

# Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

July 2, 2023



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

*St. John Maximovitch  
of Shanghai & San Francisco*

### Divine Liturgy Readings

*(Readings on Back)*

- ♦ **Romans 6:18-23**
- ♦ **Matthew 8:5-13**

## Announcements:

### Parish Council Meeting

Our July Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11 at 6pm in the church basement.

### Thank You

Dear Church Family, Thank you for all your prayers, candles, get-well cards, food, flowers and other expressions of concern during my treatment. Your support has helped so much in getting me through this challenging time. With love in Christ, Kathy Jacob

### Festival Preparation Dates

Sunday, July 9: Following Coffee Hour - peel, boil & mash potatoes for pierogies.

Monday, July 10: 1:00pm - Pinch Pierogies.

Monday, July 24: 9:00am - Boil Cabbage, 12:30pm - Roll Cabbage

Wed, August 16: 9:00am - Boil Cabbage, 12:30 - Roll Cabbage

Thurs, August 17: Noon - Hall setup / Cabbage & Noodles / Beef Stroganoff

Friday, August 18: Tent / Bar Setup. Festival Beings (time TBA)

Sat, August 19: 2nd Day of Festival.

*Our festival is a lot of work, but also our largest fundraiser. Please plan on helping out as much as you can! Teamwork makes the dream work!*

## This Week

### Saturday, July 8

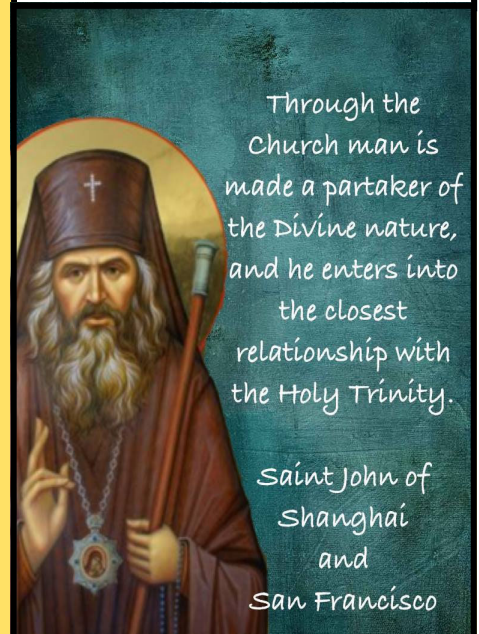
6:00pm - Great Vespers

### Sunday, July 9

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy

Prep potatoes for Pierogi  
Making



Through the  
Church man is  
made a partaker of  
the Divine nature,  
and he enters into  
the closest  
relationship with  
the Holy Trinity.

*Saint John of  
Shanghai  
and  
San Francisco*

## *Meditation on Today's Gospel*

In today's Gospel we have the story of a remarkable faith, a faith so powerful that it could move Christ to perform a miracle of healing. So often we ask, why is my faith so dry, why don't I feel the presence of Christ, why is it so difficult for me to pray? The answer to these questions that we all ask is contained in today's Gospel. Today we are being told what is clearly the very foundation of the spiritual life, the very foundation of our relationship with Christ.

The centurion, who is not a Jew but a pagan, comes to Our Savior and says, "Lord, my servant is lying at home sick with paralysis, in much torment." And Jesus said, "I will come and heal him". But the centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that Thou should come under my roof: but only say the word and my servant shall be healed." The Fathers tell that we should understand the word "roof" to mean heart. Lord I am not worthy that you should come into my heart, but only say the word and I will be healed.

We all want Christ to come to us, to show His power and might to us, we want to see a clear vision of who He is, we want the sureness of his presence ... the proof of his glory. We want Him to enter with all His splendor into our hearts, into our homes, into our lives. We want Him to come and give us a taste of His presence, we want His

peace, his glory! Yet we lack the humility for this. We want him to come under our roof, but we don't want to do what is necessary for this to happen! We don't want to put forth the effort! In our pride and blindness, we imagine that we are worthy. We simply can't imagine why He doesn't come and dwell in our hearts. What is wrong we ask. Why am I so dry, why am I so empty?

We carelessly and lazily put forth feeble efforts to say our prayer rule, to be attentive at church amidst the distractions that we willingly allow when we are in His very presence! Both the scriptures and the holy fathers all warn us to keep a watch over our mind and a guard over our lips, yet we treat these admonitions as if they were meant for someone

else. So often we want Christ to come under our roof, we are grieved and disappointed that He doesn't visit us, that we don't experience Him personally. As we lazily make feeble attempts at prayer and the spiritual life, we wonder why Christ doesn't come to us. In the midst of our preoccupations with our jobs and amusements, we have the audacity to wonder why our spiritual life is so dry.

But the pagan centurion's humility puts us to shame. He says simply, Lord I am not worthy that you should come to me, please don't trouble yourself with me, but if you just say the word, I know that I will be healed. His humility shines like a beacon of light on a dark night. His humility attracts Christ to do what he is asking. Then the centurion continues, "for I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, go and he goeth and to another come and he cometh and to my servant do this and he doeth it."

When Jesus heard this, He marveled, I think this is the only time that the scriptures say that Christ marveled at anything! And then He said to those around Him, "I have not found so great a faith, no not in all of Israel"! Christ marveled, He was delighted, this is what He had been waiting for the Jews to discover, this is what He had been preaching all over Palestine. This what the Gospel is all about. Christ says, be humble and obedient as I am.

