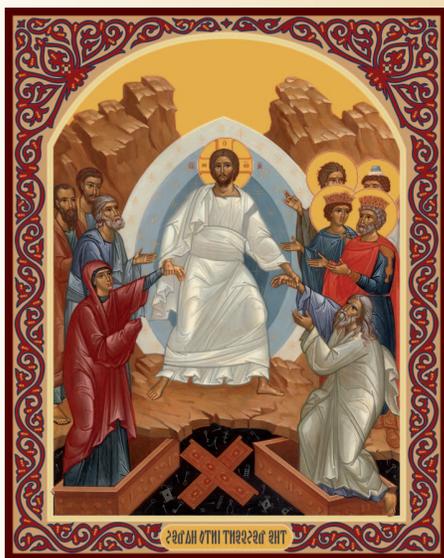


St. Susanna Orthodox Church

The Diocese of the West
The Orthodox Church in America

www.stsusanna.com

10825 Robinwood Lane*
Sonora, CA 95370 U.S.A.



CHRIST IS RISEN! Indeed He is Risen!

APRIL 2015

Pastor:

Fr. Andrew Jacobs
(209) 352-6791
revtajacobs@sbcglobal.net

Deacon Elias Union
(209) 532-7899

Natalie Teshin
(209) 536-1495

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown! Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns! Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave! For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages!”

—From the Catechetical Homily of St. John Chrysostom, given at the end of Paschal Matins, and prefacing the Paschal Divine Liturgy

A New Look for the Liturgical Schedule and Some New Features

The Liturgical Schedule is now in calendar format, in an effort to make it easier for all of us in the Church to read at a glance. As time goes on, we will improve its appearance. Comments on this new format are welcome.

We also plan to include more features in the Church Bulletin to provide more information on the people, events and opportunities to grow in Orthodox Christian life—including in this issue, “Who Are We?” which is a monthly profile of parish people and families, starting off with Leslie Hurst.

On our Way to the Resurrection: From Lazarus Saturday to Pascha

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday:
Lazarus Saturday (Great Vespers on Friday, April 3 at 6:00 p.m., and Divine Liturgy on

Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 a.m.) and Palm Sunday (Great Vespers with Litya on Saturday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m., and Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 5 at 9:00 a.m.) provide a bright entrance for us into the passionate weekdays of Holy Week.

In recalling the resurrection of Lazarus, we rejoice in the sure knowledge of Our Lord, God, and Savior’s power over death. This day also carries with it a foreshadowing of Our Lord’s own Resurrection eight days hence—and an undercurrent of the Sanhedrin’s plotting and planning, (which is born out more fully on Palm Sunday, when Christ enrages them by triumphantly entering Jerusalem).

A sticheron in Tone 8 from the Great Vespers of Lazarus Saturday concisely states the truth of our Lord’s miraculous resurrection of Lazarus: *“Standing by the tomb of Lazarus, O Savior, / You called to Your friend, who was dead. / He heard Your voice,*

(continued on page 2)

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

(continued from page 1)

and awoke as from sleep./ Mortality was shaken by immortality./ By Your word the bound was unbound./ All is possible! All things serve and submit to You, O Loving Lord.// O our Savior, glory to You!”

Then, for Palm Sunday, we have this summary Sticheron:

“Today the Grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together/ And we all take up our cross and sing/ Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord // Hosanna in the highest!”

(“Hosanna” literally means “deliver us;” and, as a name, it means “Deliverer,” as in “Rescuer,” or “One who frees us from captivity.”)

Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday:

Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (April 6, 7 and 8) dwell with edifying effect on the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1–13), some of whom were prepared for the appearance of the Bridegroom and some were not. So, services on those days feature the Bridegroom Matins. (We will celebrate Bridegroom Matins on Monday, April 6, at 6:00 p.m.)

The following is the Troparion in Tone 8 of Bridegroom Matins:

“Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight,/and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching;/ and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless./Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighted down with sleep,/lest you be given up to death / and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom!//But rouse yourself, crying: “Holy, holy, holy, are You, O our God!”//

Through the Theotokos have mercy on us!”

A feature of Wednesday in Holy Week is the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, which is the most frequently celebrated of the Lenten services. For this service, the gifts for the Eucharist are sanctified during Divine Liturgy of the preceding Sunday — hence the word “Presanctified.”

We will celebrate the majestic Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts for the last time this year on Holy Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00 p.m. The solemn Lenten melodies of this service seem to give voice to the appeals to the Lord, made by our inner selves as we seek His forgiveness and salvation: *“Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord./ Lord, hear my voice”* (from the Third Antiphon of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts).

