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СНИКСН ОГ ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER Церковь вскуз Сватыхз вз Земль Россійской Просілвшихз

MESSAGE FROM ARCHPRIEST STEFAN, RECTOR

I greet everyone in the spirit of Great Lent which started a short time ago on Forgiveness Sunday, February 26.

Please forgive me a sinner. May the Lord forgive and save us all.

The first Sunday of Great Lent is dedicated to the Triumph of Orthodoxy which affirmed the veneration of Holy Icons by the Seventh Ecumenical Church Council. The veneration of Holy Icons is probably the most distinct characteristic of the Eastern Orthodox Church which is noticed by all who enter an Orthodox edifice. It is also one of the major stumbling blocks (obstacles) for those wishing to explore the Orthodox Church in one's desire to learn more about possible conversion.

Keeping icons in places of honor, burning candles before them, decorating them with precious gems and gold and silver gilding, carrying them in processions, and finally bowing before them and kissing them are acts which seem not only exotic, but, to some extent, even blasphemous to non-Orthodox. Despite all this, the knowledge that healings and wondrous miracles have occurred by the Grace of God through Holy Orthodox Icons is part of the foundational Tradition with a Capital T of the Historical Orthodox Church. We know this from Old Testament times, as recorded in the Bible. Through the Prophet Moses, the Lord commanded the faithful to build the Holy Ark of the Covenant in order for the Tabernacle to be set up for sacrifice and prayer. In the Ark, among other sacred relics, were preserved the Tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments revealed through Moses by The Lord God Himself. The Second Commandment said, "You shall not make for yourself an idol or a likeness of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow before them or serve them."

And yet, with this commandment in full force, the Lord also directed Moses to do the following, "And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat." So immediately, a distinction must be drawn between pagan idols, prohibited by Scripture, and acceptable images blessed by God Himself.

In another Biblical account, we see a command by God to receive healing from the image of a serpent: "And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole. And everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."" So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live. Numbers 21:8–9 again make a clear and concise distinction from pagan-like idol worship and miracles through images sanctioned by God. These examples should give one food for thought about the vast difference between the prohibited demonic idols proscribed by God in the Scriptures and God-blessed acceptable images-icons.



Let us venture together through the saving passages of the Lenten Season and gather the spiritual treasures available to us on Sundays and during the Weeks of Great Lent. By attending church, saying private prayers, fasting, being kind to one another and to those in need, should prepare our hearts and souls for the celebration of The Lord's Glorious, Bright, and Joyful Holy Resurrection.

May God bless us all in this God pleasing endeavor. Forgive me a sinner.

GOD FORGIVE AND SAVE US ALL!

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THEOLOGICAL QUESTION: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A STAROSTA?

A fter decades of dedicated service to our parish, Church Warden/Starosta Ivan Konstantinovich Afanasiev has retired. We thank him for his hard work and loving care in fulfilling the obligations of his long standing position as Starosta.

Many parishioners are not quite sure what is the role of a Starosta. According to the official Russian Orthodox Church Abroad Normal Parish Bylaws, the duties of the Church Warden are the following:

The Church Warden, being the immediate assistant of the parish Rector with respect to management matters, shall be directly responsible for the safekeeping of the church property. In addition, he shall

- a) See to it that good order be observed in the church during divine services;
- b) Oversee the sale of candles;
- c) Keep track of the monetary receipts and disbursements of the parish;
- d) Take the duly prescribed oath when he is newly elected.

Due to COVID restrictions during the past three years, we were unable to have our Annual Parish Meeting. Consequently, the Parish Council decided to co-opt Andrei Vladimirovich Fedorov as interim Parish Starosta, with the plan of presenting his candidacy for Starosta at the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, March 26, 2023 after Divine Liturgy.

We thank Andrei for his work and efforts in taking on these important obligations and hope that Members in Good Standing who attend the Annual Parish Meeting will consider him for a full term elected position.

