

Announcements

- **Welcome Guests and Visitors.** We welcome you and hope your experience at the Divine Liturgy is edifying and spiritually nourishing. Please take a moment after the service to introduce yourself to our pastor, Father Kirill. You are invited to join us for lunch after the service. We would love to greet you and answer any questions.
- **Preparing your pledge.** It is the time of year when we prayerfully make our annual pledge, offering our “first fruits” to God. “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). You can pick up a pledge card at church or fill out your pledge online at our web site, holy-trinity.org.
- **Bookstore.** Our bookstore downstairs was restocked this week! Curl up with a *good* book or give one as a gift. We will be open after Sunday Liturgy and can easily open on request.
- **Service Opportunity.** We plan to serve meals to homeless at the Interfaith Winter Shelter, Thursday evening, February 8. We would love to have a good crew from our Cathedral helping serve. Mark your calendar.
- **Let us go to meet Him!** The divine services leading up to and including the Nativity of Christ and Theophany are true *gifts* to us and for us. Please open your heart to these gifts and experience them. May God grant us the experience of the calming and cleansing silence found in the approach to the spiritual Cave in Bethlehem during this *Winter Pascha!* If you have any questions about how to “keep” this holy time, please talk with Fr. Kirill.

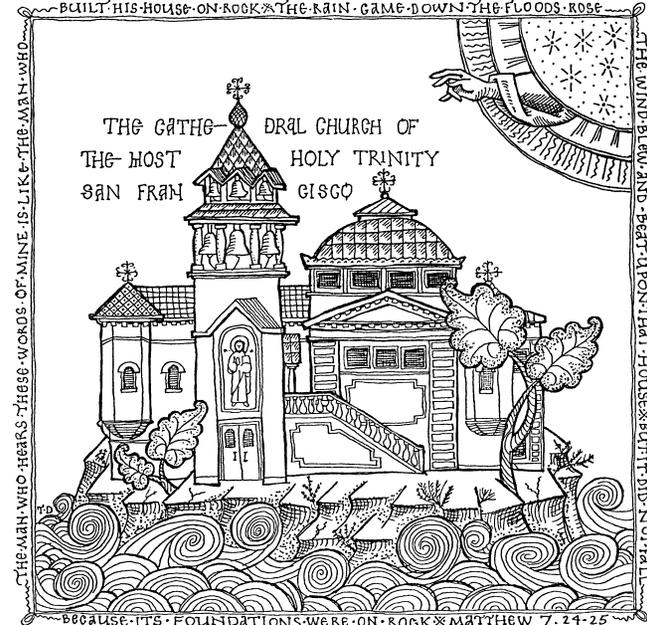
This Week at Holy Trinity

- Wed. Dec. 13:** **St. Herman, Elder and Wonderworker of Alaska**
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm Vespers followed by Choir Rehearsal
Parking available at St. Brigid's
- Sat. Dec. 16:** 9:00 am Parish Feast Day Liturgy in Sonora, CA
6:00 pm Vigil and Confessions (*here*)
Parking available at St. Brigid's
- Sun. Dec. 17:** **Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. Prophet Daniel.**
9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour
and Parish Council Meeting
Parking available Sunday morning at St. Brigid's

Contact Fr. Kirill

Question? Want to talk? Or be on our email list?
FrKirill@holy-trinity.org • 415-673-8565

Holy Trinity Cathedral



Sunday, December 10, 2023

Most Reverend Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the West

Very Reverend Dr. Kirill Sokolov, Dean

1520 Green Street
San Francisco, California 94123
holy-trinity.org

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of the West

We are delighted to be together with you in worshipping the Holy Trinity.
Welcome!

Today's Epistle

Ephesians 6:10-17

Today's Gospel

Luke 17:12-19

27th Sunday after Pentecost

Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and Eucraphus, of Alexandria (ca. 313)

Tone 2

Today's Epistle Reading

Ephesians 6:10-17

Brethren: be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against the spiritual forces of wickedness on high. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and completing every task, still to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the eagerness to spread the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of the faith, with which you may be able to quench all the fiery arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Today's Gospel Reading

Luke 17:12-19

At that time, as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

The Two Comings of Christ

Christians live between the two comings of Christ. They remember His first coming to be sacrificed. They anticipate His second coming to reign. This is vividly portrayed in traditional Orthodox church buildings where the "royal gates" of the icon screen in front of the altar table are flanked by the icons of the Theotokos and Child on the one side, and the Lord

Jesus in glory on the other. To the uninitiated it may seem as though these are simply pictures of Mary and Jesus put on the same level. This is not so. The icons which frame the Orthodox altar are images of the two comings of Christ. Mary is not alone in her icon; she is holding the Christ Child, who is not shown as a baby, but as the Son of God incarnate "in the form of a slave... in the likeness of men" (Phil 2:7). This is the icon of Christ's first coming. And the icon on the right of the doors is not a picture of Jesus as He was on the earth. It is His image in glory as King and Lord, the icon of His second coming.

The two comings of Christ are held together in Christian thought, action, and prayer at all times. They cannot be separated. When they are, it is the end of Christian faith, life and worship. The first coming without the second is a meaningless tragedy. The second coming without the first is an absurd impossibility. Jesus is born to bring God's kingdom. He dies to prove His kingship. He rises to establish his reign. He comes again in glory to share it with His people. In the kingdom of God there are no subjects. All rule with the risen Messiah. He came, and is coming, for this purpose alone. - Father Thomas Hopko, *The Winter Pascha*, Chapter 20.

Holy Wonderworker Herman of Alaska

On Wednesday morning, December 13, we celebrate the feast day of our Venerable and God-bearing Father Herman (Germanos) of Alaska. This saint was the first to be glorified in America. A Vespers hymn proclaims that "he harvested abundantly a field of fruitfulness, which remains, even till now, prospering in the Lord. Therefore we pray to thee, our venerable Father Herman: 'Do not cease through thy prayers to care for thy people, and for all of us who lovingly celebrate thine all-honorable memory!'"



... if we realized that all we have, in body, in soul, in circumstances of life, even in the tragedies of life, comes because God has sent us into the world as His messengers to bring divine presence at a cost, if necessary, of our lives—how grateful we would be, and how we would live in order that God should look at us, each of us, and say, Here is a disciple of Mine who has understood, and who lives accordingly!

-Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom)

Thank you!

Please join us downstairs for coffee and our fellowship meal! We look forward to meeting our guests and visitors.

Thanks to Irina Y. for organizing today's lunch!