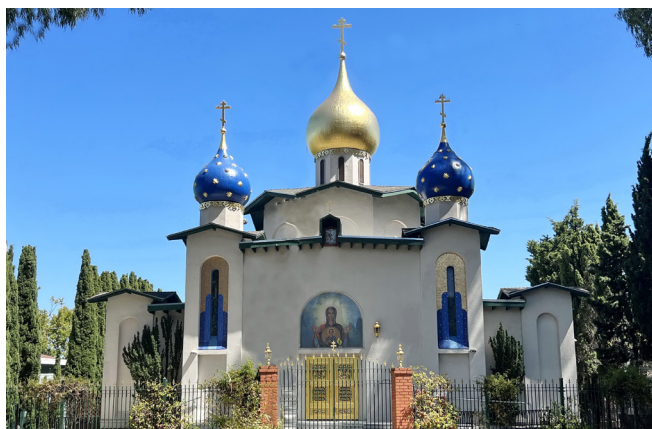


*May the Lord guide us through the  
Spiritual Pilgrimage of the Holy Great  
Lent to the Oasis of Salvation,  
the Lord's Joyous Resurrection*



## CHURCH OF ALL RUSSIAN SAINTS NEWSLETTER

Церковь Всѣхъ Святыхъ въ Землѣ Россійской Просіавшихъ

**VOLUME 12 NUMBER 2** March/April 2024

### MESSAGE FROM ARCHPRIEST STEFAN, RECTOR

This year, Orthodox Easter/Pascha is very late. It arrives on May 5th. That means the preparatory Sundays entering the Lenten Season began as late as Zaccheus Sunday on February 18th, followed by the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee on February 25th. At that point, Church Services begin to include variations from the Church Typikon (a rule book on how to conduct services) and appointed by the book called the LENTEN TRIODION.

Starting March 3rd, we have the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, followed by Meat-fare Sunday on March 10th. That is when we give up eating meat and meat products until after Liturgy on Easter Sunday. On the Sunday of the Dread Judgment, we hear directly from the Lord that we will definitely be judged if we, as Christians, ignore the needs of our fellow man. March 11th through Sunday the 17th is Maslenitsa/Butter Week when all food products, except meat, are allowed. All these rules prepare us for a gradual and measured entry into Great Lent.

Sunday, March 17th is Cheese-fare Sunday, the last day we eat dairy products and the last day before we enter Great Lent/Великий Пост. This day is also called FORGIVENESS Sunday. All faithful are called to ask for forgiveness, and, most importantly, to FORGIVE one another. Without releasing each other from our mutual sins, we cannot even begin to hope for a successful Lenten Season.

“Forgive us our debts (trespasses) as we forgive our debtors (those who trespass against us).” We ask forgiveness and we forgive even those whom we may not know, because our personal sins and weak spiritual condition affect the whole spiritual church family. As our life improves and becomes grace-filled and strong, those around us can also grow spiritually. Saint Seraphim says, “Acquire the Spirit of Peace and a thousand souls around you will be saved.”

And so Great Lent begins Monday, March 18. Having paid attention to the lessons revealed to us in the preparatory Sunday services, we will establish

*continued...*

for ourselves a firm foundation on which to continue our spiritual journey to Passion Week and the Holy, Great, Bright and Joyous Resurrection of Our Lord, Holy PASCHA/EASTER. May we all complete this fruitful and saving spiritual pilgrimage (journey).

With Easter/Pascha falling on May 5th, our Church Feastday - Sunday of ALL SAINTS OF RUSSIA – is NOT on the Second Sunday after Pentecost as usual, but on the THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. This year, it will be on July 14th – making it a rare NO FAST DAY. ■

Published with the blessing of His Eminence Kyrill, Archbishop of San Francisco and Western America, Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

# THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Archpriest Stefan Pavlenko

## How Can Parents Encourage Teenage Children to Attend Church?

Our most precious and important responsibility is raising our children in the full spirit and understanding of our Orthodox Christian Faith. This responsibility lays foremost on the parents who brought their children into this world. It also includes grandparents, relatives, Orthodox clergy, church school teachers, and all faithful. Every Orthodox Christian should know his/her faith, and be a firm and strong example and guide especially to our children and young adults.