Our church is fortunate to have a number of volunteers who are designated as Starosta Helpers (помощники старосты). Besides Members of the Parish Council (Dimitry Bobroff, Alexei Alexeeff, Alexander Loboda, Bill Gilchrist, and Yura Misersky), Starosta Helpers include Boris Parr, Al Ossipoff, Alex Achtar-Zadeh, Oleg Bolshakoff, Vladimir Labusov, Aleksey Kovalenko, and others. All these men at various times help our Starosta by working the Candle Stand, collecting donations during services or during veneration of the Cross, accepting prosfora commemoration donations, helping people buy Icons, crosses and medallions, reading commemoration books, plus many other less-observed activities which include cleaning and repairs.

One of the most visible Starosta Helpers is Aleksey Kovalenko, who has taken upon himself a large portion of responsibilities to the point that some parish members and occasional new attendees confuse him for being the Starosta.

To be clear, Starosta Andrei Fedorov is the Manager of our Parish Plant. All other volunteers are there to help and support him. Aleksey Kovalenko has performed expertly as a supervisor helping to organize a number of volunteers who do all sorts of odd jobs. We thank Aleksey and all our volunteers for their love, support and dedication.

The Parish Council and Starosta Andrei invite all interested volunteers to join the team and take an active role in making our parish the best it can be. In no way are we diminishing the work, efforts, and dedication of the Choir, the Sisterhood, the Teachers and Russian School Administration. WE THANK ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS! GOD BLESS YOU!



VISITING THE NEW HOME OF THE HAWAIIAN HOLY THEOTOKOS OF IVERON ICON

Ludmilla Bobroff



The first time we venerated the Myrrh Streaming Icon of the Holy Theotokos of Iveron was when Brother Jose Munoz of Montreal, its guardian, brought the wonderworking icon to the Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco. He had been given the icon by a monk at Holy Mt. Athos and shortly thereafter, fragrant myrrh started streaming from it. When he brought it to the Cathedral for services, many of the faithful were in attendance, including us.

A few years later in October 1997, while traveling in Greece with the Iveron Icon, Brother Jose was brutally murdered and the icon disappeared. It was a shock to everyone. Many of us prayed that the Icon would reappear again, somewhere, somehow. And it did, but in a slightly different form.

In 1997, Father Anatole Lyovin, rector of the Holy Theotokos Orthodox Church in Honolulu, Hawaii, presented his Subdeacon Nectarios Yangson a gift for his Name's Day – a smaller size Iveron Icon of the Theotokos which he had purchased in a bookstore in Toronto. The mounted print was made at the Sofrino factory near Moscow and was the exact copy which Blessed Martyr Brother Jose guarded so lovingly.

Besides the Iveron Icon, Father Anatole also gave Subdeacon Nectarios a second icon - a hand-painted Cross with an image of Our Lord's Crucifixion. It had been painted by a Greek monk at Holy Mt. Athos. For years, both icons hung in an icon corner of Nectarios' home. Then in early summer of 2007, the Subdeacon noticed a hint of a scent of roses in his home chapel. On the hand-painted Cross was a small bead of myrrh on Christ's wound but it eventually dried up.

With time, the fragrance grew so strong, it smelled "like a thousand roses had fallen into the room," says Father Nectarios. He examined all his icons. Only the Iveron Icon was completely wet with myrrh. He took some digital photos, said an Akathist to the Mother of God, then went to bed to try and sleep.

A few days later, he contacted Father Anatole who told him to bring both icons to their church which was located in a garage in downtown Honolulu. Subdeacon Nectarios placed both icons on two icon stands and said an Akathist to the Mother of God for his sister who was hospitalized and seriously ill. She was the first of hundreds of people who became well through the prayers said before the Hawaiian Iveron Icon.

After the myrrh streaming icon was examined and determined to be authentic, now Father Deacon Nectarios started traveling all over the world. Miracles occurred often and in 2012, a group was established in Delaware, naming itself the Orthodox Hawaiian Iveron Icon Association. The aim of the non-profit was to help guardian Nectarios with his travel expenses and to someday buy a church in Hawaii which would become a home for the two myrrh streaming icons. That "someday" finally arrived in 2022.

