

The Diocese of the West  
The Orthodox Church in America

# St. Susanna Orthodox Church

## September 2016

www.stsusanna.com



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Dear Faithful of St. Susanna Parish,

Now that the move is over (our son is married, our daughter off to college) and the dust is starting to settle, I'm beginning to take a look at some of the things we can initiate as we head into the Fall (after talking and listening to some of our parishioners). First of all, I'm hoping that we can start an Adult Study with Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings from 6:00–7:00 p.m. I'm proposing September 28th as our first meeting. This will allow us to meet twice before the Diocesan Council in mid-October. Our hope is to eventually also have a mid-week Vespers service as well. I'm also planning to have a time to meet with all the young people at our church, 18 & under. Once I settle on a date and venue I'll get information out about that.

This month we have two Great Feasts that we'll be celebrating as we begin the New Church Year. On September 8th we have the Feast of the Nativity of Most-Holy Theotokos and then on September 14th we have the Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross.

Glad to be here serving the Lord with you,

*Fr. Joseph*

*"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."*

—C. S. Lewis, *A reflection about the Cross*

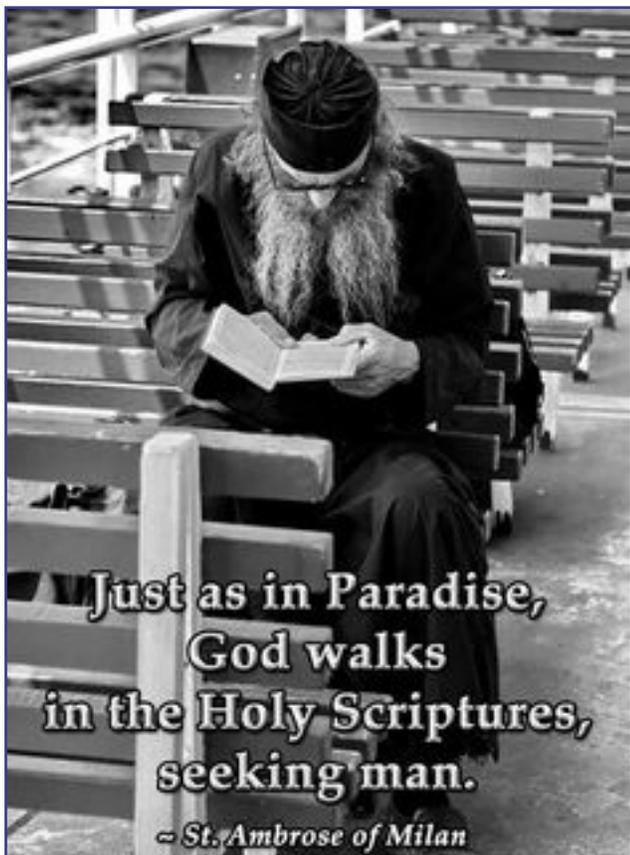
## The Power of the Cross

The power of the Cross is mysterious: no matter how unexplainable, it is true and indisputable. Yet St. John Chrysostom speaks of a custom in his time, in which the sign of the Cross is attached "on the emperor's diadem, on the accoutrements of the soldiers, and it is traced on parts of the body — the head, the breast and the heart — and also on the table of oblation and over beds... If we need to expel demons, we use the Cross; it also helps to heal the sick." St. Benedict made the sign of the Cross over a glass of poison, and the glass burst as though it were struck by a stone. St. Julian made the sign of the Cross over a glass of poison that was brought to him and drank the poison, and he suffered no harm. The Holy Martyr Basilissa of Nicomedia protected herself with the sign of the Cross, stood amidst the flames and remained unharmed. The Holy Martyrs Audon and Senis crossed themselves when wild beasts were released on them, and the beasts became docile and meek as lambs. The sign of the Cross has been the most powerful weapon against the temptations of the demons, from the time of the ancient ascetics to the present day. The most horrible of the devil's devisings vanish into nothing, like smoke, when a man traces the sign of the Cross over himself. Thus, it is a sign of the Lord Jesus Christ's love for mankind that the Cross — at one time a sign of criminality and shame — became, through His Crucifixion and Resurrection, the repository of all victorious power and might.

*By Saint Nikolai Velimirovic*

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

## Orthopraxis: The Feast of the Cross



This is a holy day of fasting and repentance. On this day the faithful make dedication to the crucified Lord and pledge their faithfulness to him by making prostrations at the Lord's feet on the life creating Cross. For the feast, the Cross is placed on a tray surrounded by flowers or branches of basil, and placed in the center of the Church for veneration.