MANY YEARS

Birthdays:

Sbdn Nicolas Teshin	April 1
Jeanne Harmer	April 4
Alex Jacobs	April 11
Alyssa Vaughan	April 12

Namesdays:

Mat. Elizabeth Jacobs	April 24
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Anniversary:

Dn. Elias & Mat. Anna Union	April 12
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Holy Thursday:

Holy Thursday, April 9, focuses on the betrayal of Christ. The signifying Troparion of Holy Thursday is this, sung in the Matins with Passion Gospels service, in a mournful and yet majestic tone:

“When the glorious Disciples were enlightened at the washing of the feet before the supper,/ Then the impious Judas was darkened, ailing with avarice,/ And to the lawless judges he betrays Thee, the Righteous Judge./ Behold, O lover of money, this man who because of money hanged himself!// Flee from the greedy soul which dared such things against the Master!// O Lord, Who are good towards men, glory to Thee!”

We serve the Matins with the Passion Gospels at 6:00 p.m. Thursday evening. The Passion Gospels bring us into the reality of Our Lord’s salvific sacrifice. These are the Passion Gospels that we read during this most solemn Matins service: John 13:31–18:1; John 18:1–29 ; Matthew 26:57–75; John 18:28–19:16; Matthew 27:3–32; Mark 15:16–32; Matthew 27:33–54; Luke 23:32–49; John 19:19–37; Mark 15:43–47; John 19:38–42; Matthew 27:62–66

Holy Friday:

On Holy Friday, April 10, we celebrate the Vespers with Plaschanitsa Procession (at 3:00 p.m.), and the Matins with Lamentations (at 6:00 p.m.). These services commemorate the burial and the going down into hell of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. At the Vespers with Plaschanitsa Procession, the Plaschanitsa (Burial Shroud) is brought out from the Altar in solemn procession to the tomb, which has been set in the middle of the church. We venerate the shroud, and later that afternoon, the Lamentations of the Matins service are sung in front of the tomb. During

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)

the Vespers with Plaschanitsa Procession service, we will sing the beautiful Troparion, “The Noble Joseph:”

“The noble Joseph,/ when he had taken down Thy most pure body from the Tree,/ wrapped it in fine linen,/ and anointed it with spices,/ and placed it in a new tomb ... The angel came to the Myrrh-bearing Women/ at the tomb and said:/ Myrrh is fitting for the dead,/ But Christ has shown Himself // a stranger to corruption.”

Holy Saturday (and Pascha!):

On Holy Saturday, April 11, at 9:00 a.m., we will celebrate Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil, and at 11:30 p.m. that evening, we celebrate Nocturnes of the Eve of Pascha. Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil (also a type of “Vesperal Liturgy”) includes fifteen Old Testament lessons that recall the Passover, and point to the Resurrection, mirroring both Old Testament and New Testament evidence of the mercy of God. Baptisms traditionally were — and still are — done on Holy Saturday (which deepens the connection of this service to the Resurrection) and is reflected in some of the liturgical language used, and in the changing of liturgical vestments to white during the service.

Among the many highlights of this magnificent service are the joyous refrain, “Praise the Lord, sing and exalt Him throughout all the ages,” between verses from the Song of the Three Youths (Daniel 3), which precedes the Epistle reading, and the triumphant refrain “Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations” between verses from Psalm 82, preceding the reading of the Gospel.

In Nocturnes, as we take Christ down from the Cross, we sing the a very tender yet powerful hymn, both somber and triumphant:

Hours Readings

April 5	Rdr Tikhon Everly
April 19	Layne Williams
April 26	Jan Williams

Anyone who would like to read the Hours before liturgy, please contact Subdeacon Nicolas Teshin at 209-536-1625 to be added to the list or for more information.

“Do not lament me, O Mother,/ Seeing me in the tomb,/ The Son conceived in the womb without seed,/ For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God.// I shall exalt all who magnify thee in faith and in love.”

And shortly after, in the darkened church, the people of God stand silently with candles in hands, awaiting the Light of the Resurrection — which at the stroke of midnight, will come forth from the Altar as a lit three-branched candlestick in the hands of the Priest, and from that candlestick other candles are lit, and then others still, and then, all candles are ablaze with the light of Pascha, the Feast of Feasts!

And so we commence with the Paschal Procession, Paschal Matins and the glorious Paschal Divine Liturgy, and all manner of beautiful, right and proper understandings shall pour forth, proclaiming the greatest Truth the world has ever known — that **“Christ has Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tomb, eternal life!”**

Christ is Risen!

Father Andrew

Sunday School

Sunday School, celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, will focus on a Lenten Project this month. We will be featuring our children’s efforts in our newsletter in coming months. Plan to help your children attend church so they may participate in this special part of their religious education.

