



Pastor:

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St. Susanna Clergy Talk About Orthodoxy at Starbucks

Brothers and sisters, we will do a presentation on Orthodoxy in the conference room at the Starbucks coffee house, located in the Junction Shopping Center on Saturday, September 24 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The theme of the presentation will be “Orthodox Christianity—Not ‘Religion’ but a Way of Life,” and will detail the classic understanding of the true Orthodox Christian walk. There will be video and live presentation. So, if you have a free hour at 10:00 on Saturday the 24th, and would like to relax with one of Starbucks’ tasty beverages, you can provide living proof that there are Orthodox faithful in Tuolumne County. It is a relatively painless way to make a witness for our church, and potentially attract inquirers.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem; the Holy Fire

This month, we celebrate the major feasts of The Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos (September 8) and The Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross (September 14). There is also another great event in the life of the Church, on September 13, and though we will not be celebrating it liturgically, given parish work schedules and so on—it may be edifying to discuss it here. This event commemorates The Dedication of the Temple of the Resurrection of Christ at Jerusalem, which is known more familiarly as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This much-revered temple of God was built in the fourth century by St. Constantine the Great and his mother, Empress Helen, over a span of 10 years. The consecration of the finished church took place on September 13,

335 A.D. Indeed, the entire city of Jerusalem was also consecrated with the church—for the pagan Romans had degraded the locale, having razed the original Jerusalem, and built pagan temples over the sites of Judaic and Christian holy places.

So it was that, under Constantine, the pagan temples were destroyed, and the consecration of the Church of the Resurrection, and the city as a whole, was in effect a double resurrection of the site from the pagan attempts to defile it.

The Church of the Resurrection contains Golgotha, where Christ was crucified; and the Holy Sepulchre, the tomb in which His body was placed. Holy Scripture indicates that they were in close proximity: “In the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had been laid. There they laid Jesus, because of the Jews’ Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby” (John 19:41–42).

A yearly miracle that takes place in the Holy Sepulchre is the Holy Fire. Considered to be a sign from God as to the power of His Resurrection, mysterious flames appear within the Sepulchre on Holy Saturday, and fourth-century writings indicate that this may have been the case since the consecration of the church itself. While doubters claim that this fire is a trick of some sort, the actual properties of the flames defy explanation. The following are two witnesses to this miraculous sign.

As published on the website, *Orthodox-info.com*, Patriarch Diodorus of Jerusalem (of blessed memory) stated that, as the celebrant of the rite of the Holy Fire for nearly two decades (in his tenure as Patriarch of Jerusalem), he would enter the Sepulchre, the very tomb of Christ, and then—“I find my way through the darkness towards the

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

Liturgical Schedule for September, 2011

Note: The Adult Education and Spiritual Enrichment class takes place before Vespers every Saturday at 4:00 p.m. in the nave of the church.

September

- Thursday, Sept. 1** 6:00 p.m.—Vespers for **The Indiction: Church New Year**
- Saturday, Sept. 3** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, Sept. 4** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy
Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 and Matthew 19:16–26
Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy.
- Wed., Sept. 7** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/ Litya for **The Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos**
- Thursday, Sept. 8** 6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos**
Scripture Readings: Philippians 2:5–11 and Luke 10:38–42; 11:27–28
- Saturday, Sept. 10** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, Sept. 11** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy
Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 16:13–24 and Matthew 21:33–42
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.
- Tuesday, Sept. 13** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/ Litya for **The Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross**
- Wed., Sept. 14** 6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross**
Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:18–24 and John 19:6–35
- Saturday, Sept. 17** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, Sept. 18** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy
Scripture Readings: 2 Corinthians 1:21–2:4 and Matthew 22:1–14
- Saturday, Sept. 24** 10:00–11:00 a.m.—*A Parish Outreach presentation will take place at Starbucks (Junction Shopping Ctr.)*
6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, Sept. 25** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy
Scripture Readings—2 Corinthians 4:6–15 and Luke 5:1–11
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.

October

- Saturday, Oct. 1** **Pokrov: The Protection of the Most-holy Theotokos** (no Liturgy scheduled)
6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Holy Apostle James**
- Sunday, Oct. 2** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Holy Apostle James**
Scripture Readings: 2 Corinthians 6:1–10 and Luke 6:31–36
Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy.

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Liturgy Schedule for October *(continued)*

Saturday, Oct. 8 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers

Sunday, Oct. 9 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy
Scripture Readings: 2 Corinthians 6:16–7:1 and Luke 7:11–16
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.

Saturday, Oct. 15 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council**

Sunday, Oct. 16 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council**
Scripture Readings: 2 Corinthians 9:6–11 and Luke 8:5–15

St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule

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

Team 1—September 17; 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.

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 a safe and healthy delivery for Alyssa.
- For health and spiritual strength for Alex.

- For Memory Eternal of Priest Basil.
- For Memory Eternal of Archbishop DMITRI.