



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2012

Welcome Visitors

It is great to have you with us today! We hope you all consider staying after Liturgy for coffee hour and fellowship!



Annual Parish Picnic – Sunday, September 9th

Today, the Annual Parish Picnic will be held at the Parish Center. This Sunday may also be the last for open pool hours. We hope that you all will come for the picnic following the Liturgy to enjoy a day of fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

Sunday Before the Cross

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 11:00a.m. Annual Parish Picnic

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

St. Silouan of Mount Athos

9:00a.m. Akathist

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

7:00p.m. Great Vespers w/ Litiya

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

5:00p.m. Bible Study
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

Sunday After the Cross

8:40a.m. Hours
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour

Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 14th

This feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of Christ by St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine the Great. On this day, the founding priest of our Mission, Fr. Daniel Hubiak was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. We wish him and Mat. Dunia, many blessed years! Fr. Daniel and Mat. Dunia also celebrate their anniversary of marriage on September 16th. If you would like to send a card, their address is: 16 Wharf Court, Ocean Pines, MD 21811.



Prayers for Teachers and Students

If you missed last week's blessing at the beginning of the Academic Year, please stay in the church after the post-Communion prayers and the blessing for teachers and students will be offered again. Questions, please see Fr. John.

Questions About Our Renovation Loan

- 1) How much would the weekly payment be on our \$30K renovation loan which is due February 2014? *The amount would be around \$385 per week.*
- 2) How can I make an offering towards this loan's repayment? *You can make an earmarked donation toward "Renovation Loan".*
- 3) Where can I find how much still remains to be paid? *At the bottom of each Sunday's bulletin in the financial snapshot.*
- 4) What is "Reimbursement Due"? *This is the amount which is currently due for completed renovation work to the chapel and grounds.*



Website Update

Photos of last week's Blessing of Teachers and Students are now on our website. Check them out!

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Sept. 16th

Jodi McElwee

Sunday, Sept. 23rd

Kathy Parrish



Prayer List: Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Bill Parrish, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, John Trax, Maleah Morse, Victoria Kokkinos, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina, Liliana, Nada and child, Jess and child, Kathryn (newly departed).

OPERATING THRU 8/30/12			SEPTEMBER OPERATING			RENOVATION TO PARISH CENTER	
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Goal	Difference	Loan Due Feb. 2014	Reimbursement Due
42,575	33,641	+8,933	1,024	4,858	-3,834	30,000	3,497



200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF FORT ROSS CELEBRATED

From OCA.org

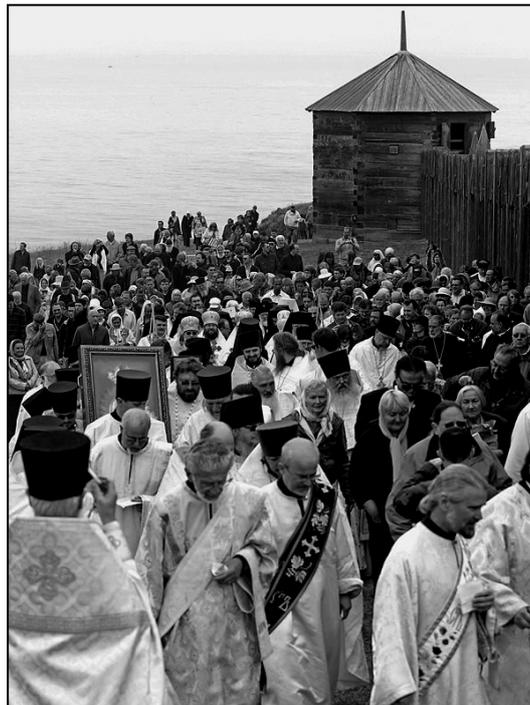
On Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012, hierarchs, clergy and faithful from the Orthodox Church in America, the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, and the Moscow Patriarchate came together at the historic Fort Ross site here to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Russian military outpost.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev), head of the Department of External Affairs of the Moscow Patriarchate, concelebrated the Hierarchical Liturgy with His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York (ROCOR). Also serving were His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin of San Francisco and the West (OCA); His Eminence, Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and Canada (ROCOR); His Eminence, Archbishop Justinian of Narofominsk (MP); His Grace, Bishop Peter of Cleveland (ROCOR); and His Grace, Bishop Theodosius of Seattle (ROCOR). Also in attendance were His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America) and His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Dragovitsa (Bulgarian Patriarchate). Many clergy from the OCA, MP, and ROCOR churches served, with many faithful and pilgrims attending in prayer from all over the country and abroad.

The Metropolitan were greeted at 9:30 AM and presided over a beautiful open-air Liturgy under a tent set up in the middle of the fort. Two choirs sang the responses—one in English from Saint Seraphim Church (OCA), Santa Rosa, CA, led by

Nicholas Custer, and one in Slavonic from Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral (ROCOR) in San Francisco.

After the Liturgy, there was a cross procession around the fort, followed by a procession to the cemetery where a panikhida was sung for the souls of those Russians, Aleuts, and native Kushaya buried there.



