



St. Susanna Orthodox Church

The Diocese of the West
The Orthodox Church in America

www.stsusanna.com

10825 Robinwood Lane*
Sonora, CA 95370 U.S.A.
209-536-0701



CHRIST IS RISEN! Indeed He is Risen!

April 2011

Pastor:
Fr. Andrew Jacobs
(209) 352-6791

Deacon Elias Union
(209) 532-7899

Natalie Teshin
(209) 536-1495

Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

—John 16:32–33

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

—Matthew 28:16–20

A Note for Pascha 2011

The Paschal Vespers service this year will take place at 12 noon on Pascha Sunday, instead of at 1:00 p.m. as we have previously scheduled it. This will give us all a bit more time to visit friends and family, and to engage in other activities after the service. Also, for the second year in a row, we will have the Paschal Sunday luncheon in the Church Hall, following the Paschal Vespers.

Pascha, the Cure “Brave New World or Sad New World?”

I recently read one of the many edifying books that the renowned Orthodox apologist Fr. Anthony Coniaris has written. This one, *God’s Fullness for Our Emptiness*, explores the theme of what has been called “The Age

of Anxiety,” “The Existential Dilemma,” and, most tellingly, “The Post-Christian Age.” In this book, Fr. Anthony uses many examples on both Christian and non-Christian sides of this issue, quoting many sources, ranging (for example) from the Church Fathers, to the existentialist Albert Camus, to the great Christian poet T.S. Eliot, to the Russian New Martyr for Christ, Tsaritsa Alexandra. In this, he clearly delineates the central problem of our time: namely, that many of our brothers and sisters in the flesh have become seduced by the temptation to do without God, to make themselves their own gods, and to frame salvation only in terms of fame, success and achievement in this world.

Of course, the result of this is vast oceans of unhappiness and insecurity for the human

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

(continued on back)

race, and (even in a culture that prides itself on fairness and justice as ours does) a cure-resistant plague of selfishness, hard-heartedness, greed and malfeasance, from the very powerful to the very poor, has broken out.

Our society is flooded with MP3 players, electronic games and a vast array of extravagant entertainment media—as well as other, less-benign, distractions such as drugs and iniquitous activities. In business, sports, the arts, science, education and other fields, life-absorbing hyper-achievement is encouraged—salaries must become monstrous in size, and perks must be such as would have astonished David, Solomon, Nefertiti, Justinian or any of the rulers of old. Yet, even this amazing material excess seldom fulfills those who prize it as their only goal.

Building a Fire

Fr. Anthony's cogitations produced in me a few thoughts of my own—heavily assisted by having read the Fathers over the years. Also—and as is often God's way—the awful weather we have been enduring, and the resulting power outages, have helped form my thoughts as well.

First of all, the evils of rejecting God are clearly seen. Mass depression, hopelessness, desperation and furious social arguments only increase the sense of a spiritual vacuum. As if by some insidious magic, our societal "fixes" often result in *worse* problems than the ones being "solved." Society is distracted that we repeat the same mistakes over and over, even if the results are continuous wars, repeated failure of emergency systems in disasters, deepening economic crisis, food shortages, loss of homes—the list is long.

Our world is in a self-caused spiritual power outage: dwindling spiritual warmth, dwindling spiritual light, and getting colder and more blind.

So, plainly put—throughout the world, we need to build more fires!

The procedure begins with a simple admission of our own weakness and emptiness, and our need for Him. This humility is also the desire to turn from the dark and to kindle the fire, which necessitates prayer for God's enlivening Spirit, which is the spark. Then we pile on the kindling, which is continued repentance. After this, our faithfulness to Christ's teachings, and our actions according to this faithful obedience, are the logs that enable the fire to grow, and to continue burning.

The intensifying fire is the mounting flame of the Holy Spirit within us.

"Fear Not"

Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me." Christ Himself says that much is impossible in this earthly realm of toil and travail. To that, He also gives the answer: "But with God, all things are possible." "Fear not," He says, for we are never alone, as He is "with us always."

