocc.com

www.slocc.com



*Holy Apostle Andrew
the First Called
Nov. 30 / Dec. 13*

Christ's Christmas Gift to All: Acquiring the Mind of the Church

All Christians, clerical and lay, have often become aware that if there is a burning topic and a great contemporary need, it is the need to acquire the mind of the Church. Our mind should be permeated by the mind of the Church. Our thought, life, mode of living, our desire, our will should be altered by the good alteration effected by the life of the Church.

The Apostle Paul urges, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). But since the Church is not a human organization, but the holy and blessed Body of Christ, therefore we too are commanded to think with the catholic mind of the Church and be animated by the life of the Church, not to do anything apart from its life and teaching.

This is connected with two facts. One, that there are many Christians today who do not have the mind of the Church, that is to say, their mind is on "earthly things" (Phil. 3:19). Their mind is estranged from the mind of the Church; it is simply worldly. Their life is not in tune with the mind of the Church. The other fact is that acquiring the mind of the Church is related to the "making" of a man, which is connected with his deification. Insofar as the man has an unclean and darkened nous, he is an infant and a baby. To the extent that he grows in illumination of his nous, he also is made a man, which means that he is "Christified" and "made Church."

In this perspective we can look at the Apostle Paul's words: "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Cor. 13:11). If this passage is associated with what the Apostle said before and after it—where he was speaking of the "perfect" in relation to what is "in part" and about seeing God "face to face" in relation to "seeing in a mirror dimly"—then we can understand that the mind of the Church is connected with man's spiritual fulfillment, which consists in partaking of the purifying, illuminating, and deifying energy of God.

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CALENDAR

| | |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 14 | 7 p.m. Catechism |
| Dec. 14 | 7 p.m. Board Meeting |
| Dec. 16 | 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy w/ Archimandrite Damaskinos |
| Dec. 17 | 4 p.m. St. Nicholas Pageant |

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FROM THE PARISH



ACADEMY CORNER

Dec. 11 2:45 p.m. Youth Choir

Dec. 14 Hot Lunch

Presentation Video

We've uploaded a new and improved "Who We Are: St. Lawrence Academy"; a wonderful video about our school that Patrick Macy has been working so diligently on with the help of Dan Agulian. www.vimeo.com/244488442

ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS TREES

St. Nicholas Christmas Trees is doing very well after it's first few days open! We appreciate all the volunteers that have come to help us already. If you feel called to help on the lot, there are always spots that need filled. Please visit our website www.stlawrenceacademy.com and look under parent involvement for the online sign up link. Thank you in advance for coming to help us, we couldn't do this without all of you!

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 Take a listen!

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A great deal is being said today about acquiring the mind of the Church. Sometimes, however, we do not know just what the mind of the Church is. We identify it with a blind obedience to some general laws or else we connect it with outward things. We usually think that it is the mind of the Church when others accept us. But if they dare to cast doubt on our actions, we consider that they lack the mind of the Church. Thus we divide people as being of the Church or not, by external things and by characteristics which we construct according to our passions.

All the holy Fathers teach that man's salvation is a combination of sacra-

Schedule Your Nativity Confession Today!

Fathers Thaddaeus, Luke, Nathaniel, Silouan, and Methodius are all available. Clean out the heart that it may have room for Christ.

ments and asceticism. We cannot understand the sacraments without asceticism in Christ, and we cannot live a real ascetic life without the sacraments of the Church. Moreover, the whole life in the Church is an experience of a great mystery. Asceticism is in reality experience of the commandments of Christ which is attained by partaking in the purifying, illuminating, and deifying energy of God. Insofar as anyone experiences the purifying, illuminating, and deifying

energy of God, he is experiencing rightly the sacramental life.

To have an Orthodox mindset (phronema) means a man's complete turn of mind in all things, from the way he lives to the relationship he has with God. And literally, if the nous (spiritual intellect, "eye" of the soul) is darkened, then the whole mind is carnal. But if the nous is illuminated, which means that it has the Holy Spirit within it, then the whole mind is a mind of spirit and, of course, a mind of the Church.

