

Giving With Love

We can give without love but such loveless giving has no value in the eyes of God. St. Paul writes, "If I give away all that I have ... but have not love, I gain nothing" (I Cor. 13:3). It is only when we give because we love that our gift is pleasing and acceptable to God.

Our weekly offering to God is first and foremost an offering of love. One can give without loving but one cannot love without giving.

From the Fathers

Do not be irritated either with those who sin or those who offend; do not have a passion for noticing every sin in your neighbor, and for judging him, as we are in the habit of doing. Everyone shall give an answer to God for himself. Everyone has a conscience; everyone hears God's Word, and knows God's Will either from books or from conversation with other people. Especially do not look with evil intention upon the sins of your elders, which do not regard you; to his own master he standeth or falleth. "Correct your own sins, amend your own life."

St. John of Kronstadt

You cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of him who gives and kindles joy in the heart of him who receives. All condemnation is from the devil. Never condemn each other. We condemn others only because we shun knowing ourselves. When we gaze at our own failings, we see such a swamp that nothing in another can equal it. That is why we turn away, and make much of the faults of others. Instead of condemning others, strive to reach inner peace. Keep silent, refrain from judgement. This will raise you above the deadly arrows of slander, insult and outrage and will shield your glowing hearts against all evil."

St. Seraphim of Sarov

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



September 8, 2013

Sunday Before Holy Cross/Nativity of the Theotokos

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Sunday Before Holy Cross/Nativity of the Theotokos

Commemoration of: St. Sophronios of Iberia

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

I Gennisis Sou Theotoke (Hymn of the Day) Tone 4
Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth, for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing; and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life.

Ote katilthes (Resurrection Hymn) Tone 2
When You descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant divinity. And when You from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out, O life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.

Kontakion

Ioakim ke Anna Tone 4
Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

Epistle Reading

Galatians 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Gospel Reading

John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

This Week

Today—

- ✘ Sunday School Meeting with Teachers, Parents & Father Alex immediately after a brief coffee hour.
- ✘ Philoptochos Meeting— At 12 pm, after Sunday School Meeting. Please make every effort to attend as we have much to discuss in planning our upcoming year. Meeting will take place either in the Bookstore or the Conference Room.
- ✘ Parish Council Meeting— Thursday, September 12, at 5:30 pm

Fri — *Great Vespers* - 6:30 pm Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross
Sat—*Orthros*— 8:30 am, *Divine Liturgy*— 9 am

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread. *Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.*