



Pastor:

Fr. Andrew Jacobs
(209) 352-6791

Deacon Elias Union
(209) 532-7899

Natalie Teshin
(209) 536-1495

On this day we celebrate the Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos at the tender age of three years old and her progress in her mystical union with the Most High God. Today a new genesis unfolds before all. In the first Genesis our Creator and God created the heaven and the earth and all that in them is, and when all was ready he took virgin earth and made man, breathing His Spirit into him. But alas, through our first parent's disobedience God's original plan was frustrated and the race of man became subject to death (and this was so that sin might not be made immortal, as the Fathers teach). Adam and his offspring made from earth, were doomed to return to the earth, yet they were given a promise of redemption.

—Metropolitan Moses of St. Gregory of Sinai Monastery

Our Parish Annual Meeting

Our Parish Annual Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy on December 4. It is important that all parish members be at the meeting. We will vote on issues, review the past year in the parish and appoint a Parish Council for the upcoming year. Please attend, as this is a very important event in our parish life.

Bishop Benjamin Will Visit Us on Our Patronal Feast Day

His Grace Bishop Benjamin will be with us on Sunday, December 18, to celebrate a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. in honor of our Patronal Feast Day. His Grace will most likely be with us for Great Vespers on Saturday evening



(December the 17th), and would be gratified to see as many of us as can, attend. We

will hold a reception for His Grace Bishop Benjamin in the parish hall, after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday.

The Entry of the Most-holy Theotokos

This Great Feast of the Church occurs on Monday, November 21, this year. As St. Gregory Palamas underscores in his "Discourse on the Feast of the Entry of the Most-holy Theotokos," God chose a spotless mother to bear a spotless Son. The Theotokos was given to live in the Temple as a child, to live amidst the emanating grace of the Holy of Holies, so that the radiant grace of her spotless Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, might live in us.

The Nativity Fast

The Nativity Fast will begin on November 15 and will end on December 24. Fr. Andrew or Deacon Elias can answer any questions about the requirements of the fast. Remember that Orthodox fasting is for readjusting our priorities toward the more spiritual. It is not a contest or a feat of strength of any kind, and should be accomplished with our own particular limitations in mind. Again, if there are any questions, please ask.

(continued on page 2)

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

Joyous Event: The Crowning of Layne and Jan's Marriage

The Crowning of Layne (John) and Jan (Anna) Williams' marriage, on October 16, was a joyous event of the kind that brings us all closer together. And as such, not only reaffirms their commitment to each other, but calls down God's blessing on us all.



In Discouraging Times, Have Courage!

In our Adult Study Class (Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m.), we have been discussing the Virtues, and recently, studied the virtue of Courage—considered by many Fathers to be one of the most important virtues for successfully running the Christian race. This courage is a moral courage as well as an active courage—for undertaking the works of Orthodox Christianity, and for many other godly aspects of life that today's world seems to see as threatening to the contemporary moral code, embarrassing, or to be simply discouraged. We bear in mind that the “adversary” or “adversaries” so often encountered in Orthodox liturgical works are spiritual adversaries, whose assaults—both purely spiritual, as well as manifesting through our fellow human beings—tempt us and distract us, and are meant to cow us into doing evil, or despairing.

In addition to the sources we found in Fr. Thomas Hopko's catechetical work, *The Orthodox Faith*, which is a prominent text in our study class, a number of quotes can be found elsewhere, from Church Fathers and theologians who also extend our understanding of courage. The following are a few of them.

“Have courage, faith, hope and love in God, and patience unto the end, to gain your immortal soul, to which even the whole world is not equal.”—Elder Joseph the Hesychast

“Do not be downcast over the struggle; the Lord loves a brave warrior. The Lord loves the soul that is valiant.”—St. Siloan the Athonite

“You must never be afraid, if you are troubled by a flood of thoughts, that the enemy is too strong against you, that his attacks are never ending, that the war will last for your lifetime, and that you cannot avoid incessant downfalls of all kinds. Know that our enemies, with all their wiles, are in the hands of our divine Commander, our Lord Jesus Christ, for Whose honor and glory you are waging spiritual war. Since He Himself leads you into battle, He will certainly not suffer your enemies to overcome you, if you do not yourself willingly cross over to their side. He will Himself fight for you and will deliver your enemies into your hands, when He wills and as He wills, as it is written.”—Lorenzo Scupoli, in *Unseen Warfare*