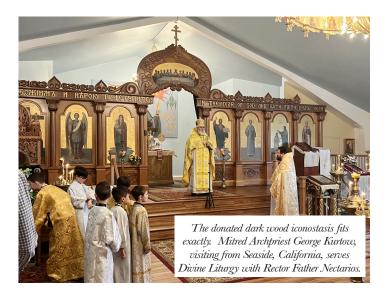
Since we had venerated both the Montreal and the Hawaiian Iveron Icons earlier, we were eager to see



The daughters, sons-in-law and 13 grandchildren of the Kurtow family play a major role at the Kailua Church. Daughter Anastasia Wilkinson, second from left in the back row, is the Parochial School Administrator while her husband, on her left, Reader Thomas Wilkinson is the Choir Director. In the front row on the far right are daughter Elizabeth Maciejewski, who is the alternate choir director, and husband Tim Maciejewski, who set up the church's streaming service.

the Icon's new home. As we waited for our Uber to take us from Waikiki to Kailua on the windward side of the island of Oahu, it began to rain. The cost of the half-hour ride was \$35. Our car proceeded on the freeway, then through residential areas and over lush mountains and valleys full of tropical vegetation.

When we arrived at 9 a.m., the choir and parishioners were just gathering inside the church. As we stepped out of the car, a voice called out, "Mila! Dima! Is that you?" It was Matushka Helen Kurtow, wife of Mitred Archpriest George Kurtow, rector of St. Seraphim of Sarov Orthodox Church in Seaside, California. Matushka Helen had also just arrived in church with several of her grandchildren who live in Pearl City.



"We come to Hawaii two or three times a year to visit our two daughters, sons-in-law, and many, many grandchildren who live here," explained Matushka Helen. "Their fathers are in the U.S. Navy. Practically all of the altar servers in church are our grandsons and many of the choir singers are our granddaughters."

The inside of the church was stunning. A dark wood iconostasis, anonymously donated, stretched across the entire length of the altar. Hanging from the ceiling in the center of the nave was an exquisite gold chandelier with icons of saints in two rows under electric lights. We later learned the chandelier was donated to the church by a famous Greek actress in gratitude for her young daughter's healing after the Hawaiian Holy Theotokos of Iveron Icon visited her in Greece.



At the start of Divine Liturgy, which was officiated by Mitred Archpriest George Kurtow and assisted by recently ordained priest, Father Nectarios Yangson, the icon was slowly carried out to her designated icon stand on the left side of the church. Girls placed bouquets of flowers around the icon and the fragrance of roses became even stronger. The faithful lined up to say their private prayers before the Icon and to venerate it. The Cross of the Crucifixion, which also streams myrrh but not as much or as often, is located on the right side of the church. It is also venerated.

After Divine Liturgy was completed, we joined parishioners and priests for coffee hour outside under a roofed area. It was still raining. Father Nectarios told us that approximately 150 Orthodox who live on the island of Oahu are members of the church. They are many nationalities, including Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Greek, American and Syrian. We even spoke to a Yupik Native from Alaska. Services are said primarily in English, along with Hawaiian and Old Church Slavonic.



Over the outdoor coffee area, Father Nectarios hopes to build a second story for a rector's residence while over the classrooms, he is planning housing for pilgrims. Although Blessed Martyr Brother Jose wanted to come to Hawaii, he never made it. Father Nectarios believes the Hawaiian Icon is a consolation to show believers they have not been forgotten and to bring everyone closer to Christ and to the Mother of God. Since it began streaming, the wonderworking icon has visited 1700 churches, monasteries, and skilled nursing facilities, including St. John Kronstadt in Castro Valley, California where our Father Stefan was recuperating from his heart surgery. The Holy Icon has been credited with many miracles.

