

## Visit to the Exarchate Parish of Sts. Seraphim of Sarov and John of Kronstadt, San Diego, California

**O**N SUNDAY, November 28, 2011 (Old Style), the Feast Day of the Holy Monk-Martyr Stephen the New and the Holy Hieromartyr Irenarchos, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, Assistant Exarch in America of our Church's Holy Synod, the Very Reverend Archimandrite Akakios, Abbot of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Etna, California, and Hierodeacon Photii, one of the monastery Deacons, served the Divine Liturgy at the parish of Sts. Seraphim of Sarov and St. John of Kronstadt in San Diego, California.

The visiting clergy concelebrated with the parish Rector, Father Yakov Ferens, who is the biological father of Deacon Father Photii. The service was chanted mostly in Slavonic—the parish is primarily Slavic by ethnic background—but also in Greek, Romanian, and English. In prayerful attendance as communicants were His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos of Etna and Schema-monk Father Sergius, a brother of the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery.

A parish meal was served afterwards, during which a warm sense



of Christian fellowship and love prevailed. The parish, which is collecting funds to construct—with the proverbial widow’s mite—a permanent Church, has shown remarkable and moving solidarity with the Exarchate and great dedication to their Rector, as well as perseverance in holding to a traditional confession. All present were deeply moved by the services and communal spirit. (*Above, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, Fathers Akakios and Photii. Below, the communing faithful.*)

