

The Diocese of the West  
The Orthodox Church in America

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# St. Susanna Orthodox Church

July 2010

www.stsusanna.com



*Pastor:*

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*O most glorious Vladimir, in your old age you imitated the great Apostle Paul: / he abandoned childish things, while you forsook the idolatry of your youth. / Together with him you reached the fullness of divine wisdom: / you were adorned with the purity of holy baptism. // Now as you stand before Christ our Savior, pray that all Orthodox Christians may be saved!*

—Kontakion to Holy Prince Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles, in Tone 8

We are now faced with the full onset of summer. As we and our fellow human beings are praying for an upswing in the economy, many of us are also planning to take that vacation, however reduced in scale it may be, to leave the workaday tensions and to find refreshment. This is an interesting concept—finding refreshment. Most often, we use the words “refreshment” and “relaxation” interchangeably, and there is not fault in that. However, there can be a confusion spiritually speaking. St. Diodochus of Photiki, that ancient monastic expert on discernment, might emphasize for us that “refreshment” is not quite the same as “relaxation.” Refreshment is the renewing of one’s faculties—a resurrection of sorts of the all-too-often careworn and work-worn body, mind and soul, but does not carry the sense of letting one’s spiritual attentiveness fade away.

All too often, while seeking refreshment, we take the sense of “relaxation” to mean the same, and lose sight of those things that truly refresh us. It is a wonderful thing to have fun with family and friends, as long as we do not lose sight of who and what we are—members of the priesthood of all believers, children of the Royal Household of God, and keepers of the sanctity of creation. No, we are not “spiritual cops,” as I heard one man say at a public lecture some years ago, but at the same time, we should take care that we are not led into situations that we would not normally condone.

This is not about being stiff, or hyper-vigilant, but we do well to be attentive to the one thing needful, wherever we are: remembering who we truly are, and what our treasure truly is. Laughter, joking, fellowship, sports—these are fine and excellent activities, so long as we remember that we seek *refreshment*, and not a vacation from who we are. So often, even slight temptations—which can be anything, from seeking supremacy over another (intense competitive pride in everything from conversation to a game of checkers), to simple lust, to gluttony, avarice and an endless list of what our favorite weaknesses are (it can happen all too easily). Take the simple path: take it easy, and say your prayers, go do your daily vacation activities—whether you are touring, visiting a monastery, or even—going to Disney World. On the other hand, if you do slip and fall, repent and pray! Otherwise, our “relaxation” can leave us feeling as if our time for *refreshment* has left us spiritually drained. The point is, to have a truly fine and refreshing summer, whether “on vacation,” or at home—for ultimately, we are who we are; it’s just too hard trying to be someone else.

## Video Night

In June, we began showing videos in the church dining hall, that have aired on cable Channel 8 as part of the St. Susanna Orthodox Church video series. However, we inter-

\*Corner of Jamestown Rd.  
& Robinwood Ln.  
(2 blocks north of  
Racetrack Rd.)

(continued on page 2)

rupted the planned sequence of showings, which were to be a steady stream of bi-weekly “Video Nights,” for several reasons. However, we have received several requests to persevere in offering Video Night, and so we are planning Video Night on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup>. We are offering this for those who cannot see the series on Cable Channel 8, as well as for inquirers. So, please keep this modest activity of our Mission in your prayers.

**The Russian Children’s Welfare Society:  
Our New “Change for a Change” Objective**

The Russian Children’s Welfare Society (RCWS) was formed in 1926 to aid poor and underprivileged children in Russia. RCWS activities include Orphanages and Homeless Shelters, to enable orphanages to meet basic needs, and to develop comprehensive programs that help orphans become healthy and independent adults; Medical Programs which fund medical care for children at risk, and supplemental training of the doctors who serve them; and a Scholarship Project to aid orphans in attaining higher education, and to provide a complete support structure for students as they transition from living in an orphanage to independent life. RCWS also continues to support rehabilitation centers that provide children with mental or physical disabilities with educational activities, vocational training, art therapy and innovative therapy.

All of these services are sorely lacking in Russia. This is why we have chosen the Russian Children’s Welfare Society as our new “Change for a Change” charitable contribution. Please see the RCWS website at [www.rcws.org](http://www.rcws.org) for a glimpse of this very worthy organization.