Holy Theotokos of Iveron Orthodox Church 201 N. Kainalu Drive, Kailua, Hawaii Parish Website: www.orthodoxhawaii.org

LENTEN RETREAT RETURNS TO HOLY VIRGIN CATHEDRAL APRIL 2 Irene Hanlon-Young

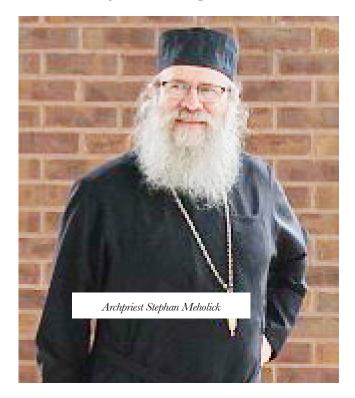
A fter a three-year pandemic-induced hiatus, the Twelfth Annual Western American Diocese Lenten Retreat is returning to Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco on Sunday, April 2, 2023. Father Deacon Dr. Edward Anderson and Archpriest Stephan Meholick will speak on the theme, "Becoming the Light of the World."

Father Deacon Edward Anderson has been attached to the altar of Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco since his ordination in 2016. He has written more than 50 articles for secular, religious, and medical publications with a particular emphasis on culture and the arts. His work has appeared in Touchstone, The American Conservative, The Claremont Review of Books, The American Spectator, and elsewhere. He earned an undergraduate degree in Chemistry and German at Oral Roberts University, studied for a year at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität in Freiburg, Germany as an undergraduate, and received his medical doctorate from the University of Oklahoma in 1990.

During a tour of duty working as a flight surgeon with the US Air Force, he was deployed to the Azores during the Somalian conflict in 1992, then to Thailand in 1993 during the UN-sponsored elections in Cambodia. Upon returning to the University of Oklahoma, he completed his training in general and urologic surgery.

Today, Father Deacon Dr. Edward is board-certified by the American Board of Urology and is currently Executive Medical Director of surgical services at Monument Health Regional Medical Center in Rapid City, South Dakota, serving a five-state area.

Father Deacon Edward and Matushka Susan Anderson became Orthodox more than 30 years ago. They have three grown children. The couple divide their time between San Francisco and western South Dakota where Father Deacon Edward grew up on his family ranch. They still own and manage the ranch in the Black Hills Mountain Range. With the blessing of Archbishop Kyrill of San Francisco, Father Deacon Edward serves at St. John the Theologian Antiochian Orthodox Mission in Rapid City. Father Deacon Edward and Matushka Susan are devoted to Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco.



Closer to the Bay Area, Archpriest Stephan Meholick has been rector of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in San Anselmo, California since spring 1995. Archpriest Stephan was born in 1952 in Northwestern Pennsylvania. As a young boy, he served as apprentice to Cantor Peter Kennis who learned Carpatho-

Rusyn Plainchant at St. Nicholas Monastery in Mukechevo, Ukraine. While attending Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, he lived with Mitred Archpriest Vitaly Sahaidakovsky and studied chant and choral music as sung at the Great Pochaev Lavra in Volhynia, Ukraine.

The future archpriest was ordained Father Deacon in 1975 and assumed the position of choir director and lecturer of liturgics and Church Slavonic at St. Tikhon's Theological Seminary in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He received his

Master's degree from Marywood College in Scranton. In 1979 he was ordained to the priesthood and assigned to Cumberland, Rhode Island. While serving in New England, he was appointed chairman of the Diocesan Music Commission. Father Stephan also serves as a consultant to the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America.

The day-long retreat on April 2 begins at 7:30 a.m. with the Hours and Divine Liturgy in English at Holy Virgin Cathedral "Joy of All Who Sorrow," 6210 Geary Blvd., San Francisco. After Liturgy, a fasting breakfast will be served in the Main Hall, followed by Father Deacon Edward Anderson's talk, "Art and Culture: Planting Seeds, Shining Light." A question and answer session will follow. After lunch, Father Stephan Meholick will be the speaker and answer questions on "Light and Life: As We Worship, So We Believe, So We Live." The retreat ends with a tour of the Cathedral and Vespers in English at 5 p.m.

