



PARISH LEAFLET

Holy Virgin Mary
Russian Orthodox Cathedral

650 Micheltorena Street
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Los Angeles, CA 90026
Website: hvmla.org

**RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD.
HOLY PASCHA 2017**



April 2017

№662

Spiritual Father: how to search, why do you need one, and what to do if you do not have one.

How obligatory is the decision to become a spiritual child, does it leave us free? Which attitude towards the confessor is wrong? What to do if you do not have a spiritual father yet? Is it possible to have a "confessor by correspondence"? What if a husband and his wife have different spiritual fathers? Is it possible to change one confessor for another? What makes relationships between spiritual father and his spiritual child special?

Here we are discussing these and other topics with an experienced pastor.

Spiritual father by correspondence

- Can a modern person have a remote confessor? Calling him, corresponding via the Internet, rarely meeting, or not meeting at all?

- Of course, such kind of relationship can exist, and it is very common. I have heard that such well-known clergymen as Archpriest Vladimir Vorobyov and Archpriest Dmitry Smirnov were corresponding with a certain elder – they asked for advice in writing and received replies in writing. And, it seems, none of them has ever seen this elder. It is possible. When we were lucky enough to make it to the monastery, at the beginning we arrived with the "sheets" of questions addressed to the elders, after a while there were less questions. And some people no longer went to the monastery, but asked the elders different questions in writing and received answers. And they relied on these answers.

- Again, we are talking about the elders, high calling, insightful people, who could remotely solve certain issues. What about average confessors?

- There are questions which, I think, ordinary confessors-priests cannot resolve as they do not possess such special spiritual charisma as the elders. These questions are complex and require not only careful consideration and deepening in a human soul, but also some kind of collateral knowledge and spiritual perception which is a God-given talent.

Let's say I have spiritual children whom I have known for a long time, and knowing that helps me, without being an elder and an insightful person, to solve, perhaps, much more complicated problems. And if you are an ordinary priest who does not know all the complexities and nuances of life of your spiritual child, how could you answer his or her questions and help resolve problems?

- After a while a person needs a confessor less, asks less questions, confesses more briefly. Is it normal?

- I think it's normal. Of course, a person learns. No doubt, knowledge that we receive on a certain subject is much more extensive than, let's say, a university program. But nevertheless at university they give you systemic knowledge of a subject, which is quite consistent. The basis is formed, and you can develop further reliance on that. If a person has an inquisitive mind, and he or she continues to strive for knowledge on a subject he or she is interested in, then gradually there will be fewer questions left. The same is in spiritual life! Last time when we came to see Father John (Krestiyankin), I strained two or three questions out of myself, like a mosquito. I had nothing to ask; there were no problems!

And I understand that it took a long time for Father John to answer all our questions during our long-term spiritual relationships, which were 35 years.

- How do you feel about a change of a spiritual father?

-You know, when I was younger, I was very jealous and upset when spiritual children left me. But, if they left for, let's say, Father John (Krestiyankin) or for such pillars of the Church, my joy overcame my pain. And nowadays I take it easy, guided by the proverb "The fish seeks where it is deeper; and the man, where it is better." Man is free! And it is no use to focus on me, a man who is not a saint and knows the value of his spiritual life.... I would not like that, I would not like to talk about myself: "Here I am - the source of knowledge." Nothing like this. There are people who are much wiser than me. And if my spiritual children become their spiritual children, I now rejoice and do not have pain.

To be continued...

*Faith, "FOMA in Ukraine", September 2016.
(With the editor's changes)*

PARISH LIFE:

Important dates:

April 4th – Church cleaning

April 5th – HOLY UNCTION SERVICE

April 9th – Palm Sunday

April 16th – HOLY PASCHA

April 22nd – Children's Paschal celebration

April 30th – concert dedicated to the music and poetry of P.I. Tchaikovsky

May 10th – MID PENTECOST

May 24th – Leave of Pascha

May 25th – ASCENSION

From the Desk of Fr. Nazari.

Dear brothers and sisters,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Once more we are blessed to celebrate a glorious day: the Resurrection of our Lord – Holy Pascha. Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a celebration of our own resurrection from a death of sin to life eternal.

We become participants of a great mystery of the death and resurrection of Our Lord. St. Ap. Paul in his epistle to the Romans said: "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For He that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him." (Chapter 6).

Today all creation is resurrected in Christ. Christ is Risen and life reigns. If we believe in Christ we believe in His Resurrection, we who just underwent the 40-day journey of great and salvific Lent; who fasted, repented and communed of Christ's most Holy Body and Blood. Now let all creation cry aloud.

**"Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."**

Archpriest Nazari Polataiko

Treasurer's report

Thank you to everyone for your financial support. YTD by 02/28/2017 we are running a loss of \$14,432.23. While running a deficit is never good for us, this is a vast improvement over the same period last year, when our YTD loss was \$33,121.77.

Thank you all for your generosity and may God bless you all!

