

JULY 25, 2021

**BULLETIN – DORMITION OF RIGHTEOUS ANNA, MOTHER OF THE THEOTOKOS &
5TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

ChurchOffice@ssppaoc.org ♦ (831) 336-2228 ♦ P.O. Box 458, Ben Lomond, CA 95005

Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – **10:00 am Wednesday** ♦ church website: <https://ssppaoc.org/>

This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul – July 26-August 1,

2021

- 7/27 Tues. 6:00 am – Readers Orthros
7/28 Wed 6:00 pm – Paraklesis
7/29 Thurs 6:00 am – Men’s Reading Group
7/31 Sat 6:00 pm – Great Vespers & Compline
followed by summer BBQ
8/1 Sun 8:20 am – Orthros
9:45 am – Divine Liturgy – 6th
Sunday after Pentecost &
Procession of the Precious & Life-
giving Cross

No Church School

Beginning of Dormition Fast

Looking ahead—

- August 2 Paraklesis
August 5 Vespers Divine Liturgy for Feast of
Transfiguration followed by potluck
August 6 Paraklesis
August 7 Men’s Breakfast & Narthex work-day
August 8 Community Dinner
Youth Group
August 9 Paraklesis
August 11 Paraklesis
August 13 Paraklesis
August 15 Dormition of the Theotokos

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Janelle Machnee, Amanda Baillie, Amy Nicholas, Kh. Claire, Sarah Steiger, Keidi Lewis, Fr. Christopher and all those who helped plan, organize, and run the Ss. Peter & Paul Summer Kids Camp, as well as the families who brought their children to participate. It was an edifying time and God was glorified in and for all things!

Many Years – Birthday

Audrey Baillie July 30
Gerry Elwell July 31
Karl Elwell July 31

**ENTRANCE & EXIT INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE CHURCH**

Now that work on the Narthex has begun, please remember to enter the church by the north side door (choir side) and exit by the south side door (larger parking lot side).

**NARTHEX
DEMOLITION**

**Saturday, August 7 – 9:00 am to
1:00 pm** after the Men’s Breakfast.

**TODAY IS PRISON MINISTRY
AWARENESS SUNDAY**

*“I was in prison and you visited me.”
(Matthew 25:26)*

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) introduces prisoners to the fullness of the Orthodox faith and helps Orthodox who have been convicted of crimes to return to the faith and find healing and reconciliation. A special offering will be taken **today** to help support this vital ministry of the Orthodox Church in the United States.

**Our annual General Meeting will be Sunday,
September 19. Please be thinking about Parish
Council nominations.**

DORMITION FAST (August 1-14)

Fasting is intended to bring us to the realization of “the one thing needful.” It is to help us put God first and our own desires second, if not last. As such it serves to prepare us to be instruments of God’s will, as with Moses in his flight from Egypt and on Mt. Sinai, as well as our Lord’s fast in the wilderness. Fasting turns us away from ourselves and toward God. In essence it helps us become like the Theotokos, an obedient servant of God, who heard His word and kept it better than anyone else has or could.

So why do we fast before Dormition? In a close-knit family, word that its matriarch is on her deathbed brings normal life to a halt. Otherwise important things (parties, TV, luxuries, personal desires) become unimportant; life comes to revolve around the dying matriarch. It is the same with the Orthodox family; word that our matriarch is on her deathbed, could not (or at least should not) have any different effect than the one just mentioned. The Church, through the Paraklesis Service, gives us the opportunity to come to that deathbed and eulogize and entreat the woman who bore God, the vessel of our salvation and our chief advocate at His divine throne. And as, in the earthly family, daily routines and the indulgence in personal wants should come to a halt. Fasting, in its full sense (abstaining from food and desires) accomplishes this. Less time in leisure or other pursuits leave more time for prayer and reflection on she who gave us Christ, and became the first and greatest Christian. In reflecting on her and her incomparable life, we see a model Christian life, embodying Christ’s retort to the woman who stated that Mary was blessed because she bore Him: blessed rather are those who hear His word and keep it. Mary did this better than anyone. As Fr. Thomas Hopko has stated, she heard the word of God and kept it so well, that she

of all women in history was chosen not only to hear His Word but give birth to it (Him). So while we fast in contemplation of her life, we are simultaneously preparing ourselves to live a life in imitation of her. That is the purpose of the Dormition Fast.

When the assumption of thine undefiled body was being prepared, the Apostles gazed on thy bed, viewing thee with trembling. Some contemplated thy body and were dazzled, but Peter cried out to thee in tears, saying, “I see thee clearly, O Virgin, stretched out, O life of all, and I am astonished. O thou undefiled one, in whom the bliss of future life dwelt, beseech thy Son and God to preserve thy people unimpaired.”

Sticheron after the Gospel, Orthros

(Taken from The Word magazine, June 2008)

COMMUNITY DINNER **Sunday, August 8** **at 2:00 pm**

Donations of non-perishable food items and helpers to make and distribute the dinner needed. Please leave food items in the parish hall kitchen/industrial refrigerator marked for Community Dinner. Contact Kriss Saad to volunteer at (831) 419-2677.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 7 will be a fasting breakfast in the parish hall at 8:00 am. All men are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE

Cicily Oakes and Randall Nacamuli are getting married October 16 and would like you all to save the date!

Memory Eternal

July 31

Sarah Newberry