



*Pastor:*

Fr. Andrew Jacobs  
(209) 352-6791

Deacon Elias Union  
(209) 532-7899

Natalie Teshin  
(209) 536-1495

*He Who is borne on high by the cherubim / and praised in hymns  
by the seraphim / is brought today according to the Law into the  
holy Temple / and rests in the arms of the Elder as on a throne.  
/ From Joseph He receives gifts fitting for God: / a pair of doves,  
a symbol of the spotless Church / and of the newly chosen people  
of the Gentiles, / and two young pigeons, for He is the originator  
of the two Covenants, both Old and New. / Simeon, now granted  
the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning himself, / blesses the  
Virgin and Theotokos Mary. He foretells in figures the Passion of  
her Son. / From Him he begs release, crying aloud: "Now, Master,  
let me depart as You have promised me, // for I have seen the pre-  
eternal Light // and the Lord and Savior of the people who bear  
the name of Christ!"*

*Theotokion in Tone 8 of the Aposticha for The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple*

### **February is the month before Great Lent 2011**

February this year is the month of the Sundays of Preparation for Great Lent (which itself starts on Monday, March 7). Following the Great Feast of **The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple** (Wednesday, February 2), the **Sunday of Zacchaeus** (February 6) recounts Zacchaeus' intense desire to see the Lord, emphasizing that this is how we should look forward to Lent, in which we labor to clear our spiritual sight. One week later, on February 13, **The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee** contrasts (Luke 18:10–14) the humility of the one and the fruitless pride of the other. This Sunday is followed by a fast-free week.

On February 20, **The Sunday of the Prodigal Son** (Luke 15:11–32) gives us a clear picture of repentance and that, but for the grace of God, which was shown to the prodigal before he even set out on his wasteful journey, the prodigal may not have had the sense to repent. (Our March bulletin will contain a feature on repentance—the what, where and why of Confession and Absolution, and how it differs in the East and the West.) On February 27, we face **The Sun-**

**day of the Last Judgment, or Meatfare Sunday**, so called because this prelude to the Great Fast is when Orthodox consume meat for the last time—until Pascha. On this Sunday (the gospel is Matthew 25:31–46), we are reminded that, as the Typicon states, "No one is so patient and so merciful as God, but even He does not forgive those who do not repent. The God of love is also a God of righteousness, and when Christ comes again in glory, He will come as our judge."

**Cheesefare Sunday** (March 6) is the Sunday just before the start of Great Lent, on the following Monday. Traditionally, on this Sunday, Orthodox eat the last of our dairy items before entering Great Lent. This Sunday, which is also **Forgiveness Sunday**, features the beautiful Forgiveness Vespers, (shortly after Divine Liturgy). All members of the church, clergy and laity alike, take the opportunity to forgive, and seek forgiveness of, one another for any offenses committed against one another, consciously or unconsciously. This Sunday recalls both Adam's expulsion from Paradise, and God's salvific work of forgiveness that enables us to return, spiritually, to Paradise.

*(continued on page 2)*

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

## **A New Baby in Our Midst**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, a new person came into the world when our sister in Christ, Elizabeth Cooper, gave birth to the very cute (and lively) Olivia Anne. Olivia and her mom are doing fine, and daddy Benjamin Cooper is beaming. The Grandparents on the Union side show great happiness in the event, and one can be fairly sure that the grandparents on the Cooper side are happy as well. Praise be to God yet another wonderful gift to His people.

## **Events in February**

The **Parish Council meeting** on **February 6** will include a decisive vote (by all attending eligible parish members) concerning the **start time of Divine Liturgy** on Sundays. Over the past several years, we have begun the Hours at 8:45 a.m., with Divine Liturgy commencing at 9:00 a.m. At the Annual Meeting in December, a decision was made, via a vote by all eligible members present, to test the viability of a slightly later start, through the month of January. The difference is 20 minutes, with the Hours starting at 9:00 a.m., followed immediately by Divine Liturgy. The issue at hand is whether to change back to the previous timing, or to make the proposed timing permanent for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, an impromptu vote that was taken on January 23<sup>rd</sup> was nullified due to a procedural error—so, we will vote

once more on this issue in the formal setting of the February 6 Council Meeting. All eligible members are invited to attend. If you are an eligible member and cannot attend the meeting, proxy votes will be accepted: please contact Jeanne Harmer with your vote, at 209-536-0254, or at [harm@sonnet.com](mailto:harm@sonnet.com).

A **Spiritual Enrichment Class** will present “Orthodox Champions of the Ecumenical Councils” on Wednesday, February 9, at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will include the testimonies of such great defenders of the faith as St. Athanasius, St. Gregory of Nazianzen, Maximus the Confessor and others, as well as the stances of such heretical and schismatic figures as Arius, the heretical Emperor Valens, the iconoclast Emperor Constantine V, and groups such as the Gnostics and the *Pneumatomachians* (those who fought against the reality of the Person of the Holy Spirit). Come and understand how the fullness of true Christianity was often preserved by the courage and spiritual strength of these Orthodox champions.

