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*As my rector and I were ironing the green altar cloths for the celebration of Pentecost, we were discussing the reason for changing the color from gold to green. Green signifies growth and new life. May these weeks that follow our celebration of Pentecost be filled with growth and new life for all of us as well. I share with you an excerpt from Bishop Hilarion Alfeyev's The Mystery of Faith, a book I have found to be excellent.*

### What is FAITH?

Faith is the path on which an encounter takes place between us and God. It is God who takes the first step: He fully and unconditionally believes in us and gives us a sign, an awareness of His presence. We hear the mysterious call of God, and our first step towards an encounter with Him is a response to this call. God may call us openly or in secret, overtly or covertly. But it is difficult for us to believe in Him if we do not first heed this call.

Faith is both a mystery and a miracle. Why does one person respond to the call while another not? Why is one open to receive the voice of God, while the other remains deaf? Why, having encountered God, does one immediately abandon everything and follow Him, but the other turn away and take a different road? 'As He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me"... Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John... and He called them. Immediately they

left the boat and their father, and followed Him' (Matt.4:18-22).

What secret hides behind the readiness of the Galilean fishermen to abandon everything and follow Jesus at first encounter? Why, on the other hand, did the rich young man, who also heard Christ's 'Come and follow Me,' not abandon everything for Him but instead 'went away sorrowful' (Matt.19:21-22)? Is it perhaps because the fishermen were poor, while the young man 'had great possessions'? The former had nothing other than God, while the latter had 'treasure on earth.'

Each one of us has treasure on earth, whether it be in the form of money or possessions, satisfactory employment or material wellbeing. But the Lord said, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven' (Matt. 5:3). In St Luke's Gospel this is put even more simply and directly: 'Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God' (Luke 6:20). Blessed are they who realize that while they may possess many things, they in fact own nothing. Blessed are they who realize that no earthly acquisition can substitute for God. Blessed are they who go and sell all their wealth in order to acquire the pearl of great price (cf. Matt.13:45-46). Blessed are they who know that without God they are poor, who have thirsted and hungered after Him with all their soul, mind and will.

May God richly bless all of you! We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

*Fr. Joseph & Felicity*

## 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 hostile lands.
- To help us forgive 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 health and healing for Natasha.
- For health and healing for Fred.
- For health and healing for Nina.
- For health and healing for Judy.
- For Ramey for healing from an undiagnosed disease.
- For health of Metropolitan Hilarion.
- For health and healing for Andres.
- For health and healing for Violet
- For health and healing for Lise.

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

## MANY YEARS

### Birthdays:

Christina Teshin	July 2
Megan Giesbrecht	July 2
Ron McIntosh	July 6
Allen Gomes	July 9
Mason Vitz	July 18
Larissa Worth	July 18
Rami Arsheid	July 23
John Arsheid	July 25
Elisa Anttila	July 28

### Namesdays:

Sara Arsheid	July 13
Rami Arsheid	July 20
Dn. Elias Union	July 20
Grete (Olga) Reighard	July 24
Christina Teshin	July 24
Jeanne Harmer	July 25
Alyssa-Anna Jacobs	July 25

### Anniversaries:

Fr. Andrew & Matushka Elizabeth Andrews	July 2
Nick & Larissa Worth	July 3

## Hours Readings

July 10	Rdr Tikhon
July 17	Max Reighard
July 24	Olga Reighard
July 31	Rdr Tikhon

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

## St. Susanna Cleaning Schedule

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

Team 1—Week of July 3

Team 2—Week of July 17

## July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2 6:00 pm</b> Reader's Vespers <b>All Saints of America</b>
<b>3 9:00am</b> Reader's Service <b>The Sunday of All Saints of America</b> (Rom. 2:10-16 and Matt. 4:18-23); <b>Potluck Luncheon;</b> <b>No Parish Council Meeting</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9 6:00 pm</b> Vespers with Fr. Joseph Ramos
<b>10 9:00am</b> Liturgy with Fr. Joseph Ramos (Rom. 5:1-10 and Matt. 6:22-33) <b>Potluck Luncheon</b> <b>Q&amp;A with Fr. Joseph and Mat. Felicity</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> FWO	<b>16 6:00 pm</b> Vespers with Fr. Joseph Ramos
<b>17 9:00am</b> Liturgy with Fr. Joseph Ramos (Rom. 6:18-23 and Matt. 8:5-13) <b>Q&amp;A with Fr. Joseph and Mat. Felicity</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> FWO	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23 6:00 pm</b> Reader's Vespers
<b>24 9:00am</b> Liturgy with Fr. Tom Renfree (Rom. 10:1-10 and Matt. 8:28-9:1) <b>Potluck Luncheon</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30 6:00 pm</b> Reader's Vespers
<b>31 9:00am</b> Liturgy with Fr. Tom Renfree (Rom. 12:6-14 and Matt. 9:1-8)	<b>Notes: Fr. Joseph and his wife Matushka Felicity will be with us for 2 weekends in July. Everyone is encouraged to attend the weekend services when they are here. Both Sundays we will have a Q&amp;A with whoever is present to get to know them better.</b>					