Finally, fellowship was enjoyed by all within the walls of the fort, where traditional Russian song and dance troupes performed and a banquet was held for the celebrating clergy.

Standing in the heart of what is today Sonoma County, California, Fort Ross was the hub of the southernmost Russian settlements in North America between 1812 to 1842. It has been the subject of archaeological investigation and is a national historic landmark on the National Register of Historic Places and the centerpiece of the state's Fort Ross State Historic Park.

A gallery of photos may be accessed on the web site of the OCA Diocese of the West at dowoca.org.

Two days later, on August 27 and 28, Archbishop Benjamin served at San Francisco's Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral, the Joy of All Who Sorrow (ROCOR) on Geary Ave. for the Great Feast of Dormition (Old Calendar). Also serving at the Vigil were His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion (ROCOR); His Eminence, Metropolitan Jonah (OCA); His Eminence, Archbishop Kyrill (ROCOR); His Eminence, Archbishop Justinian (MP); and His Grace, Bishop Theodosius (ROCOR). The next day His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokalamsk (MP) served at the Liturgy as well.

HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL (FORT ROSS, CALIFORNIA)

From Orthodoxwiki.org

The Holy Trinity Chapel at Fort Ross, California, was part of the Russian colony on the northern coast of California, above San Francisco, during the first half of the nineteenth century. The chapel was used by the Russians and Aleuts who were members of the colony until it was sold in 1841. The Fort Ross site, including the chapel, is now a part of the California State Park System.

Colony

The Russian-American Company from Russian America established the Ross Colony in Northern California in 1812 primarily as an outpost of the Alaskan colony to produce food that could not be produced in the Alaskan coastal climate, and secondarily to extend the hunting range for sea otter pelts along the mid Californian coast.

Chapel

Orthodox Christianity was part of the lives of the Russian, Creole, and Aleut colonists. In early 1820s they expressed their intentions to build a chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas at their own expense. The chapel was built within the walls of "Ross Fortress." The Christians of the colony were helped by the officers and crews of three Russian Navy ships in 1823-1824 who donated a considerable sum for the proposed chapel. The chapel was completed in 1825 and was used by the colonists for reader services.

The chapel was never formally consecrated as no clergymen were permanently assigned to it. In later years a few priests visited the Ross colony and its chapel. Among these priests was Fr. John Veniaminov—later Bishop Innocent of Alaska, then Metropolitan of Moscow, and saint—who spent three months in 1836 at the colony. During this time he visited the Spanish missions in the San Francisco area. The missions he visited were San

Raphael, San Jose, Santa Clara, and San Francisco. At the time of his visit, Fr. John recorded that of the population of about 260 at Fort Ross, fifteen percent of the local Indian population living and working in the colony were baptized into the Orthodox Christian faith.

The genuine cooperation among the three diverse cultures at Fort Ross, among native Californians, native Alaskans, Creoles, and Russians, was attributed by some to the Orthodox Christian religious values instilled in many of the colonists by the Orthodox clergy of Russian America.

Post colonial history

With the departure of the Ross colonists in 1842, the fort and its chapel came under the care of successive owners. In 1903, the two and a half acres comprising the fort, chapel and other buildings were sold to the California Historical Landmarks League, which deeded the property to the State of California in 1906. Also in 1906, the great San Andreas fault earthquake occurred severely damaging the buildings in the area of the old colony. The San

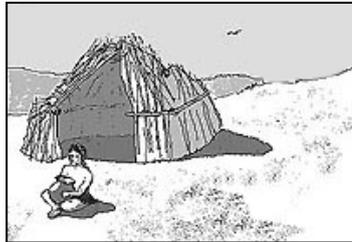
Andreas fault passes very close to Fort Ross. During the following years these buildings, including the chapel, were restored. The area passed to the administration of the California Parks and Recreation Department that now controls the use of the fort. The area of the Fort Ross Historic Park has through the twentieth century been enlarged to 3,277 acres as of 1992.

As recorded by the Orthodox Church in America, the successor to the Russian Orthodox mission in Alaska, the chapel is now called the Holy Trinity Chapel. Orthodox services are held in the chapel twice each year: on July 4 and on Memorial Day. The July 4 services began in 1925. Additional services may be conducted for special events.



WHEN YOUR HUT'S ON FIRE

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Everyday he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.



One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?," asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

The Moral of This Story: It's easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives.... even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS

Celebrated on September 14th

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.



BENEATH YOUR COMPASSION

The oldest prayer we know dedicated to the Virgin Mary is known as "Beneath Your Compassion." The earliest text of this hymn was found in a Coptic Vespers for Christmas of the 3rd century. It is written in Greek and dates to approximately 250 AD. It is used in the Coptic Liturgy to this day, as well as in the Orthodox Compline service, it being the last hymn to be sung.

*Beneath your compassion,
We take refuge, Virgin Mother of God.
Despise not our prayers in our necessity
But deliver us from harm
O only pure, only blessed one.*

The ancient date of the hymn tells us that the early Christians had an established devotion to the Theotokos and called upon her intercession. Long before the usage of the term "Theotokos" in the 5th century, the Church already knew the Virgin Mary as "Mother of God".