Before we can be such a light to “the knowledge of truth”, we must have a personal understanding of Biblical Truth as revealed in the Scriptures, reflected in the lives of the Saints, preserved in the Traditions of the Church, and expressed in active participation in Church Life. Only then can we attempt to draw youth (teenagers) to an understanding of the importance of LIFE IN FAITH.

This life in faith, and the drawing of our children to the faith, must begin from infancy and continue throughout the child’s home experience. If we are not firm in our understanding of the need for regular church attendance, establishing a “home

*continued...*

### BAPTIZED

**DECEMBER 2023**

NONE

**JANUARY 2024**

Artem Dzimina  
John (Douglas) Wilson

### MARRIED

**DECEMBER 2023**

None

**JANUARY 2024**

Douglas Wilson and Zhanna Vorobieff

### REPOSED IN THE LORD

**DECEMBER 2023**

Sergei Naumov

**JANUARY 2024**

Rose Magdalene Rajeff

church” with icons, prayer, fasting, the celebration of the Major Feasts, reading religious articles and the lives of saints, plus discussing moral and religious subjects, then “encouraging teenage children to attend church” is essentially a moot subject.

Not all is lost, however. We can improve ourselves and be examples for our children. With loving attention and mutual participation, we can begin to reel in our adolescent children to a better understanding of the importance of genuine Church-oriented spiritual life. Sadly, it’s a fact that true Christian Spiritual Life has been traded for the “electronic community” and our children no longer have an understanding of the true Christian Spiritual experience.

To fully understand how to direct our children’s lives toward attendance and understanding of Life in Church, I asked my own children, now adults, concerning this subject. I am relaying their answers below without editing or comment. Please appreciate their candor and humor:

ME: addressing my three children, Alyosha, Xenia and Olia:

“If you were asked, as teenagers, what did your parents do that kept you going/staying in the Church? Answer in one succinct sentence.”

OLIA:

“I kept going to church in my teens because my parents encouraged and helped sustain friendships within the church by sending me to youth activities and social events, driving me to hang out with church friends and providing my age group with various opportunities to spend time together. Also, singing in the choir and having a close friend

group who sang, that was HUGE.

“More than that, the choir made me feel I was part of the service. I think it’s important for teenagers to know they’re contributing something and are needed. Even kids who are young want to help. Otherwise, younger children are just being shushed and yelled at or forced to stand or whatever. I could be wrong but if they feel like they are needed, there’s a bigger chance they will want to be there.”

XENIA:

“From age 0 to age 14 to 15, I wasn’t given a choice. I just assumed it was something we did as part of our normal life. Then, starting at 14, I was encouraged to have friendships with other teens who also went to church. This foundation, set in childhood, kept me going into my teen years. While attending University of Las Vegas, I rode a gross, smelly bus every weekend because it was just **TOO WEIRD NOT TO GO TO CHURCH ON A SUNDAY.**

“ So, yes, this expectation set in childhood that church is a priority is important. But there should also be an appropriate level of leniency during the teen years.”

ME AGAIN:

“Alyosha, where is your answer? I’m waiting for it.”

ALYOSHA:

“Still looking up what succinct means.”

ME: (LOL) Laughing out Loud! ■

# THE ZARECHNAK FAMILY ODYSSEY

Ludmilla Bobroff



*Natasha and Alyosha Zarechnak with their children, Makari, Kira and Gregory*

Imagine leaving the East Coast and moving across the United States with three children, eight years old and younger. That's what Natasha and Alyosha Zarechnak did in 2020 as they headed to California in pursuit of a job opportunity for Alyosha.

Natasha and Alyosha grew up on the East Coast. Natasha, in New Jersey, attended St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Lakewood, while Alyosha, in Virginia, attended St. John the Baptist Cathedral. As children and teenagers, both were active in the St. George Pathfinders (ORYuR) Scouts Programs in New York and Washington DC respectively.

After university, Alyosha chose to work in Moscow for an American investment firm while Natasha spent ten years working in corporate communications. Today, Alyosha is employed by Matthews Asia, an investment firm where he manages an emerging markets equity fund.