**A Reminder for the Adventurous: Tour Alaska with Our Bishop!**

Time is running out! Bishop Benjamin will lead a pilgrimage to Alaska from the Diocese of the West this summer. The trip is scheduled for August 4–11, 2010, and will include Anchorage, Kodiak, a wildlife and glacier viewing cruise in Prince William Sound, and the historic capitol of Russian America: Sitka. The highlight of the trip will be the 40th Anniversary of the Canonization of St. Herman celebration and a visit to Spruce Island, where St. Herman had his monastic dwelling. For the full itinerary and cost of the trip, including the reservation application, log onto the Diocese of the West website at <http://dowoca.org/2010/diocese-of-the-west-pilgrimage-to-alaska/>. We will also have details posted on the St. Susanna Bulletin Board.

May all of us have a truly refreshing summer!  
In Christ,  
*Fr. Andrew*

**St. Susanna Cleaning Team  
Schedule**

*Blessed are those who love the beauty  
of God’s house*

**Team 1—July 17<sup>th</sup>; 9:00 a.m.**

**MANY YEARS**

**Birthdays:**

Christina Teshin	July 2
Ron McIntosh	July 7
Larissa Worth	July 18
Marita Sevick	July 28

**Anniversaries:**

Fr. Andrew & Mat. Elizabeth Jacobs	July 2
Nick & Larissa Worth	July 3

**Namesdays:**

Dn Elias Union	July 20
Christina Teshin	July 24
Jeanne Harmer	July 25
Alyssa-Anne Jacobs	July 25

# Liturgical Schedule for July, 2010

## July

- Saturday, July 3** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, July 4** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings: Romans 12:6–14 and Matthew 9:1–8  
*First day of St. Eugene’s Camp (July 4–9) for Orthodox Youth, in Dunlap, CA.*
- Saturday, July 10** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, July 11** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings: Romans 15:1–17 and Matthew 9:27–35  
*Note: A potluck luncheon, followed by the Parish Council Meeting, will take place after Divine Liturgy.*
- Wed., July 14** 7:00 p.m.—**Video Night** in the Coffee Hour Room—Videos to be announced.
- Saturday, July 17** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for the **Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils**
- Sunday, July 18** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for the **Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils**  
Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:10–18 and Matthew 14:14–22
- Saturday, July 24** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, July 25** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 3:9–17 and Matthew 14:22–34  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.*
- Wed., July 28** 7:00 p.m.—**Video Night** in the Coffee Hour Room—Videos to be announced.

## August

- Saturday, July 31** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Procession of the Wood of the Life-giving Cross**
- Sunday, Aug. 1** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Procession of the Wood of the Life-giving Cross**  
Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 4:9–16; 1:18–24 and Matthew 17:14–23; 19:6–28  
*Note: Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> is also the beginning of the Dormition Fast.*
- Thursday, Aug. 5** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/ Litya for **The Transfiguration of Our Lord**
- Friday, Aug. 6** 6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
Scripture Readings: 2 Peter 1:10–19 and Matthew 17:1–9
- Saturday, Aug. 7** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, Aug. 8** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 9:2–12 and Matthew 18:23–35  
*Note: A potluck luncheon, followed by the Parish Council Meeting, will take place after Divine Liturgy.*

## Prayer List

### *PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS TO GOD:*

- For the skill and devotion of those beautifying our temple and gardens.
- For the beauty of the Mother Lode, and for the privilege we have been given to live here.
- That the Holy Mother of Jesus continues to care for the unborn.
- That many of our petitions are being answered.

### *PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR GOD'S HELP:*

- “St. John, please intercede for us before God for the membership growth of St. Susanna.”
- That St. Susanna Mission may receive a Church Planting Grant.
- For repose of the souls of our service men and women who have given their lives for the people of foreign lands.
- To safeguard all the troops who remain in heathen lands.
- To help us forgive the heathen fanatics who continue to murder our soldiers and their own citizens and children.
- That many may come to Orthodoxy through our witness and example.
- To bless our monasteries and the men and women who dwell in them.
- For the healing of Matushka Anna.
- For health for Shay.
- For the healing of Bishop Nikolai.
- For health and strength for Ron and Judy.
- For health and strength for Athena.
- That Kiah’s heart will be healed and she will not need any more surgery.
- That Jake’s brain tumor surgery will go smoothly on July 6th, that he will recover quickly and that any following treatments will help to heal his body of any possible cancer.

To ask us to pray for you, your family or friends, please call Alex Teshin at 209-536-9999.