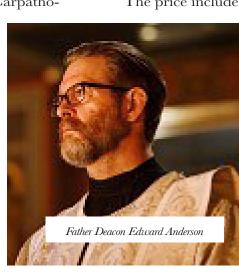
To register, please go to our Diocesan page: https:// wadiocese.org/lentenretreatsf Include your name and whether you are registering for a half-day or a full day session. This year's speakers have asked for demographic information in order to better tailor their talks to their audience. For this reason, when you checkout on EventBrite, please add your age, home parish, jurisdiction and the year of your reception into the Orthodox Church. We will be evaluating this information as a whole, not in connection to individuals.

Registration cost is \$30 in advance (paid through EventBrite) and \$35 at the door (check or cash only). The price includes both meals. Half-day registrations

are available for those who wish to attend only the second talk.

Retreat organizers are seeking volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, and meal preparation during the retreat. Please email the retreat organizers if you are available/willing to volunteer. Volunteers will not miss any of the talks. Donations of Lenten salads and desserts will also be appreciated. Please email the organizers what you plan to bring if you are able/willing to donate.

Please direct all inquiries to retreat organizer, Irene Hanlon-Young at lentenretreatsf@gmail.com



SPECIAL EVENTS



Saints Tatiana and Nina were celebrated in January with a luncheon prepared by the Sisterhood. Father Stefan congratulates all these ladies on their Names' Days.



His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia ordains Father Deacon Peter Markevich to the Priesthood at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, New York.





Father Stefan poses with some of his Russian School teachers. They are, left to right, Ira Bogoslovsky, Katherine Sabelnik Snyder, Anya Derugin, Natasha Lytnev, Svetlana Avdeeva, and Reader Dima Tchertkoff.

Russian School students sang a Russian Christmas carol.

CELEBRATING YOLKA AGAIN!



Ded Moroz arrived with a bag of gifts for all the children.

AND A WAL

After no in-person Yolkas for several years due to the pandemic, our Russian School hosted a Christmas party in January. Many parents and children attended. Thank you to Father Jonathan Bannon of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese for putting together this Lenten Journey graphic.

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023 Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS

Fast - Free Week

FEBRUARY 5th

Normal Fast Week

FEBRUARY 12th

Meatfare

FEBRUARY 19th

FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY

Cheesefare

FEBRUARY 26th

FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY

1st Sunday of Lent

2nd Sunday of Lent

MARCH 12th

3rd Sunday of Lent

MARCH 19th

4th Sunday of Lent

MARCH 26th

5th Sunday of Lent

FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY!

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

APRIL 2nd

APRIL 9th

GREAT WEEK BEGINS

APRIL 14th

FEAST OF FEASTS!

APRIL 16th

NO FASTING!

MARCH 5th

THEMES / GOSPEL READING

TRIODION WEEKS Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

The Prodigal Son Returns! 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Epistle: Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Romans 13:11-14:4 Epistle: Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS

SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 John 1:43-51 Gospel:

ST GREGORY PALAMAS Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Epistle: Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 ST JOHN of the LADDER

Hebrews 6:13-20 Epistle: Mark 9:17-31 Gospel:

ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Gospel:

Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 10:32-45

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Epistle: Gospel:

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Philippians 4:4-9 John 12:1-18

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE

BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.

Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.

Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.

Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.

> Bring an icon to church for a procession.

Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.

Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!

Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!

> Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.

> > Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!

Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.

Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

From Father Stefan: This is a very informative and helpful chart which gives a general overview of the Lenten Season, though there are a few details that might not reflect the practice of ROCOR parishes or specifically our parish. For instance we do not bring icons to church on Sunday of Orthodoxy.

UPCOMING EVENTS MARCH + APRIL

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 PASTA BUFFET

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AFTER LUNCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

LENTEN RETREAT AT HOLY VIRGIN CATHEDRAL, SAN FRANCISCO (SEE ARTICLE FOR DETAILS)

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Children's Kulich Faire \$25 per child. To reserve a kulich for your child to decorate, call Tania Bolshakoff at (650) 291-7289 or email Burlingamesisterhood@gmail.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON FEATURING THE SISTERHOOD'S FAMOUS FISH COTLETI

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS AT 5 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16 - PASCHA!