The couple has three children – Makari, now age 12, Gregory, 9, and Kira, 7 years old. Upon arriving in the Bay Area in 2020, they enrolled their boys in the Burlingame Russian School Zoom Program with Sasha Sabelnik Whooley as their teacher.

“Alyosha and I both speak Russian,” explains Natasha. “Nevertheless, it’s easier for us to speak English at home as a family. Since we live in the East Bay and all three kids are very active in sports, Sasha Wooley’s flexibility and the Zoom arrangement works well for us. She is an excellent teacher and our kids are learning quite a bit.”

Another challenge was the Church. “When we arrived, we were thankful that the Burlingame Church offered services during the pandemic – even if we had to stand outside. It was very important to us to be able to offer the kids some continuity during this period,” says Natasha.



*Toward the end of the service, Kira and Kassiana Baranoff walk with collection plates under the supervision of Boris Parr.*

“We’re thankful to the Sarandinaki and Baranoff families, who are old friends, for encouraging us to come to Burlingame. We’re especially thankful

to the Sarandinaki son, Ilyusha, who made a big effort to ‘drag’ our boys into the altar. Although nervous at first, they ended up really enjoying serving with Father Stefan and Father Alexei, and they appreciate being useful and having a purpose in Church.

“We’re also thankful that Kira is allowed to walk around with the collection plate during the service,” adds Natasha. “It gives her an opportunity to be helpful and feel like she is contributing as well.”

The family started participating in the St. George Pathfinders Scouting Program in Virginia when Makari was seven years old. When the family moved to California in 2020, the Meyer family introduced them to the local St. George Pathfinders Scouts program. Since then, Natasha has helped out at summer camp and is planning to be a leader of the younger girls (Belochki) this summer.

Natasha is also part of a fundraising committee that is planning a fun event in two weeks. On March 15 at the Scouts House in San Francisco, a Maslenitsa Vecherinka will be held for the first time on the West Coast. “It will be an elegant evening geared toward adults but open to teenagers as well,” says Natasha. “We look forward to excellent blini prepared by the experienced ‘Best in the West’ crew, as well as Russian music and dancing. A number of people on the planning committee fondly remember attending the Nyack, New York Maslenitsa in the past. We’re hoping this event will have a similar warm, fun ambience.”

For more information and to buy your tickets, visit this website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maslenitsa-vecherinka-tickets-797381779367?aff=oddttdtcreator> ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS MARCH + APRIL

### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

FUNDRAISING BBQ LUNCH FOR PARISH RUSSIAN SCHOOL

### SUNDAY, MARCH 17

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY BLINI  
COST IS \$30 PER PERSON

### SUNDAY, APRIL 7

SISTERHOOD PASTA BUFFET

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

### SUNDAY, APRIL 21

CHILDREN’S KULICH FAIRE AFTER DIVINE LITURGY  
TO RESERVE A KULICH FOR YOUR CHILD TO DECORATE,  
CALL TANIA BOLSHAKOFF AT (650) 291-7289 OR EMAIL  
BURLINGAMESISTERHOOD@GMAIL.COM

### SUNDAY, APRIL 21

ALL DAY LENTEN RETREAT WITH LECTURES ON “THE HOLINESS OF ST. JOHN OF SHANGHAI AND SAN FRANCISCO”. INFORMATION ON THE RETREAT AND ITS LOCATION WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE END OF MARCH BY THE HOLY VIRGIN CATHEDRAL, SAN FRANCISCO

### SUNDAY, APRIL 28

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON  
FEATURING THE SISTERHOOD’S FAMOUS FISH COTLET

### ORDERS FOR KULICH

THE SISTERHOOD IS TAKING ORDERS FOR KULICH (EASTER BREAD). COST FOR A TWO-POUND KULICH IS \$35.00.  
FIRM DEADLINE TO ORDER IS APRIL 14.  
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### PELMENI-MAKING SESSIONS

MARCH 7; NONE AFTER THAT UNTIL MAY 30

### CHURCH HALL FOR RENT

OUR CHURCH HALL IS AVAILABLE FOR RENT FOR DIFFERENT OCCASIONS: CHRISTENINGS, BAPTISMS, POMINKI (AFTER-BURIAL SERVICE), BIRTHDAY PARTIES. DANCING IS NOT ALLOWED.  
RENTAL COST IS \$300 FOR PARISH MEMBERS AND \$350 FOR NON-PARISH MEMBERS. TABLE CLOTHS AND UTENSILS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR RENT. CALL MATUSHKA TATIANA AT (650) 438-9806 OR LUBA GAUSCHIEDT AT (415) 706-1605 FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION.