St. Christina of Tyre Mission in Fremont is hosting a **Banquet and Silent Auction** on Sunday, February 13, from 5:00–8:30 p.m. to help pay down the loans on the property that they have. For more information, call 510-739-0908. There will also be a flyer on the bulletin board in the St. Susanna Mission parish hall.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Andrew*

## **Prayer List** *(To ask us to pray for you, your family, or friends, please call Alex Teshin at 209-536-9999.)*

### **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.
- That Kiah’s pacemaker surgery was successful and that she is doing well.

### **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 people of foreign lands.
- To safeguard all the troops who remain in heathen lands.
- To help us forgive 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 Athena.

## A Note on the Service Schedule:

As we are completing our trial run of starting the Hours at 9:00 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy, Parishioners and Council members will have the opportunity to vote on the practicality of this arrangement at our Council Meeting on Sunday, February 6.

### Liturgical Schedule for February 2011

**Tuesday, Feb. 1** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers with Litya for the **Meeting of Christ in the Temple**

**Wednesday, Feb. 2** 6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for the **Meeting of Christ in the Temple**  
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 7:7–17 and Luke 2:22–40

**Saturday, Feb. 5** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Zacchaeus Sunday**

**Sunday, Feb. 6** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Zacchaeus Sunday**  
Scripture Readings—1 Timothy 14:9–15 and Luke 19:1–10  
*Note: There will be a Parish Council Meeting following Divine Liturgy.*

**Wednesday, Feb. 9** 7:00 p.m.—**Spiritual Enrichment Class** in the Church Office:  
*Orthodox Champions of the Ecumenical Councils*

**Saturday, Feb. 12** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Sunday of The Publican and Pharisee**

**Sunday, Feb. 13** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of The Publican and Pharisee**  
Scripture Readings—2 Timothy 3:10–15 and Luke 18:10–14  
*Note: There will be a potluck following Divine Liturgy.*

**Feb. 14 TO 19: NO FASTING THIS WEEK**

**Saturday, Feb. 19** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

**Sunday, Feb. 20** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of the Prodigal Son**  
Scripture Readings—1 Corinthians 6:12–20 and Luke 15:11–32

**FASTING AS USUAL THIS WEEK**

**Saturday, Feb. 26** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Meatfare Sunday/Sunday of the Last Judgment**

**Sunday, Feb. 27** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Meatfare Sunday /Sunday of the Last Judgment**  
Scripture Readings—1 Corinthians 8:8–9:2 and Matthew 25:31–36

**MEAT FAST THIS WEEK AND THROUGH THE END OF GREAT LENT**

### March

**Saturday, March 5** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday**

**Sunday, March 6** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday**  
After Coffee Hour—**Forgiveness Vespers**  
Scripture Readings—Romans 13:11–14:4 and Matthew 6:14–21  
*Note: There will be a Parish Council Meeting following Divine Liturgy.*

**Monday, March 7** **THE GREAT LENTEN FAST BEGINS**

**Wednesday, March 9** 6:00 p.m.—**Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner.

**Saturday, March 12** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers

**Sunday, March 13** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 11:24–26, 32–12:2 and John 1:43–51  
*Note: There will be a Lenten potluck following Divine Liturgy.*

*After Divine Liturgy on the 13th, it is the Orthodox custom to concelebrate the Sunday evening Vespers of The Sunday of Orthodoxy with other Orthodox—more on this as the time approaches.*

## St. Susanna Cleaning Teams and Schedule

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

### Church Cleaning Teams:

#### TEAM ONE: # 1

Rebecca Teshin: 536-1625 (team leader)

Leslie Hurst: 984-4436

Jan Williams: 533-1056

Mat. Elizabeth: 984-4595

Judy McIntosh: 795-4342

#### TEAM TWO: # 2

Jeanne Harmer: 536-0254 (team leader)

Mat. Anna: 532-7899

Natalie Teshin: 536-1495

Elizabeth Union: 532-7899

### *Schedule for the next six months:*

Please arrive promptly at 9:00 a.m. ready to work.

It will take approximately two hours to complete all tasks.

If for some reason, you are not able to make it please notify your team leader.

February 19th: Team #1

March 19th: Team #2

April 16th: **EVERYONE** to prepare for Holy Week and Pascha

May 21st: Team #1

June 18th: Team #2

July 16th: Team #1

Clergy, please, when it is possible, come and clean the altar while your wives are cleaning the rest of the church building. Thank you!

*Thank you everyone for your help in beautifying our temple*

## MANY YEARS

### **Birthdays:**

Natalia Koshelkova February 4

### **Anniversaries:**

Mark & Marita Sevick February 4

### **Namesdays:**

Leslie Hurst February 11