



HOLY VIRGIN MARY RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
OF LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

**PARISH  
LEAFLET**

1923 2016

***Holy Virgin Mary***  
***Russian Orthodox Cathedral***  
650 Micheltorena Street \* Los Angeles, CA 90026  
Tel. (323) 666-4977 \* Website: hvmla.org

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**November 2016**

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**№657**

# 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.

## Time for review

### - How should a man who just started attending Church look for a confessor/spiritual father?

- First of all, one should pray for it. Saint Simeon the New Theologian advises to pray a lot so that the Lord would send a confessor/spiritual father. Another tip: do not rush. Archimandrite John (Krestiankin) said the following: when a young man and a woman meet and like each other it should take 3 years for them to make a decision to get married. No doubt, they should have friendly and innocent relationships, and by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year these young people should decide: Can I live with this person or not? Relationship with your spiritual father has something in common with the term marriage, but it is spiritual marriage. That's why once you find a priest that you like and who corresponds to your needs you shouldn't ask to become his spiritual child right away. As tomorrow everything can change!

It is necessary to carefully look at him, to see positive sides - and we, priests, being humans, are also biased, we show negative sides as well. One should see how a priest leads his spiritual children, whether he totally imposes his will or gives his spiritual children freedom. Even God does not restrict our freedom, He knocks, but does not order: "Open the door for Me!"

### - One can at a glance place confidence in a spiritually inexperienced person, "young elders" ...

- Young elders - are inexperienced priests who consider themselves to be people who know the will of God, all-seeing, all-knowing. But in reality it is not true. Yes, of course, there are exceptional cases: Reverend Alexander Svirsky was considered to be an elder at the age of 18. But mostly spiritual eldership is associated with maturity.

Therefore, once again, do not rush.

There were some cases when people left their spiritual fathers, probably because they were disappointed or because He was not able to deeply answer their questions. Maybe He answered in a way that they were not interested in listening to. There are various reasons why the faithful are leaving their confessors. And in order not to make it happen with the years we need to establish time for so called "restraint" from developing relationship.

"Watch me. I will not say no to you under any circumstances, now I will be "performing duties" of your spiritual father, but I will not become such till you look at me for quite enough time."

At the same time we can confess them, talk to them, answer all their questions.

### - What is the difference between a spiritual child and people who just come to confession?

- Same as the difference between your own children and other children: your own children listen to you, at least, have to listen to until certain age. And then, maybe, they keep being obedient, if it is useful. Other children do not listen to you. They can ask for advice, for a candy, figuratively speaking, for an explanation of something. That's why a person who goes to confession, has approximately the same relationships with the priest.

*To be continued...*

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

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## PARISH LIFE:

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### **Important dates:**

November 11<sup>th</sup> – Concert of John Sokoloff and his band  
November 13<sup>th</sup> – Annual L.O.V.E.S. Thanksgiving Dinner  
November 21<sup>st</sup> – ENTRY OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY INTO THE TEMPLE  
December 25<sup>th</sup> - **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (NEW CALENDAR)**

### **From the Desk of Fr. Nazari.**

Dear brothers and sisters,

With all my heart I would like to greet you with the Feast of the Protection of the Holy Theotokos (which we were celebrating on October 1st), and I wish you to be always protected by All Holy and Blessed Ever Virgin Mary.

I want to express my deep gratitude for your prayers, your help and hard work while organizing the Diocesan Assembly and for the reception of the wonderworking copy of the icon of the Mother of God "Abbess of Mount Athos." All the delegates were very pleased and touched by the warmth of our reception, and we'll keep for many days the blessing that each of us received by venerating the wonderworking icon. I hope that this is not the last visit of the Blessed Holy Virgin Mary in our Temple in Her wonderworking images.

God bless you!

With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin I will be absent between October 31 and November 21st. I would like to ask for your prayers, because with the God's help on October 30<sup>th</sup> in the evening, I plan to go on a pilgrimage to Mount Athos with my spiritual father. If any of you want to write notes for the health or the repose of your relatives for commemoration during the services on Mount Athos, please contact me directly or by e-mail:

[fnazaripolataiko@gmail.com](mailto:fnazaripolataiko@gmail.com).