# SPECIAL EVENTS



*Above: Andrei and Anna treat their audience to wine grown at a 1000-year-old winery in Tuscany.*



*Above: Starosta Andrei Fedorov gives a presentation of their thirteen-day pilgrimage through Italy with wife, Anna.*



*Above: The Lytnev family from our Church organized and served at a Crab Feed fundraiser for Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish School's White Ball.*



*Left: The monthly Pelmeni-making group attracts both men and women.*

# NATIVITY AND POTLUCK LUNCH



*Above: Light streams through one of our stained glass windows upon the wall icon of Christ.*



*Above: Children line up for Holy Communion*



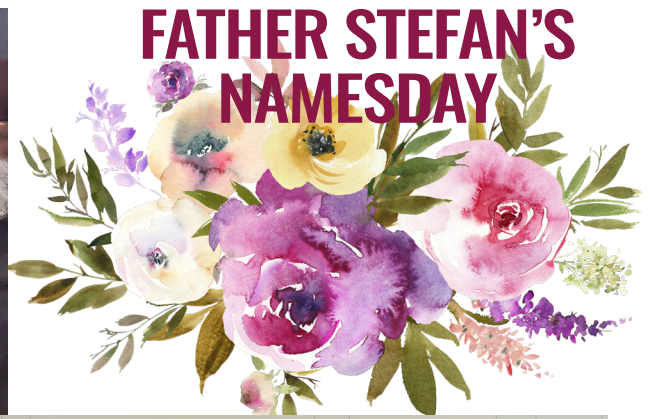
*Left: The Church Hall is full of parishioners enjoying potluck dishes which they all contributed.*



*Above: Choir Director Irina Shachneva leads Olga Medvedko, Lara Friesen, and her son, Alex, in singing Christmas carols (kolyadki).*



*Above: Father Stefan greets His Grace Bishop Theodosy of Seattle.*



*Above: Many priests attended the Namesday celebration. Left to right – Archpriest Ioann Shtets (St. Tikhon of Zadonsk, San Francisco), Archpriest George Kurtow (St. Seraphim of Sarov Church, Seaside), the guest of honor Archpriest Stefan Pawlenko, His Grace Bishop Theodosy (Seattle), Archpriest Peter Perekrestov (Holy Virgin Cathedral, San Francisco) and Priest Andrew Smith (Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church, Menlo Park).*



*Above: Archpriest Peter Perekrestov from the Holy Virgin Cathedral stood on a chair so all the faithful and clergy would be included in his panoramic photo.*

*Right: After Sunday's Divine Liturgy, Matushka Tatiana and her team of helpers prepared a delicious lunch for parishioners and guests who came to celebrate Father Stefan's beloved Namesday.*







*Above: Victoria Buick, graduating from our Parish Russian School in the Spring, narrates "The Offended Toys" with all students having small parts. The scenario was written by Teacher Ira Bogoslovsky and adapted from Teacher Mara Klestoff's charming story.*



*Above: Eleven-year-old Ilya Shkumatov recites the poem "Christmas Tree at School" by A. Plescheev in the Church Hall full of parents, grandparents, and parishioners.*