After Divine Liturgy and a nighttime Blessing of Easter baskets, Breaking-ofthe-Fast will be held in the Church Hall. Sign-up sheets for the "razgovlenie," including the price, will be posted the middle of Great Lent.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 AND TUESDAY, APRIL 25

FATHER STEFAN WILL BE AT THE SERBIAN CEMETERY AFTER DIVINE LITURGY FOR PRAYERS AT INDIVIDUAL GRAVESITES.

ORDERS FOR KULICH

Place your orders now for the Sisterhood's delicious Kulich (Easter Bread). Cost for the two-pound kulich is \$30. FIRM Deadline is March 26 to call Luba Gauschieldt at (650) 591-1605 to order your kulich. No Syrnaya Pascha will be offered this year.

Pelmeni-making Sessions

NONE IN MARCH OR APRIL

CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS

A Parish of the Western American Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia 744 El Camino Real, Burlingame, CA 94010 http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/ Rector: Mitred Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko Cell: (650) 430-9805

See the schedule of services on the Church website: http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/

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We welcome your suggestions on the type of articles you would like to see in the Parish Newsletter. Send your ideas to Ludmilla Bobroff at Ludmillaa@aol.com or telephone (408) 257-6918. Please write Parish Newsletter in the Subject Line. Deadline is one month prior to publication.

Next Newsletter - May 2023

Thank you to *Margarita Herzen* for graciously sponsoring the printing cost of this issue.

LIVESTREAM SERVICES

For those who are homebound, hospitalized or unable to attend Church Services at the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame, we have enabled live video streaming via the Internet. Live, as well as previously recorded Church Services are available at YouTube channel: http://bit.ly/burlingamechannel

Alternatively, the link to the Church Services is also available on the church website at: http://www.allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/

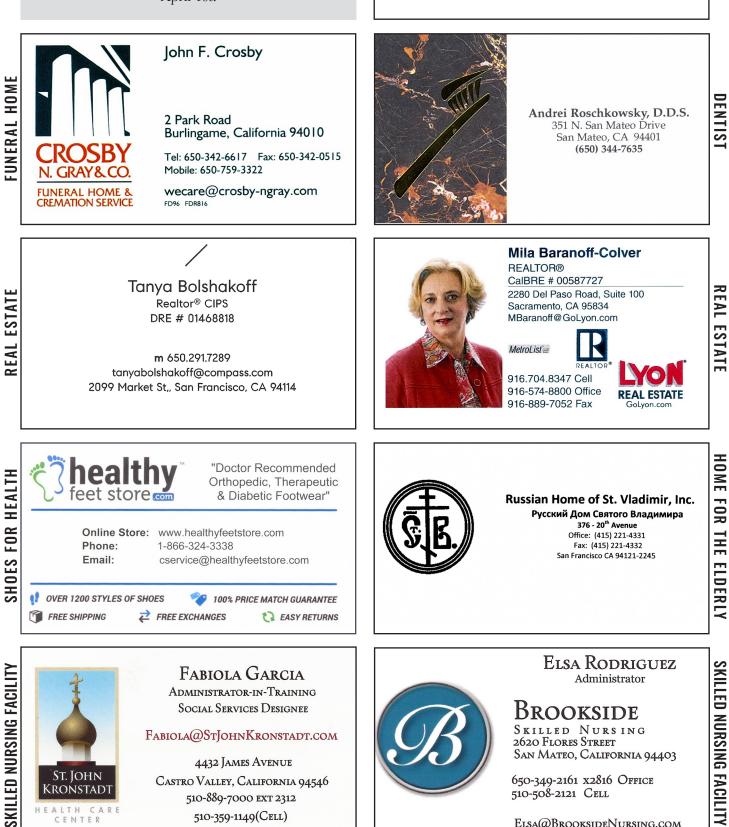
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