

## Announcements

- **Welcome Guests and Visitors.** We are delighted to have you join us at our service today in worshipping the Holy Trinity. Please take a moment after the service to introduce yourself to our pastor, Father Kirill. You are cordially invited to join us for the fellowship luncheon after the service. We would love to greet you and answer any questions.
- **Congratulations and Prayers.** We celebrated the baptism of infant Aurora Anastasia Moraga this morning. We ask that God keep her as she continues to grow in faith! We also congratulate Kyle Graehl and his wife Charlotte on the birth of their daughter!
- **Books!** We were edified by yesterday's Advent Retreat delivered by Dr. Edith Humphrey. Her books are still available in our Bookstore and Candle Counter at special Retreat pricing! Titles include: *Further Up and Further in: Orthodox Conversations with C.S. Lewis on Scripture*; Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's *For the Life of the World* (she wrote a new introduction); *Grand Entrance: Worship on Earth as in Heaven*; and *Scripture and Tradition: What the Bible Really Says*.
- **Preparing your pledge.** It is the time of year when we prayerfully make our annual pledge, offering our "first fruits" to God. "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). Envelopes and pledge cards are available from the candle counter. This year we are adding the ability give securely online. You can find the link at our web site, [holy-trinity.org](http://holy-trinity.org).
- **Our Christmas Gift.** Every year, during the Nativity Fast, we have a special charity project. This year, on December 22, we will assemble emergency hygiene kits for distribution through IOCC. A collection will be held today and on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> to help buy the supplies needed.

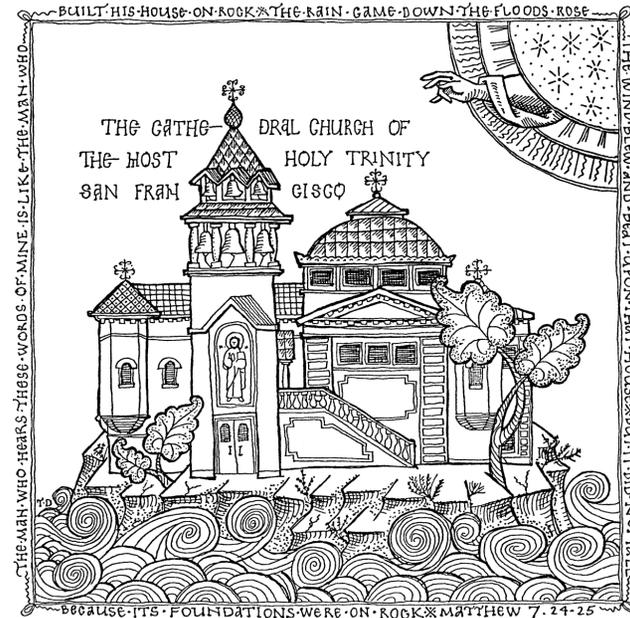
### This Week at Holy Trinity

- Wed. Dec. 11:** 6:00 pm Vespers
- Fri. Dec. 13:** **St. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of All America**  
9:00 am Divine Liturgy
- Sat. Dec. 14:** 5:00 pm Intro to Orthodoxy Class (All welcome!)  
6:00 pm Vigil & Confessions
- Sun. Dec. 15:** 10:00 am Divine Liturgy followed by fellowship meal  
*Parking available this Saturday and Sunday at St. Brigid's*

### Contact Fr. Kirill

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## Holy Trinity Cathedral



Sunday, December 8, 2019

Most Reverend Benjamin,  
Archbishop of San Francisco and the West

Very Reverend Dr. Kirill Sokolov, Dean

1520 Green Street  
San Francisco, California  
[holy-trinity.org](http://holy-trinity.org)

Orthodox Church in America  
Diocese of the West

## Today's Epistle

Ephesians 4:1-6

## Today's Gospel

Luke 17:12-19

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.

Ven. Patapius of Thebes (8<sup>th</sup> c.)

Tone 8.

### Today's Epistle Reading

*Ephesians 4:1-6*

Brethren, I the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, careful to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, even as you were called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.

### Today's Gospel Reading

*Luke 17:12-19*

At that time, as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: and they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.

### Our Holy Father Patapius of Thebes

Saint Patapius was born at Thebes into a pious Christian family. Reaching the age of maturity, he scorned the vanities of the world and so went into the Egyptian desert where he became known for his ascetic deeds. Though he wished to dwell in silence, people began to come to him for advice. He went eventually to Constantinople, where he obtained a cell at the city wall, near the Blachernae church. But here, too, he quickly became known. The sick began to throng about, and he having been vouchsafed the gift of healing, began to help all the needy. After a life adorned with virtue and miracles, Saint Patapius fell asleep in the Lord and was buried in the church of Saint John the Baptist.

## The Two Comings of Christ

Christians live between the two comings of Christ. They remember His first coming to be sacrificed. They anticipate His second coming to reign. This is vividly portrayed in traditional Orthodox church buildings where the "royal gates" of the icon screen in front of the altar table are flanked by the icons of the Theotokos and Child on the one side, and the Lord Jesus in glory on the other. To the uninitiated it may seem as though these are simply pictures of Mary and Jesus put on the same level. This is not so. The icons which frame the Orthodox altar are images of the two comings of Christ. Mary is not alone in her icon; she is holding the Christ Child, who is not shown as a baby, but as the Son of God incarnate "in the form of a slave... in the likeness of men" (Phil 2:7). This is the icon of Christ's first coming. And the icon on the right of the doors is not a picture of Jesus as He was on the earth. It is His image in glory as King and Lord, the icon of His second coming.

The two comings of Christ are held together in Christian thought, action, and prayer at all times. They cannot be separated. When they are, it is the end of Christian faith, life and worship. The first coming without the second is a meaningless tragedy. The second coming without the first is an absurd impossibility. Jesus is born to bring God's kingdom. He dies to prove His kingship. He rises to establish his reign. He comes again in glory to share it with His people. In the kingdom of God there are no subjects. All rule with the risen Messiah. He came, and is coming, for this purpose alone.

- Father Thomas Hopko, *The Winter Pascha*, Chapter 20.



### Many Years!

**Anniversaries of Baptism**  
April Marie Warren (Dec 4)

**Namedays**  
Rebecca Jorgenson (Dec 11)

**Birthdays**  
Olesya Chertova (Dec 8)  
Clarissa Hoffman (Dec 8)

### Thank You

We are grateful to Tamara and all those who cooked and helped prepare hospitality during yesterday's reerat.

Thanks to Matushka Sophia for preparing today's lunch!