

The Diocese of the West  
The Orthodox Church in America

10825 Robinwood Lane\*  
Sonora, CA 95370 U.S.A.  
209-280-8376

# St. Susanna Orthodox Church

## July 2022

www.stsusanna.com



*Pastor:*

Fr. Peter Runyon  
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### **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

I was reminded recently of a woman who attended a parish I attended many years ago. She didn't come often, and I didn't know her well. But one day, we were informed that she had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. The doctors said she only had several months to live. Faced with imminent death, she began to attend the Divine Services regularly, the priest prayed the prayers of healing for her, he anointed her with Holy Unction, and the rest of the parish community joined together in fervent prayer for her health. People prayed with tears for this woman whose life would soon end. Then something happened, something we didn't expect but we all hoped for: she was healed of her cancer. God heard our prayers and then brought about something that can only be called a miracle. Even her doctor, who was an atheist, called it a miracle. We all were so thankful that God had answered our prayers!

But then something else happened that we didn't expect. This woman stopped coming to church regularly, and then in time she returned to her old habit of coming only occasionally. We were all tempted to judge this woman and how quickly she returned to taking her life for granted, but if we are honest with ourselves, we all do this same thing.

How often have we prayed that a friend would recover from a serious illness, and they recovered? How often have we prayed for safety, and we were safe? How often have we prayed that there would be resolution to some conflict, and the resolution came? My friends, God has heard our prayers and answered so many of them. How have we responded to His grace and mercy? Do we get what we want and then

*"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

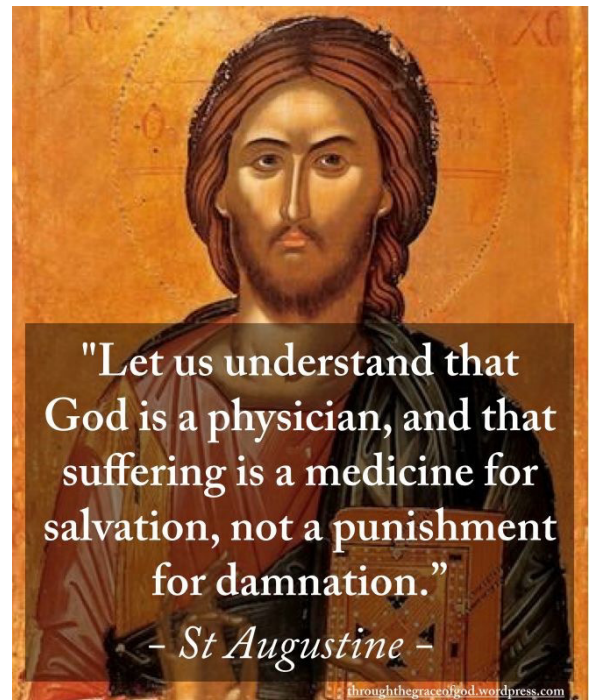
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

forget God? I am sad to say that we do this all too often. We receive a miracle from God and then forget Him after we get what we want.

I have seen God work such beautiful miracles in our parish in the past year. It is so apparent that He loves us and is trying to save us. How do we respond to Him? St. Paul reminds the Christians in Thessaloniki to live a life that is always prayerful and full of thanks. He commends them to pray without ceasing and to give thanks in all circumstances. We are called to respond to these gifts with a prayerful and thankful heart.

I encourage each of us, myself included, to spend several minutes at the end of each day reviewing that day and listing all the good things God has given us that day. Let us end each day with a voice of praise and gratitude.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Peter*



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

## MANY YEARS

### Birthdays:

Christina Teshin	July 2
Megan Giesbrecht	July 2
Mason Vitz	July 18
Matt Kuykendall	July 24
Elisa Sevick	July 28

### Namesdays:

Elias Union	July 20
Christina Teshin	July 24

### Anniversaries:

Nate and Mary Smith	July 19
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## YARD SALE

### Labor Day Weekend

Friday Sept. 2nd/Saturday Sept, 3rd

*We are looking for good, quality used items to be donated.*

Volunteers needed for set up, staffing the sale, and clean up.

## 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:***

- For seasonal weather.
- "St. John, please intercede for us before God.
- 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 hostile lands.
- 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 growth of the monastery in Sonora.
- For the health of Fr. Ignatius.
- For the health of Fr. Maximus
- For health and strength for Anna.
- For health and healing for Natasha.
- For health and healing for Nina.
- For health and healing for Violet.
- For health and healing for Jeff.
- For health and healing for Xenia and Cheryl.
- For health and healing for Ron.
- For strength for Valerie and her family.
- For health for Irina.
- For Liturgical prayers for gravely ill Nina and Michael.

*To ask us to pray for you, your family, or friends, and to remove someone from the list, please email Fr. Peter at [frpeterrunyon@gmail.com](mailto:frpeterrunyon@gmail.com) or call (209) 536-8998.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5:00 pm Spiritual Formation 6:00 pm Great Vespers
3 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (Rom. 5:1-10 Matt. 6:22-33)	4	5	6 6:00 pm Bible Study	7	8	9 5:00 pm Spiritual Formation 6:00 pm Great Vespers
10 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (Rom. 6:18-23 Matt. 8:5-13)  Parish Council Meeting	11	12	13 6:00 pm Bible Study	14	15	16 5:00 pm Spiritual Formation 6:00 pm Great Vespers
17 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (Rom. 10:1-10 Matt. 8:28-9:1)	18	19	20 FWO NO Bible Study	21	22	23 5:00 pm Spiritual Formation 6:00 pm Great Vespers
24 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (Rom. 12:6-14 Matt. 9:1-8)	25	26	27 6:00 pm Bible Study	28	29	30 5:00 pm Spiritual Formation 6:00 pm Great Vespers
31 9:00 am Divine Liturgy (Rom. 15:1-7 Matt. 9:27-35)						