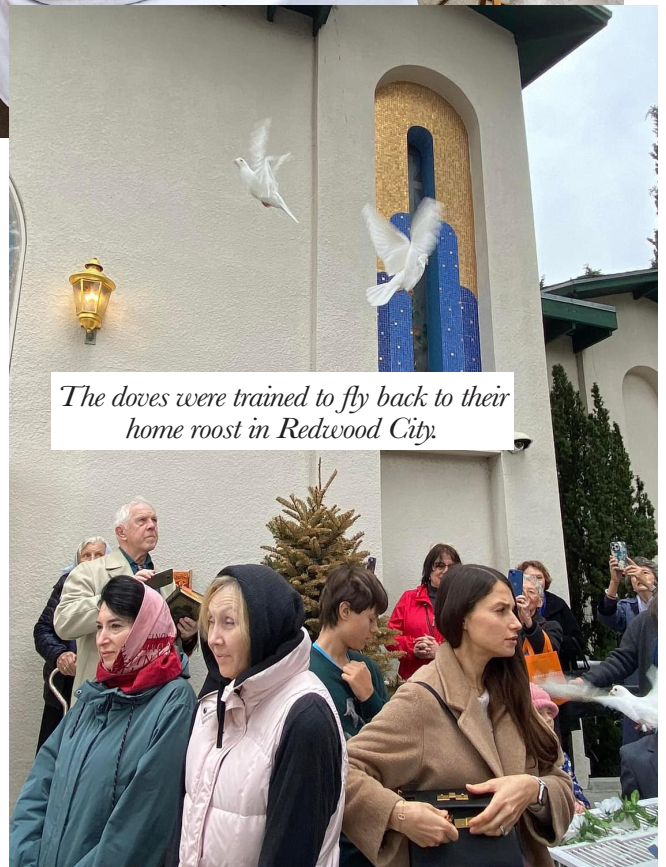
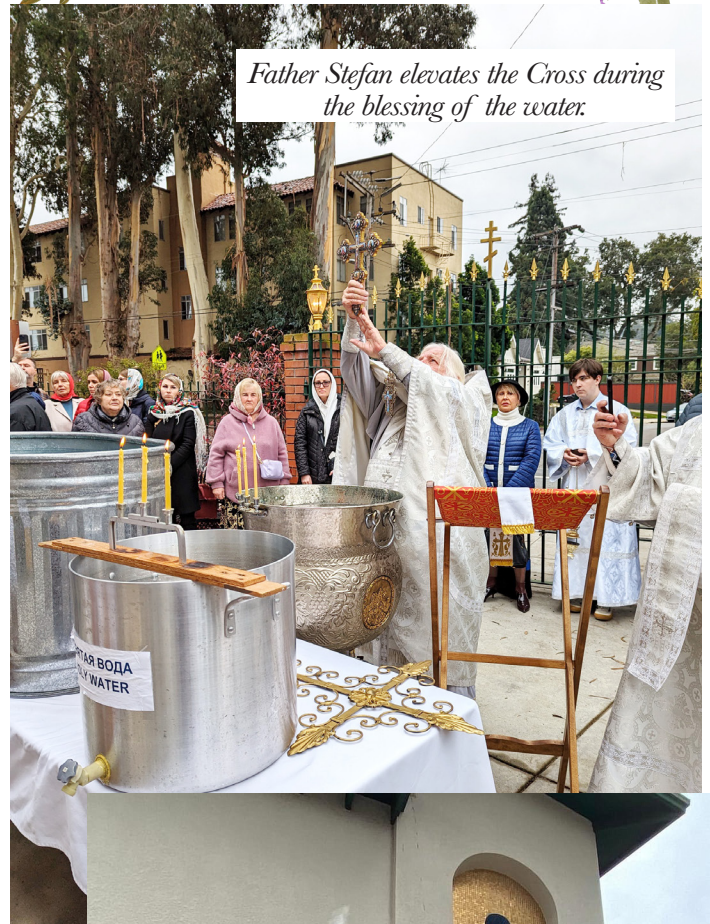
*Above: Zoom Teacher Sasha Sabelnik Wooley was the MC. Here, she's introducing the students who are ready to sing*



*Left: Ded Moroz (Father Frost) handed out gifts not only to our students but also to all children attending the Yolka Party.*



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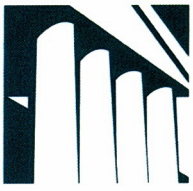
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<http://allrussiansaintsburlingame.org/>

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**Next Newsletter - May 2024**

Thank you to *Irene Motaviloff* 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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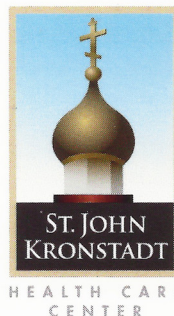


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