Church Camp

Summer camp for our children will be held the week of June 28 to July 4 in Dunlap California and costs \$385 per child, with discounts for siblings. We have already had the first fundraiser — Sophia and Christina Teshin served hot dogs, beans and potato salad for coffee hour in February. Sophia will be interviewed in the next newsletter to tell us exactly what goes on

Include Something in the Bulletin

Submit any celebrations, memorials, announcements, or upcoming events that you would like to share with our parishioners to the attention of Leslie Hurst: hurst123@sbcglobal.net

at camp. We hope to be able to send more children this year. If you would like to send a donation, please mark your check “Summer Camp.”

House Keeping in the House of the Lord

Our present list of “needs” are:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Paper plates
- Plastic knives

Please bring to the church and leave in the kitchen and thank you!

Let's Get the Church Ready for Pascha

The cleaning and sprucing up of our church for Pascha will be after liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, April 4. A general “deep cleaning” — both inside and outside is just what we need to celebrate our Lord’s joyous resurrection.

New Icon Kiot

You will notice a new “kiot,” which means “a box for icons,” in the middle of our temple. We have had a set of Greek Icons — but now have received a new set of icons in English: 70 for all the Feast Days, 12 American Saints, and all the Sundays leading to Pascha. Alex and Nick Teshin have spent hours preparing these icons, and have printed them on very durable paper. They have made them available to other churches.

Who Are We?

We have many new members in our congregation and in order to introduce ourselves, we have initiated a column describing individual members of the church each month — for a little while anyway — until we get caught up with one another.

Leslie Hurst—I am an artist, cattlemaster, olive grower, and grape grower. My husband Joe and I own Hurst Ranch Supply in Jamestown. I “found” St. Susanna at a low point in my life, found my bearings and have never looked back! I sing in the choir — whatever part needs singing — am absolutely terrible at vegetarian cooking, and I serve on the Parish Council.

We have three children. Amy Anne is a flight attendant with United Airlines and is married to Andrew who works for the County of San Diego as a budget manager. They live in Point Loma, California.

Margaret Ruth is a massage therapist and esthetician. She lives in the San Diego area with her husband Matt, a P.E. teacher, and their daughter Allison Isabel, who is in the 3rd grade.

Our son, Thomas Josiah, lives on the ranch with us and is slowly (but surely) taking over our business so that we can slow down. He has two daughters, Cheyanne Hailey, 5 and Hallie Jane, 3.

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 rain.
- “St. John, please intercede for us before God for the membership growth of St. Susanna.”
- 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.
- 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 building of a monastery in Sonora.
- For the health of Fr. Ignatius.
- For health and strength for Anna.
- For health and spiritual strength for Alex.
- For Ellen, that she be cured of cancer and have strength during her treatments.
- For health and strength for Anastasia.
- For healing of Presbyteria Chrisy.
- For health and healing for Rob.
- For health and healing for Keri.
- For Peter’s safety while he is overseas.
- For Ramey for healing from an undiagnosed disease.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy; Lenten soup dinner	2	3 6:00 pm Great Vespers for Lazarus Saturday	4 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday (Heb. 12:28–13:8 and John 11:1–45); Church cleaning for Pascha after Liturgy; 6:00 pm Great Vespers w/ Litya for Palm Sunday
5 Holy Week 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday Philippians (4:4–9 and John 12:1–18); Sunday School for children (after Communion); Potluck Luncheon; Parish Council Mtg	6 Holy Monday 6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins	7 Holy Tuesday 6:00 pm Bible Study	8 Holy Wednesday 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy; Lenten soup dinner	9 Holy Thursday 6:00 pm Matins w/ the 12 Passion Gospels	10 Holy Friday 3:00 pm Vespers w/ Plaschanitsa procession; 6:00 pm Matins with Lamentations	11 Holy Saturday 9:00 am Vespers w/ O.T. Readings and Liturgy of St. Basil the Great Rom. 6:3–11 and Matthew 28:1–20; 11:30 pm Nocturnes
12 PASCHA!!! Midnight: Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Acts 1:1–8 and John 1:1–17); Paschal Feast in the Parish hall. 12 noon: Paschal Vespers w/ Gospel in many languages; Festal Luncheon and Easter egg hunt.	13 Bright Monday	14 Bright Tuesday 6:00 pm Bible Study	15 Bright Wednesday 6:00 pm Great Vespers for Bright Wednesday	16 Bright Thursday	17 Bright Friday	18 Bright Saturday 6:00 pm Great Vespers for St. Thomas Sunday
19 St. Thomas Sunday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for St. Thomas Sunday (Acts 5:12–20 and John 20:19–31)	20	21 6:00 pm Bible Study	22	23	24	25 6:00 pm Great Vespers for Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday
26 Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday 9:00 am Divine Liturgy for Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday (Act 6:1–7 and Mark 15:43–16:8)	27	28 6:00 pm Bible Study	29	30	Notes:	