When we speak of having an Orthodox mind, we mean chiefly that our nous is the nous of Christ, as the Apostle Paul says, or at least that we accept the experience of the saints and have communion with them. This is the way of the life of the Orthodox Tradition and the way of life of Christ's life. The Orthodox mind is expressed by the dogmas of the Church, because, on the one hand, the dogmas express the life which the Church has and the revelation which the saints have received, and on the other hand, they lead the passionate people and the babes in Christ to unity and communion with God.

We must say at this point that the theology of the Church is ascetic, that is to say, it defines the methods of cure in order for man to attain deification. So the dogmas express the revelation and the life which the Church has, and they also cure man and lead him towards deification. They are spiritual road signs. In this sense we can say that the dogmas save man and sanctify him. This happens because they cure him and give him the right orientation on his way towards God.

—from Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos, *The Mind of the Church*

PERSON TO PERSON

FROM THE PARISH

Parking

Please remember to keep the visitor parking spaces open for visitors, especially on Sundays and feasts. You are not considered a visitor simply because you are running a little late for Liturgy.

Also please remember with the Tree Lot open to please not park in the two rows directly in front of the Abbot's during services as they need these spaces for shoppers.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The Baron invites one and all to a Medieval Pageant in honor of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ at his manor on Sunday, December 17, at 4 pm in the Upper Room at church. The children of the parish present the Nativity story with ancient carols in the Baron's Pageant, followed by a visit from a special beloved one. For more information contact Anne Schoepp at 331-5027, or psalmanne23@gmail.com.

Bring friends and family for an evening of fun, caroling, and refreshment. Please bring finger food or dessert to share.

Carol, Brothers, Carol!

Please join us for Christmas caroling in the Ben Lomond neighborhood on Sunday, Dec. 10. We will meet at 6 p.m. at the Hydes', go around the neighborhood, and return for cider and snacks.

On Saturday, Dec. 16, those wishing to carol at rest homes please meet at the church at 1 p.m. to carpool. For further details about either event, call the Hydes at 336-2350 or email jhyde@scu.edu.

Mystery Book Signing

Katherine Hyde's second mystery, Bloodstains with Brontë, releases Dec. 12. She will have copies available for sale and signing on the patio after church on Sunday, Dec. 17.



The Vicariate for Palestinian & Jordanian Orthodox Communities in America Monthly Schedule Sheet — December 2017 Very Rev. Fr. Damaskinos Alazrai Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne

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|-------------------|--|--|------------|
| Saturday, Dec. 9 | Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Great Martyr Catherine | Life Giving Spring Orthodox Mission 640 South Orchard Avenue, Ukiah, CA 95482 | 10:30 a.m. |
| Saturday, Dec. 9 | Southern California Youth Group Monthly Meeting | Mr. & Mrs. Emad's Swais Residence 9617 Carrari Ct, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737 | 7 p.m. |
| Sunday, Dec. 10 | Divine Liturgy | The Orthodox Church of the Annunciation 2525 Etiwanda Ave., San Bernardino 92410 | 10 a.m. |
| Saturday, Dec. 16 | Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. John of Damascus | St. Lawrence Orthodox Church 6192 Highway 9, Felton, CA 95018 | 9 a.m. |
| Sunday, Dec. 17 | Divine Liturgy | St. James Orthodox Church 195 North Main St., Milpitas, CA 95035 | 10 a.m. |
| Saturday, Dec. 23 | Al-Salam Choir Christmas Concert | Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church 1924 Trinity Ave, Walnut Creek CA 94596 | 7 p.m. |
| Sunday, Dec. 24 | Divine Liturgy | The Orthodox Church of the Annunciation 2525 Etiwanda Ave., San Bernardino 92410 | 6 p.m. |
| Sunday, Dec. 31 | Divine Liturgy | The Orthodox Church of the Annunciation 2525 Etiwanda Ave., San Bernardino 92410 | 10 a.m. |

NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

Compassionate Person!