“The task of courage is to govern the five senses and not let our inner man, which is the spirit; or our outer man, which is the body; be defiled through them.”—Abba Evagrius

“The strength of those who wish to acquire the virtues is as follows: if they fall, let them not lose their courage, but let them be sure to make a new beginning at their endeavor. Insofar, then, as we put all our energy into practicing the virtues, let us await the Lord, showing Him a generous resolve and calling on His aid, and without fail He will strengthen us with His mercy and bestow His Grace on us in abundance, in which case we will accomplish every good easily.”—Abba Moses

“Courage does not consist in defeating and oppressing one's neighbor, which is overbearing, and oversteps the bounds of courage; nor in fleeing terrified from the trials that come as a result of practicing the virtues, which is cowardice. Courage itself consists in persisting in every good work and in overcoming the passions of soul and body.”—St. Peter Damaskos

So, brothers and sisters, have courage, and never let the threats and ridicule of the world affect our faith in Christ, or in His power to deliver us from the evil one—for He has overcome the world!

In Christ,
Fr. Andrew

Liturgical Schedule for November, 2011

Note: The Adult Education and Spiritual Enrichment class takes place Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the nave of the church.

Saturday, Nov. 5 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers

Sunday, Nov. 6 9:00 a.m.—**Divine Liturgy**
Scripture Readings: Galatians 2:16–20 and Luke 8:41–56
Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy.

Saturday, Nov. 12 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **John Chrysostom, Archbp. of Constantinople**

Sunday, Nov. 13 9:00 a.m.—**Divine Liturgy for John Chrysostom, Archbp. of Constantinople**
Scripture Readings: Galatians 6:11–18 and Luke 10:25–37
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.

Tuesday, Nov. 15 **Beginning of Nativity Fast—Nov. 15 to Dec. 24**
(Nov. 14, *Apostle Philip's day, is also a fast day*)

Saturday, Nov. 19 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers

Sunday, Nov. 20 9:00 a.m.—**Divine Liturgy**
Scripture Readings: Ephesians 2:4–10 and Luke 12:16–21
Note: Great Vespers for The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple will follow Coffee Hour

Monday, Nov. 21 6:00 a.m.—**Divine Liturgy for The Entry of the Theotokos Into the Temple**
Scripture Readings: Hebrews 9:1–7 and Luke 10:38–42 and 11:27–28

Saturday, Nov. 26 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers

Sunday, Nov. 27 9:00 a.m.—**Divine Liturgy**
Scripture Readings: Ephesians 2:14–22 and Luke 13:10–17
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.

December

Saturday, Dec. 3 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Greatmartyr Barbara**

Sunday, Dec. 4 9:00 a.m.—**Divine Liturgy for Greatmartyr Barbara**
Scripture Readings: Ephesians 4:1–6 and Luke 17:12–19
Note: The Parish ANNUAL MEETING will take place after Divine Liturgy.

Monday, Dec. 5 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**

Saturday, Dec. 10 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for the **Holy Forefathers**

Sunday, Dec. 11 9:00 a.m.—**Divine Liturgy for the Holy Forefathers**
Scripture Readings: Colossians 3:4–11 and Luke 14:16–24
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.

ST. SUSANNA MISSION PATRONAL FEAST DAY

Saturday, Dec. 17 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **St. Susanna Mission Patronal Feast Day**

Sunday, Dec. 18 10:00 a.m.—**Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for St. Susanna Mission Patronal Feast Day with His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN**
Scripture Readings: Hebrews 11:9–10, 17–23, 32–40 and Matthew 1:1–25
Note: A Reception for His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN, will take place after Divine Liturgy.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays:

Nick Worth	November 12
Bev Harmer	November 20
Jan Williams	November 24

Namesdays:

Fr. Andrew Jacobs	November 30
-------------------	-------------

St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule

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

Team 1—November 19; 9:00 a.m.

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

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

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.
- For healing of Benjamin.
- Thank God for Alyssa's normal delivery and her new daughter, Evelyn Rose.

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 and strength for Athena.
- For the healing of Glenn.
- For the healing of Jacob.
- For health and wisdom for Dolly.
- For health for Natasha.
- For health and strength for Anna.
- For health and healing for Ron.
- For healing for Jan.
- For health and spiritual strength for Alex.
- Memory Eternal for Barbara
- For health and comfort for Fr. John.