By the grace of God I will fly from Mount Athos to Ukraine on November 6th, where I plan to spend a week with my parents, and then with the blessing of the hierarchy of our Orthodox Church in America I must head to Moscow to help with the situation at the Church of St. Catherine, the representation of Orthodox Church in America and to express our condolences on the sudden death of Archimandrite Alexander (Pihach).

As you can see my vacation includes not only rest, but also church service. So I would kindly ask you to pray for me, so that the Lord would give me strength and spiritual wisdom to fulfill all the assigned duties and to come back to our parish where with the new spiritual strength I could continue serving our Holy Virgin Mary Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the icon "Rescuer of the Perishing" community.

*Due to my absence schedule of services in November has been changed. I would like to draw your attention to the changes in the calendar.*

*On Sundays, November 6th and 21st Divine Liturgy will be served by Archimandrite Kirill (Govorun), on Sundays November 13th and 20th Divine Liturgy will be served by Archpriest Arkady Mironko. On weekdays, in case of pastoral need please contact Father Yousef by email: [abounayousuf@gmail.com](mailto:abounayousuf@gmail.com) or by phone: (818)881-1123 or (818) 996-7023.*

*Akathists on Tuesdays will be sung by the faithful and our church will be open at 7pm. On Saturdays Vespers will be read at 5pm.*

*May God Bless you!  
Archpriest Nazari Polataiko.*

### **From the Treasurer (August 2016):**

Many thanks to all for their donations during this past month. A special thanks to the fundraising committee and helpers for the successful Slavic Festival. Between increased donations and the proceeds from the festival we had net operating income of \$2,899.54 for the month of September.

Please do not forget us, we need your donations to keep the church running. We continue to develop the means to make donating easier for you. We now have a Square reader, donations can be made at the candle stand or in the office with credit cards. Donations can also be made online at our website [hvmla.org](http://hvmla.org), just click on the PAYPAL link.

*Margaret Dascalu*

### **Sisterhood News.**

The new refrigerator and freezer were finally delivered and installed. It is beautiful and we are very pleased with it. It arrived in time for us to prepare and store all the food for the delegates of the Diocesan Assembly. We were fortunate to have Kimmy Tang, a master chef, prepare the menu for all the meals served on Wednesday and Thursday. We really could not have done it without her expert knowledge and help. We served 130 people each day. Everyone commented on how delicious all our meals were.

We also have to thank Lyda Mossunov, Tamara Krupenkin and Tudor Dascalu who prepared the Borscht for dinner, of which not a drop was left. Lila Sorial was kind enough to bake fourtrays of her tasty baklava.

We have to thank our ladies who stayed most of the day to prepare and serve the meals to our guests. Also there was clean up and coffee breaks during the day which had to be taken care of. It seemed to us that everyone who attended had an enjoyable experience.

*Irene Gregory*

**Fundraising committee**

John Sokoloff and his band. performs Friday November 11, 2016 at 8pm. See the enclosed flyer.

school, linguistic classes for students and their parents. For more information please call: 323-413-7877.

*Head of Studies, Irina Usova*

**Kiosk-Bookstore**

The Kiosk is having **CLEARANCE SALE**: books containing much spiritual nourishment, CDs and some of the children’s materials.

Please come and see. We are able to take all major credit cards, as well as old fashioned cash and checks!

*Sister Elizabeth*

**Sunday School.**

Dear Parents and Families,

Sunday School classes are open to all children ages 3 years old through sixth grade. We are having class sessions in November on 11/13 and 11/20, and in December on 12/04 and 12/18. The Sundays we do not have formal class, the children have music with Miss Zoe. Come and be a part of our exciting new program!

*Marie McEntire, Coordinator*

**Saturday school**

This year Parents’ Committee was founded at our school, it will perform the following duties: preparation for school holidays, making and selling monthly Sunday dinners for our parishioners. The Parents’ Committee members list will be placed on school notice board and school website.

On Saturdays after regular school hours there are additional classes which can be attended: drawing classes, theatre

**L.O.V.E.S.**

Please save the date of **NOVEMBER 13TH** for our annual Thanksgiving dinner which will be after liturgy. A traditional dinner will be served.