There is a job opening beginning around the first of the year at the Glenwood house in Scotts Valley, where Michelle Duniway lives. They need a live-in person(s) to grocery shop, cook dinner, and reposition Michelle once during the night. Compensation includes room and board, utilities, internet, a small salary, and an annual week's vacation with pay. The duties are 5 days a week, with two full days and nights off. The live-in person can potentially have an off-site job as long as dinner is prepared. If you are interested in more information or have a friend who might be interested, please call Crystal at (831) 239-2273.

For Rent

Don d'Arms has a twelve by sixteen bedroom in a sunny bungalow one mile from the church. Contact Don at 831-704-2944 or dondarms@gmail.com for details.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Saturday Keeps Sunday Holy

Commit to attending vespers Saturday evening; the benefits are essential. End Saturday activities in time for vespers. Pray. Listen to the hymns. They are the thematic of the evening and the coming day. Move with the liturgical day, in prayer, from the darkness of evening (vespers) to the dawn (matins) and resurrectional light of day (liturgy). Salvation cannot be squeezed into the Sunday morning of an overly-busy weekend. Sunday liturgy is the culmination of our week-long focus on a Christ-centered life.

SHOP THE ABBOT'S!

New This Week

- ✦ Fedoras
- ✦ Fishing poles
- ✦ Booster seat
- ✦ Razor scooter
- ✦ Heat Dish, sm.
- ✦ 5 story firehouse
- ✦ Skis, snow boards
- ✦ 5' kitty play tower
- ✦ Piggy Bank collection
- ✦ Weber bullet BBQ
- ✦ Changing table, shelves
- ✦ View Master/new slides
- ✦ Long-handled shoe horn
- ✦ Coffee table/checker board
- ✦ Feather, sequined face mask
- ✦ Roland XP-80 keyboard/stand
- ✦ Food dehydrator, electric, new
- ✦ White bird cage, lrg. on wheels



SAINT LAWRENCE

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH
6192 Highway 9 • Felton, CA 95018
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Return Service Requested

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Fri. Dec. 8 (Nov. 25) | <i>No Services</i> |
| Sat. Dec. 9 (Nov. 26) | 7 p.m. Great Vespers |
| Sun. Dec. 10 (Nov. 27) | 7:30 a.m. Matins 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy |
| Mon. Dec. 11 (Nov. 28) | <i>No Services</i> |
| Tues. Dec. 12 (Nov. 29) | 7 p.m. Vespers |
| Wed. Dec. 13 (Nov. 30) | 7 p.m. Vespers |
| Thur. Dec. 14 (1) | <i>No Services</i> |

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For Sunday, December 10 (Nov. 27)
Ephesians 6: 10-17
Luke 17:12-19

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Kelly Davis | December 10 |
| Ramah Hinde | December 10 |
| Duane Kaemmerling | December 10 |
| Sara Lunsford | December 13 |
| Theodora Hulter | December 13 |

CLEANING TEAM

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Dec. 9 | Susan M., Maria D., Tia G., Pres. Susan, Molly K. |
|---------------|--|

CONTACT THE GRAPEVINE

E-mail: newsletter@slocc.com

Phone: 335-0300 Fax: 335-0353

Submissions by e-mail are preferable.

**Deadline for announcements:
Friday noon for Tuesday's issue**

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

VCUM Christmas Project

There are grocery bags in the narthex for us to fill to help Valley Churches United Missions again this year in collecting food for Christmas dinner for those in need. This Christmas they anticipate over 600 households will need help. A list of needed foods is printed on the bags, and a copy has been placed in your church box. If we run out of bags, you can also pick one up at many of the local grocery stores. Food bags may be brought to church for pickup or delivered directly to the addresses on the flyer. This is a wonderful ministry that helps take care of the needy in our own community.