On the eve of the feast, Vespers is served and contains three Old Testament readings. The first, from Exodus 15:22–16:1, tells of the “tree” which made the bitter waters sweet, the symbol of the Tree of the Cross. The second reading is from Proverbs 3:11–18, which reminds us that the Lord chastens and corrects those whom he loves and that Divine Wisdom is “a Tree of life to those who lay hold upon her and trust in her, as in the Lord.” The third reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah 60:11–16; it tells of the “city of the Lord” where both Jews and Gentiles will live together and shall prostrate themselves at the place of God's feet and “shall know that I, the Lord, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.”

Divine Liturgy is served on the day on the feast. The normal antiphons are replaced by special verses

from the psalms 22, 74, and 99, which have direct reference to Christ's crucifixion on the Cross. A special hymn replaces the Trisagion hymn, as it is sung, the faithful prostrate. The epistle reading is from I Corinthians 1:18–24, and says that “the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” The gospel reading is taken from John 19:6–11, 13–20, 25–28, and 30–35 together. This long reading is the passion account.

*From Orthodox Wiki*

### Diocesan Assembly

Please let Fr. Joseph know by September 1st if you would be interested in being a lay delegate to the Diocesan Assembly. The dates for the assembly are October 11 and 12 in Los Angeles at the Cathedral.

### Time to Gather So We May Reap

The annual Rummage and Bake Sale will be held October 28 and 29 this year. We will be setting up Wednesday and Thursday, the 26th and 27th. Please bring saleable items, i.e., no mold, rust, or ripped clothing. Your unwanted items in good condition may be someone else's treasures. Please bring in home-made or store bought baked goods by that weekend.

### Cemetery Cleanup

Deacon Elias is looking for volunteers to do a grounds cleaning, i.e. removing brush, dead wood, etc. at Shaws Flat Cemetery on October 8th. This is one of Sonora's oldest cemeteries still in use, but the grounds are basically “rustic,” not maintained. Matushka Anna's gravesite is there and Deacon Elias has volunteered to do groundskeeping for the present. Please come and help.

### St. Susanna Cleaning Schedule

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

Team 1—Week of September 4

Team 2—Week of September 18

## 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.
- For health and healing for Loretta.

*(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:

Susie Gomes	September 5
Sophia Arsheid	September 30

### Namesdays:

Elizabeth Cooper	September 5
Megan Giesbrecht	September 5
Natalia Kosheikova	September 8
Laura Vaughan	September 9
John Reighard	September 11
Sophia Arsheid	September 17
Sophia Teshin	September 17
John Arsheid	September 26

### Anniversaries:

Megan & Ben Giesbrecht	September 2
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## Hours Readings

September 4	Rdr Tikhon
September 11	Max Reighard
September 18	Olga Reighard
September 25	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 for more information.

September 2016						
◀ August						October ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Church New Year (no service)	<b>2</b>	<b>3 6:00 pm</b> Great Vespers
<b>4 9:00 am</b> Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 9:2–12 and Matt. 18:23–35) <b>Potluck Luncheon</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 6:00 pm</b> FWO Great Vespers w/Litya	<b>8 9:00 am</b> Divine Liturgy – <b>Nativity of the Holy Theotokos</b> (Phil. 2:5–11 and Luke 10:38–42; 11:27–28)	<b>9</b>	<b>10 6:00 pm</b> Great Vespers
<b>11 9:00 am</b> Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 15:1–11 and Matt. 19:16–26) <b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 6:00 pm</b> Great Vespers w/Litya	<b>14 9:00 am</b> WO Strict Fast Divine Liturgy – <b>Elevation of the Cross</b> (1 Cor. 1:18–24 and John 19:6–11, 13– 20, 25–28, 30–35)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17 6:00 pm</b> Great Vespers
<b>18 9:00 am</b> Divine Liturgy (1 Cor. 16:13–24 and Matt. 21:33–42) <b>Potluck Luncheon</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> WO	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> FWO	<b>24 6:00 pm</b> Great Vespers
<b>25 9:00 am</b> Divine Liturgy (2 Cor. 1:21–2:4 and Luke 5:1–11)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28 6:00 pm</b> *Adult Education	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Notes:</b> *Tentative start of a new weekly Adult Education class held at the church