Margaret

Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral is now signed up on the AmazonSmile website! You just need to sign up through the AmazonSmile site and look for "Holy Virgin Mary Russian

Orthodox Church of Los Angeles" in the list of charities. Our church will receive 0.5% of all eligible purchases! This doesn't sound like much, but it all adds up!

Sisterhood News

This a busy time of year and we would like you to note these dates for your information. **The Sisterhood will be assembling "Verba" bouquets on Saturday, April 1st, at 10:30am in the Parish Hall.** We can use extra hands for this project. If you have bull nose pliers, or any pliers to secure the wire we use, bring them with you. Lunch will be served.

Cleaning of the Church is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, at 9:30 am. Men and women are encouraged to come.

Please try to donate a few hours to help prepare our Temple for Pascha. We will be dusting, polishing the woodwork and iconostasis, cleaning the candle stands, floors and vacuuming the rugs. This will be followed by our usual lunch.

We will be selling Kulich on Saturday, April 8th before the beginning of the festal vigil.

The Parish Council is ordering the meal after the Easter Liturgy and the Sisterhood will provide pascha, kulich, eggs, coffee, tea and wine. Everyone is encouraged to bring your baskets if you desire.

Irene Gregory

Fundraising Committee.

There will be a concert dedicated to the music and poetry of P.I.Tchaikovski.

It will be Sunday, April 30th at 2 pm. Please come, enjoy the music and support our effort.

Saturday school

This year Russian Saturday School receives Communion on April 8th. The service will be followed by a luncheon in our Parish Hall. There will be **Children's Paschal celebration on Bright Saturday, April 22nd.** On this day after morning Liturgy with children taking part in the Cross Procession, we organize an entertainment program with games, prizes and treats. Everybody is welcome!

This year our school Commencement ceremony will be dedicated to the memory of the last royal family: Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and their children. In connection with this event and the preparation for it, **2 seminars** devoted to this topic will be held at our school building (**April 1st and 29th at 3 pm**). All of you are invited!

Head of Studies, Irina Usova

Sunday School.

Classes in April are scheduled for **4/2** and **4/23**. Classes in May will take place on **5/7** and **5/21**. In the month of June, classes will meet on **6/4** and **6/11**.

Marie McEntire, Coordinator

Charity Committee

As our Lord Jesus Christ commanded us in Mathew 25, which was read to us prior to the Lenten season, the Charity Committee would like to undertake two special projects to help the poor and the needy:

1.) Create care packages of personal hygiene items for the homeless, to be collected on Mary of Egypt Sunday (April 2) to be distributed that same week.

Items needed are: Washcloths, travel size shampoo, bar soap, comb, toothbrushes, disposable razors, toothpaste, lip balm, deodorant, hand sanitizer

2.) Make sandwiches for the poor during bright week.

Items needed are: bread, tomatoes, mustard, paper bags (lunch size), mayonnaise, plastic bags (quart size), lettuce

We would like to invite parishioners and members of the Forum to participate in these activities. Please pray for us to

be successful in these endeavors for the glory of Christ our Lord.

God bless!

*Reader George Abuelkhair
Chairman*

LOVES

Thank you to all who attended our blini luncheon on Feb. 26th. It was a great success! Without your attendance or donations, we cannot accomplish our goals (which are to help the elderly and sick.

A big thanks to all the helpers!!

God bless you all,

*Marina Burgmeier
President*

<u>BAPTISMS:</u>	Anya Lee	January 28 th
	Ulyana Lee	January 28 th
	Natasha Lee	January 28 th
	Nick Lee	January 28 th
	Kieran Lee	January 28 th

Many years!

<u>FUNERALS:</u>	George Biriuk	March 10 th
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Memory eternal!

Prayer Request list:

Leonid Gregory, Irine Gregory, Chris Plourde
Marina Dobis (in need of a donor kidney)
Mary Kokayko, Alexander, Maria,
Elena, Theodore, Ann Brown

**The Parish Council Would Like to Thank the Following Persons
for their BUILDING Fund Contributions**

Shirley Garcia and Michael Beaulieu	25
Alexander and Catherine Woronzoff-Dashkoff in memory of Anastasia and family.....	200

NOTE: \$1,500.00 WERE DONATED IN MEMORY OF VARVARA OLSEN'S PARENTS FOR THE RESTORATION OF A HISTORICAL TRIPTYCH. WE WELCOME MORE DONATIONS TOWARDS RESTORATION PROJECTS.

