

July Notes: ... Sunday the 1st is *Fr Alexander's* birthday ... Thursday the 12th is *Magdy Elkedwani's* birthday ... while *Michael Vallens* celebrates his on Friday the 13th ... on Sunday the 15th, *Marie Henson* and *David Shipper* will be joined in **Holy Matrimony** ... Monday the 16th is *Nevine Sharobim's* birthday ... both *Submatsuhka Elizabeth* and *Elizabeth Vallena* celebrate their name day on Wednesday the 18th (New Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth) ... and that is also *Phoebe Teter's* birthday ... Tuesday the 24th is *Mark Elkedwani's* birthday ... on Saturday the 28th we will have **choir practice**, followed by **Great Vespers & confession** ... and on Sunday the 29th there will be **Parish Council!**

Again we pray for mercy upon us and upon this Thy parish community. Help us to establish a place worthy of Thy worship, and to build a Temple to Thy glory. Guide our steps in the acquisition of property, and send to us, O Lord, benefactors, architects, iconographers, builders, carpenters, and skilled workers. Grant us favor with local authorities and with neighbors; provide the means, and make the impossible possible through Thine own great benefaction, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.



JULY 2018

The Monk's Mission

I wonder why [some] are unable to understand the great mission of the monk! The monk departs far from the world not because he hates it, but because he loves it. In this way he will, through his prayer, help the world more in those matters that are, being humanly impossible, only possible by God's intervention. This is how God saves the world. The monk never says: "I will save the world". Instead, he prays for the salvation of the whole world, along with his own. When the Good God hears his prayer and helps the world, he does not say: "I saved the world", but "God saved the world". In a few words, monks are the "radio operators" of Mother Church, and therefore, if they depart far from the world, they do it out of love, departing from the distractions of this world in order to be in better contact with God and help people more effectively.

Of course, when their unit is in danger, some mindless soldiers also share the irrational demand of certain clergymen (i.e. that monks should return to the world). They say that the radio operator should leave the radio aside and grab his rifle, as if by adding one more gun to the two hundred others he will salvage the situation. While the radio operator clamors to make contact, yelling "calling headquarters, come in, come in" etc., the others think that he calls pointlessly into the wind. However, astute radio operators pay no attention, even if they are reviled. They struggle until they make contact and then ask for immediate help from Headquarters and the air forces arrive, as well as the armed forces, the navy etc. Thus, in this way, and not with their meagre rifles, the unit is saved. The same applies to monks who advance with divine power, with their prayer, and not with their negligible individual powers. It is especially the case in our age, when evil is so widespread, that we are in need of God's intervention.

It is another matter if a monk, on account of some need, is found in the world for a short or even long period of time; then he assists also with his personal spiritual strength, which God has granted him. This activity, however, he considers as a secondary work, prayer always being his main work. He does this, of course, when in his cell as well, where he employs his handiwork as a secondary task, and if he sees anyone suffering next to him, he helps with whatever he has. Furthermore, when a person with problems visits him, he lays everything aside and tries to assist him humanly as well, in whatever he can. ...

Someone might ask: “Should we beseech God for His help?” Certainly we should beseech Him. Particularly, God is greatly moved when we sympathize with our brother and ask Him to help, because then He intervenes without transgressing our free will. Here, one observes the great spiritual nobility of God in that He does not even give the devil the right to protest. That is why He wants us to beseech Him so He can intervene—and He wants to intervene immediately to help His creatures. Of course, if God wants to, even now He can wind the devil into a ball and throw him into hell. However, for our own good He does not do it, because the devil, by beating us with his ill will, removes the dust from our soul.

In all that I have said and will mention further down, I want to stress the great mission of the monk, which is of greater importance than human philanthropy. For, even before someone becomes a monk, he has done his charitable work by giving everything away, as well as his own self to Christ (his rich Father), as Christ said to the young man. So now, being His child (as a poor monk), he has a share in God’s fortune and asks anything he wants from his Merciful Father. Then, his Father gives His mercy in abundance when it does not spiritually injure His unfortunate children. ...

In short, monks are not merely lanterns that illumine city streets that people not stumble, but they are remote lighthouses on the rocks directing the ships of this world with their flashes, and upon the open seas the ships are orientated in order to reach their destination.

-- Elder Paisios the Athonite (+1994)

Charity of the Month



Archbishop Benjamin has directed that the first Sunday of July be set aside for a special collection for the six monasteries in our Diocese: Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, California; Monastery of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco in Manton, California; Monastery of St. Macarius the Great of Egypt in Montclair, California; Our Lady of Kazan Skete in Santa Rosa, California; Protection of the Holy Virgin Monastery in Lake George, Colorado; St. Barbara Monastery in Santa Paula, California; and Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Phoenix, Arizona. Please support these essential ministries of our Church!

St John of Shanghai & San Francisco



The miracle-working power and clairvoyance of Saint John were well known in Shanghai. Once, during Bright Week, Saint John came to the Jewish hospital to visit the Orthodox patients there. Passing through one ward, he stopped in front of a screen, concealing the bed upon which an elderly Jewish woman lay dying. Her family members were awaiting her death nearby. The Saint raised a cross above the screen and loudly proclaimed: “Christ is Risen!” upon which the dying woman regained consciousness and asked for water. The Saint approached the nurse and said, “The patient wants to drink.” The medical staff were stunned by the change which had taken place in one who only moments earlier was dying. Soon the woman recovered and was discharged from the hospital. Such incidents were numerous.

It so happened that Saint John was urgently called to administer Holy Communion to a dying man in the hospital. Having taken the Holy Gifts, the Saint headed there with another clergyman. When they arrived they saw a young man, about 20 years of age, playing on a harmonica. He had already recovered and was to leave the hospital shortly. The Saint called him over saying, “I want to give you Holy Communion right now.” The young man immediately came up to him, confessed, and received Holy Communion. The amazed clergyman asked Saint John why he did not go to the one dying, but detained himself with an obviously healthy young man. The Saint answered simply, “He will die tonight, but the other, who is seriously ill, will live yet many years.” That is precisely what came to pass.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

(unaudited)

	May Actual	May Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	6,595.71	4,545.00	29,400.49	21,825.00
Expenses	4,814.48	3,755.35	23,974.85	21,561.11
Building Fund <i>(Net of Rent Reserves):</i>			19,797.51	