So it is, brothers and sisters, that when we prepare for the Feast of feasts, and gather together for the Celebration of celebrations, we recognize that the brilliant light of Pascha comes when that fire lit and growing within us joins with God's grace bestowed upon the Feast. With God, our lives are joined to the lives of all the Saints who have ever been, including our present brothers and sisters in the faith. We are warmed and enlivened by the radiance of His love that grows within us, as we willfully participate in the ultimate cure for emptiness, despair and even death: our Lord Jesus Christ, and this is shown quite clearly in His Radiant, justly Glorified and Most-holy Resurrection.

This we celebrate throughout our lives, as we are inspired by this Way of Life—and desire, with God, to bring others into this divine methodology. Christ is Risen, and as He is Risen, so *are* we, and so *shall* we truly be, in body and soul.

"Let us rejoice O people!" for indeed, **CHRIST IS RISEN!**

May God Bless You in this Most Joyous Season!
Fr. Andrew

MANY YEARS

Birthdays:

Nicolas Teshin	April 1
Jeanne Harmer	April 4
Alex Jacobs	April 11

Namesdays:

Mat. Elizabeth Jacobs	April 24
Mark Sevick	April 25

Anniversaries:

Dn. Elias & Mat. Anna Union	April 12
-----------------------------	----------

Liturgical Schedule

—Confessions are heard after Vespers, before Divine Liturgy or by Appointment—

April

- Saturday, April 2** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **St. John Climacus Sunday**
- Sunday, April 3** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **St. John Climacus Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 6:13–20 and Mark 9:17–31
Note: There will be a Parish Council Meeting following Divine Liturgy.
- Wednesday, April 6** *No Presanctified Liturgy this evening*
- Thursday, April 7** 6:00 p.m.—**The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt**
- Saturday, April 9** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **St. Mary of Egypt Sunday**
- Sunday, April 10** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **St. Mary of Egypt Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 9:11–14 and Mark 10:32–45
Note: There will be a Lenten potluck following Divine Liturgy.
- Wednesday, April 13** **6:00 p.m.—Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner.
- Friday, April 15** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Lazarus Saturday**
- Lazarus Saturday, April 16** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Lazarus Saturday**
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 12:28–13:8 and John 11:1–45
Note: A Pascha preparation work party will follow Liturgy.

Holy Week

- Saturday, April 16** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/Litya for **Palm Sunday**
- Palm Sunday, April 17** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Palm Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Philippians 4:4–9 and John 12:1–18
- Holy Monday, April 18** 6:00 p.m.—**Bridegroom Matins**
- Holy Wednesday, April 20** 6:00 p.m.—**Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner.
- Holy Thursday, April 21** 6:00 p.m.—**Matins w/Passion Gospels**
- Holy Friday, April 22** **9:00 a.m.—Royal Hours**
3:00 p.m.—**Vespers w/Plaschanitsa procession**
6:00 p.m.—**Matins with Lamentations**

(Liturgical Schedule continued on back)

St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule

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

EVERYONE — April 16TH
After 9:00 am liturgy to
prepare for **HOLY PASCHA**

(Liturgical Schedule continued)

**Holy Saturday,
April 23** 9:00 a.m.—**Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil**
11:30 p.m.—**Nocturnes**
Scripture Readings—Romans 6:3–11 and Matthew 28:1–20

And immediately after Nocturnes, we joyously celebrate:

**Pascha Sunday,
April 24** Midnight—**THE FEAST OF FEASTS: HOLY PASCHA!**
**Matins, Paschal Hours and the Divine Liturgy of St. John
Chrysostom, followed by the Paschal Feast in the Parish hall.**
Scripture Readings—Acts 1:1–8 and John 1:1–17

12:00 noon—**Paschal Vespers, followed by a festal Luncheon in the Parish hall.**

Bright Week and Following

**Bright Wednesday,
April 27** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Bright Wednesday**

**Bright Saturday,
April 30** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **St. Thomas Sunday**

**Antipascha Sunday,
May 1** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **St. Thomas Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Acts 5:12–20 and John 20:19–31
Note: There will be a Parish Council Meeting following Divine Liturgy.

Saturday, May 7 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday**

Sunday, May 8 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Acts 6:1–7; 1 John 1:1–7 and Mark 15:43–16:8; John 19:25–27; 21:24–25

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 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 Athena.
- For health and wisdom for Dolly.
- For health for Natasha.

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