

The Diocese of the West
The Orthodox Church in America

10825 Robinwood Lane*
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St. Susanna Orthodox Church

September 2022

www.stsusanna.com



Pastor:
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"For when the terrible rage of wild animals came upon your people and they were being destroyed by the bites of writhing serpents, your wrath did not continue to the end; they were troubled for a little while as a warning and received a symbol of deliverance to remind them of your law's command. For the one who turned toward it was saved, not by the thing that was beheld, but by you, the Savior of all. And by this also you convinced our enemies that it is you who deliver from every evil."

Wisdom 16:5-8

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Israelite's misery was compounded in the wilderness when their complaints brought an onslaught of poisonous snakes (Num. 21:5-9). Many of the people were killed by the bites from the snakes until the Israelites repented. God listened to their cries and instructed Moses to craft a snake made from bronze and place it on a pole. Those who had been bitten looked upon the bronze serpent and were healed.

Snakes have many natural predators in nature including owls, foxes, and honey badgers. It might seem more appropriate for

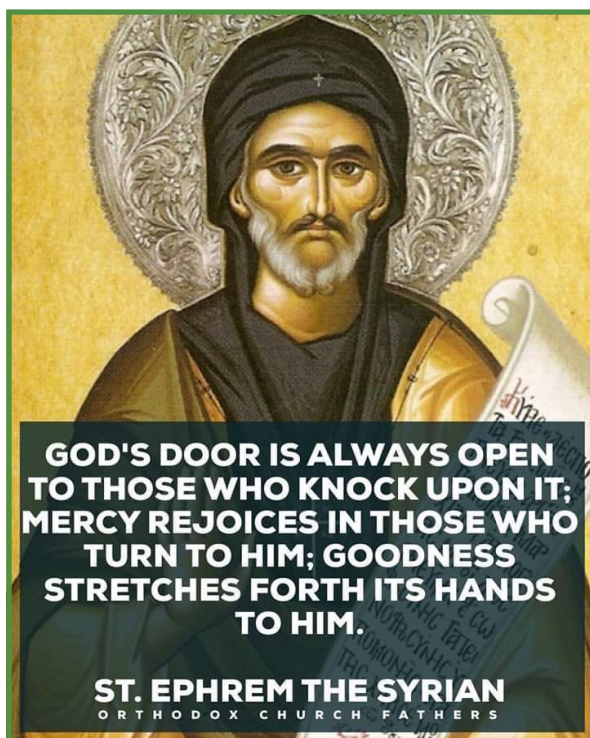
YARD SALE

Labor Day Weekend

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 2-3
8 am to 4 pm

**Bring by your good quality,
used items this week
and help set up.**

**Volunteers also needed for
staffing the sale, and clean up.**



the Lord to instruct Moses to craft a figure of a fox or owl out of bronze and place that figure on a pole. That natural predator of the snake would be the force that conquers the poison of the snake. But the Lord instructed Moses to make this figure, a figure of a snake, as a prophecy of what was to come.

So often in life, we feel overcome by the poison of the world. We are tempted to sin and to give into the desires of the flesh. We call out to God and ask for His help, and He responds to us. But His response to our sinfulness is to take it upon Himself and transform it into holiness. Just as He used the image of a snake to heal the poisonous bites, the Lord transforms our sinfulness by His death on the cross. He used death to destroy death, He bore our sins in His body

(continued on page 2)

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

on the cross so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Peter 2:24). Instead of being infected by our sin, He overcame it.

This month, we remember the universal exaltation of the Precious and Lifegiving Cross. We remember that the cross was once an instrument of torture and shame, a symbol that was associated with criminals and evil. But once the painful image encountered Christ, it was transformed into a symbol of hope and life. Likewise, our sins and transgressions are transformed when we offer them to Christ. They no longer lead us to death, but our faults and failures become steppingstones that lead to a holy life, a life that leads to Christ. We no longer desire evil, but our hearts burn for the righteous presence of Christ.

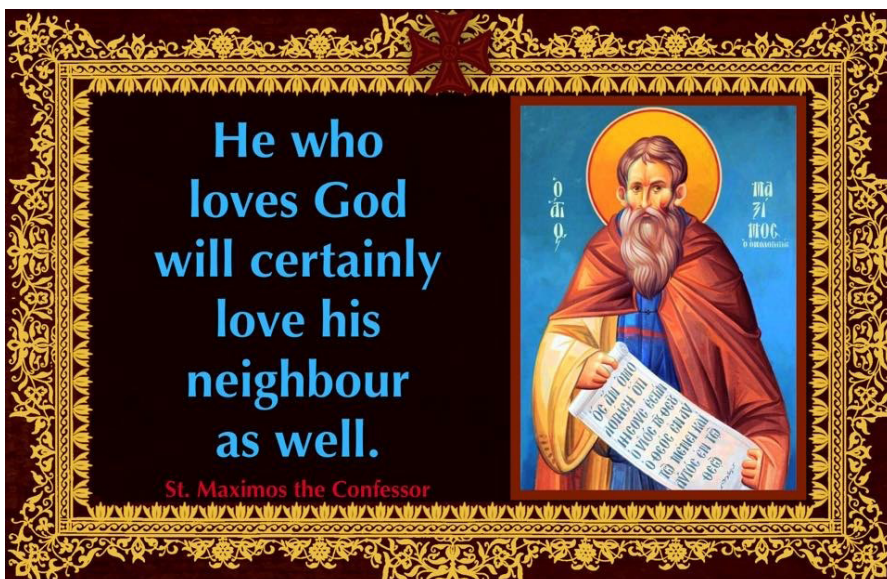
Just as the Israelites looked upon the image of the bronze serpent in the desert, let us look up on the precious and lifegiving cross of Christ. We remember how He took our sins upon Himself, and in doing so, we changed their effect from death to life. Let our hearts be warmed with faith and drawn into a new life, a new way of living and being, that heals us of the poison of sin.

In Christ,
Fr. Peter

MANY YEARS

Namesdays:

Megan Giesbrecht	September 5
Natalia Koshelkova	September 8
Laura Vaughan	September 9
Mat. Sophia Runyon	September 17
Sophia Teshin	September 17



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 or call (209) 536-8998.

<div> <div>◀ August</div> <div>September 2022</div> <div>October ▶</div> </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Church New Year	2 8 am - 4 pm Yard Sale	3 8 am - 4 pm Yard Sale 5:00 pm Spiritual Formation 6:00 pm Great Vespers
4 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	5	6	7 6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos	8 9:00 am Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy	9	10 5:00 pm Spiritual Formation 6:00 pm Great Vespers
11 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Council Meeting	12	13 6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Elevation of the Holy Cross	14 STRICT FAST WO Elevation of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy Service at Holy Cross in Sacramento with Archbishop BENJAMIN NO Bible Study	15	16	17 5:00 pm Spiritual Formation 6:00 pm Great Vespers
18 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	19	20 12:00 pm Pastor's Lunch	21 6:00 pm Bible Study	22	23 FWO	24 5:00 pm Spiritual Formation 6:00 pm Great Vespers
25 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	26	27	28 6:00 pm Bible Study	29	30	