*Marina Burgmeier, President*

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**BAPTISMS:** Kristina Mikhaylova..... October 14

**Many years!**

**FUNERALS:** Olga Kleimenova ..... September 20

**Memory eternal**

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**Prayer Request list:**

- Tatiana Simakova  
(in need of a donor kidney)
- Marina Dobis  
(in need of a donor kidney)
- Christopher Apostal,
- Mary Kokayko,
- Alexander
- Maria,
- Elena,
- Theodore,
- Ann Brown

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

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Leonid and Irene Gregory in memory of their parents.....	500
Sarah C. Pratt in memory of Magdalena Beldin .....	200
Zinaida Shalygin in memory of Boris Shalygin .....	100
Ann Brown and Ralph Brown .....	100
Anonymous .....	100
Zinaida Shalygin for good health of Fr. Nazari.....	50
Michael Beaulieu.....	25

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## NOVEMBER 2016

1	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM; movie night</i>	
5	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
6	Sun	10:00 am	Liturgy and general Panikhida	20 <sup>TH</sup> WEEK AFTER PENTECOST “Joy of All Sorrow” icon (old calendar)
8	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM; Reader George Abuelkhair “Bible study” Lecture 2.</i>	Synaxis Archangels Michael and All Heavenly Hosts (new calendar)
12	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
13	Sun	10:00 am	Liturgy <i>L.O.V.E.S. Annual Thanksgiving dinner</i>	21 <sup>ST</sup> WEEK AFTER PENTECOST
<i>November 15<sup>th</sup> – Beginning of the Nativity Fast (new calendar)</i>				
15	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM; presentation by Father Calinic Berger</i>	
19	Sat	5:00 pm	Vespers	
20	Sun	10:00 am	Liturgy	22 <sup>ND</sup> WEEK AFTER PENTECOST
21	Mon	10:00 am	Liturgy	<b>ENTRY OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY INTO THE TEMPLE (NEW CALENDAR)</b>  Synaxis Archangels Michael and All Heavenly Hosts (old calendar)
22	Tue	7:00 pm	Thanksgiving moleben followed by Thanksgiving dinner organized by FORUM meeting	
24	Thu	10:00 am	Thanksgiving moleben	Great Martyr Mennas (old calendar) <i>American Thanksgiving Day</i>
26	Sat	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Liturgy Vigil	St. John Chrysostom (old calendar)
27	Sun	10:00 am	Liturgy and general Moleben	23 <sup>RD</sup> WEEK AFTER PENTECOST
<i>November 28<sup>th</sup> – Beginning of the Nativity Fast (old calendar)</i>				
29	Tue	10:00 am 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Liturgy Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM; iconography presentation by Fr. Nazari</i>	Evangelist Matthew (old calendar)

## DECEMBER 2016

3	Sat	5.00 pm	Vigil	
4	Sun	10.00 am	Liturgy and general Panikhida	24 <sup>th</sup> WEEK AFTER PENTECOST
6	Tue	10:00 am 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Liturgy Akathist to theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM; movie night</i>	St. Alexander Nevsky (old calendar) St. Nicholas (new calendar)
9	Mon	10.00 am	Liturgy	Conception of Holy Theotokos by Righteous Anna (new calendar) St. Innocent Bishop of Irkutsk (old calendar)
10	Sat	5.00 pm	Vigil	
11	Sun	10.00 am	Liturgy	25 <sup>th</sup> WEEK AFTER PENTECOST <i>Sunday of Forefathers (new calendar)</i>
13	Tue	10:00 am 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Liturgy Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM; Reader George Abuelkhair "Bible study" Lecture 3</i>	Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called (old calendar)
15	Thu	7:00 pm	Moleben to Theotokos followed by discussion	
17	Sat	5.00 pm	Vigil	
18	Sun	10.00 am	Liturgy	26 <sup>th</sup> WEEK AFTER PENTECOST <i>Sunday before Nativity (new calendar)</i>
19	Mon	10.00 am	Liturgy	St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (old calendar)
20	Tue	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Akathist to Theotokos <i>Meeting of FORUM; presentation (See next issue of the bulletin for more information)</i>	
24	Sat	10.00 am 7.00 PM	Royal Hours and Liturgy <b>GT. COMPLINE/MATINS</b>	<i>Eve of the Nativity (strict fast)</i>
25	SUN	10.00 AM	<b>LITURGY</b>	<b>NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND GOD JESUS CHRIST (NEW CALENDAR)</b>
26	Mon	10.00 am	Liturgy	Synaxis of Most Holy Theotokos (new calendar)
31	Sat	5.00 am	Vigil	