APRIL 2017

1	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
2	Sun	10:00 am	Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	5 th Sunday of Great Lent: MARY OF EGYPT
4	Tue	9:30 am	Church cleaning	
		7:00 pm	Akathist before the icon of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos "Rescuer of the Perishing"	
		8:00 pm	Meeting of the youth and young adult group FORUM; choir practice with Serge Liberosky	

APRIL 2017 (continued)

5	Wed	10:00 am 7:00 pm	Hrs. / Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts HOLY UNCTION SERVICE	
8	Sat	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Liturgy HIERARCHICAL VIGIL	Lazarus Saturday
9	Sun	10:00am	HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY	PALM SUNDAY: ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Great & Holy Week of Our Lord's Passions

9	(Sun)		6:00pm	Matins ("Bridegroom")	
10	Gt. & Holy Monday		7:00pm	Matins ("Bridegroom")	
11	Gt. & Holy Tuesday		7:00pm	Matins ("Bridegroom")	
12	Gt. & Holy Wednesday		10:00am 7:00pm	Hrs. /Lit. of Presanctified Gifts Matins of the Holy Wednesday	
13	Gt. & Holy Thursday		10:00am 7:00pm	Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil – Commemoration of the Last Supper Matins – Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels	
14	Gt. & Holy Friday		10:00am 2:00pm 7:00pm	Hours of Great & Holy Friday Vespers w/Bringing out of Shroud (Epitaphion) Matins and Cross Procession	
15	Gt. & Holy Saturday		10:00am 2,4,6,8,11pm 8:00pm 11:30pm	Vespertal Liturgy with reading of 15 Parables Blessing of baskets Reading of the Acts of the Holy Apostles Nocturnes/Midnight Office	
16	HOLY PASCHA		12:00am 1:00am 1:30am 11:00am	Cross Procession and Matins Paschal Hours and Blessing of baskets Paschal Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom Paschal Vespers	
17	Mon	10:00 am		Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom and Procession	Bright Monday
18	Tue	10:00 am		Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom and Procession	Bright Tuesday
21	Fr	10:00 am		Liturgy	Theotokos of Life-giving Font
22	Sat	10:00 am 5:00 pm		Liturgy and Procession Children's Paschal celebration (after Liturgy) Vigil	Bright Saturday
23	Sun	9:00 am 12:00 pm 3:00 pm		Liturgy Paschal Litiyas at Hollywood Cemetery Paschal Litiyas at Valhalla Cemetery	2 nd Sunday in Paschal-tide Thomas Sunday
25	Tue	9:00 am 12:30 pm 1:30 pm 2:30 pm 3:30 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm		Liturgy and Litiya Paschal Litiyas at Hollywood Cemetery Paschal Litiyas at Serbian Cemetery Paschal Litiyas at Rosedale Cemetery Paschal Litiyas at Valhalla Cemetery Akathist before the icon of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos "Rescuer of the Perishing" <i>Meeting of the youth and young adult group FORUM;</i> <i>presentation on iconography by Fr. Nazari</i>	RADONITZA – Day of Rejoicing; Confessor Basil (Julian calendar) Apostle and Evangelist Mark (Gregorian calendar)
29	Sat	5:00 pm		Vigil	
30	Sun	10:00 am 2:00 pm		Liturgy Concert dedicated to the music and poetry of P.I. Tchaikovsky	3 rd Sunday in Paschal-tide Myrr-Bearing Women

MAY 2017

2	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist before the icon of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos “Rescuer of the Perishing” <i>Meeting of the youth and young adult group FORUM; movie night</i>	
6	Sat	9:00 am	Liturgy at St. Barbara’s monastery (consecration of New Church)	Address: 15799 Ojai Rd Santa Paula, CA 93060 805-921-1563 Email: sbmonastery@gmail.com
		5:00 pm	Vigil	
7	Sun	10:00 am	Liturgy	4th Sunday in Paschal-tide Paralytic
9	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist before the icon of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos “Rescuer of the Perishing” <i>Meeting of the youth and young adult group FORUM; Reader George Abuelkhair “Bible study” Lecture 7</i>	
10	Wed	10:00 am	Liturgy	MID PENTECOST
13	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
14	Sun	10:00 am	Liturgy	5th Sunday in Paschal-tide Samaritan Woman
16	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist before the icon of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos “Rescuer of the Perishing” <i>Meeting of the youth and young adult group FORUM; please see the updated information later on the website</i>	
18	Thu	10:00 am	Liturgy	Great Martyr Irene
20	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
21	Sun	10:00 am	Liturgy	6th Sunday in Paschal-tide Blindman
23	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist before the icon of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos “Rescuer of the Perishing” <i>Meeting of the youth and young adult group FORUM; choir practice with Serge Li- berovsky</i>	
24	Wed	10:00 am	Liturgy	Leave of Pascha
		7:00 pm	Vigil	
25	Thu	10:00 am	Liturgy	ASCENSION
27	Sat	5:00 pm	Vigil	
28	Sun	10:00 am	Liturgy	7th Sunday in Paschal-tide Holy Fathers First Ecumenical Council
30	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist before the icon of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos “Rescuer of the Perishing” <i>Meeting of the youth and young adult group FORUM; presentation on iconography by Fr. Nazari</i>	

**PLEASE CHECK SCHEDULE ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.HVMLA.ORG**