This is the foundation of the spiritual life, this is what draws Christ to us and us to Him.





## St. John Maximovitch of Shanghai & San Francisco

The future St. John was born on June 4, 1896, in the southern Russian village (current day Ukraine) of Adamovka. In his youth, Michael was sickly and had a poor appetite, but he displayed an intense religious interest.

He and his family fled their country as the Bolshevik revolutionaries descended on the country, emigrating to Yugoslavia. There, he enrolled in the Department of Theology of the University of Belgrade. He was tonsured a monk in 1926 by Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky) of Kharkov (later the first primate of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia).

Hieromonk John was consecrated bishop on May 28, 1934 and was assigned to the Diocese of Shanghai. Upon his arrival in Shanghai, Bp. John began working to restore unity among the various Orthodox nationalities. In time, he worked to build a large cathedral church that was dedicated to Surety of Sinners Icon to the Mother of God. Additionally, he inspired many activities: the building churches, hospitals, and orphanages in Shanghai. He was intensely active, constantly praying and serving the daily cycle of services, while also visiting the sick with the Holy Gifts. He often would walk barefooted even in the coldest days. Yet to avoid the appearance of secular glory, he would pretend to act the fool. He gave generously to the needy and served the poor without a thought for his own needs.

With the end of World War II and the coming to power of the Communists in China, Bp. John led the exodus of his community from Shanghai in 1949. Initially, he helped some 5,000 refugees to a camp on the island of Tubabao in the Philippines, while he travelled successfully to Washington, D.C., to lobby to amending the law to allow these refugees to enter the United States. It was while on this trip that Bp. John took time to establish a parish in Washington dedicated to St. John the Forerunner.

In 1951, Abp. John was assigned to the Archdiocese of Western Europe with his cathedra in Paris. In 1962, Abp. John was assigned to the Diocese of San Francisco. His days in San Francisco were to prove sorrowful as he attempted to heal the great disunity in his community. He was able to bring peace such that the new cathedral, dedicated to the Joy of all Who Sorrow Icon of the

### Prayers Appreciated for:

#### Living:

Mat. Priscilla, Priest Ian  
Dn. Doug, Mat. Kathy  
Dawn, Katherine,  
Sam, Paula,  
Marianne, Molly,  
Suleiman, Steve

#### Departed:

Lisa

### Tall Candles

Are given by Delaine Ward for  
the health of the  
**Royhab & Jacob Families**

And in memory of  
**Bill, Halim, Elizabeth, Kai  
& Sandy**

### WEEKLY READINGS

#### **Monday, July 3**

*Bl. John of Moscow,  
Fool-for-Christ*

Romans 12:4-5, 15-21  
Matt 12:9-13

#### **Tuesday, July 4**

*St. Andrei Rublev, Iconographer*

Romans 14:9-18  
Matthew 12:14-30

#### **Wed, July 5**

*Martyr Anna of Rome*

Romans 15:7-16  
Matthew 12:38-45

#### **Thurs, July 6**

*Ven. Sisoës the Great*

Romans 15:17-29  
Matthew 12:46-13:3

#### **Friday, July 7**

*Ven. Acacius of Sinai*

Romans 16:1-16  
Matthew 13:4-9

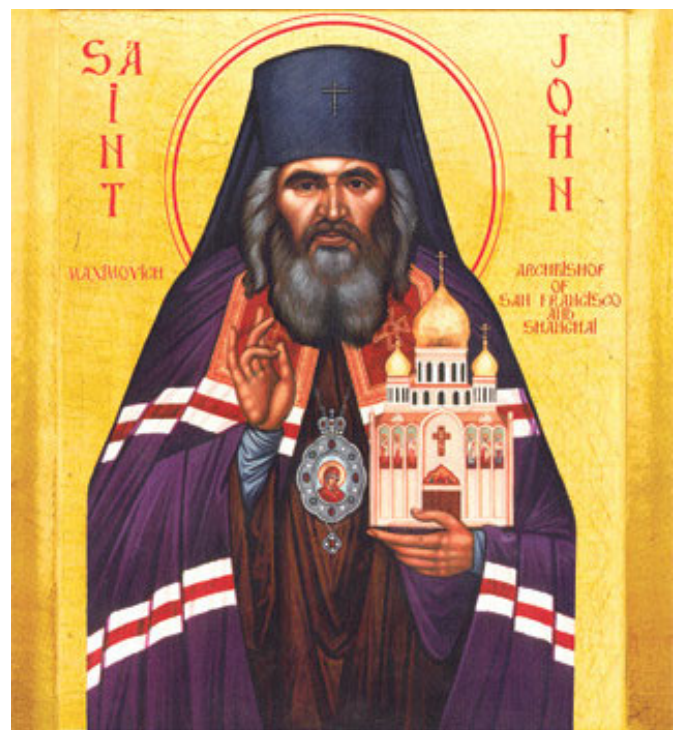
#### **Saturday, July 8**

*Greatmartyr Procopius*

Romans 8:14-21  
Matthew 9:9-13

the Mother of God, was completed.

He reposed during a visit to Seattle on July 2, 1966, while accompanying a tour of the Kursk-Root Icon of the Mother of God. He was laid to rest in a crypt chapel under the main altar of the new cathedral. His incorrupt relics are now in the main church for the faithful to venerate and ask for his holy prayers.



## *Today's Scripture Readings*

### **Epistle: Romans 6:18-23**

Brethren, having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13**

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

*Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!*

## **Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church**

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