



# The Trophy Bearer

September 2019

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## St. George Orthodox Church

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This newsletter is published monthly in the interest of the parishioners and friends of St. George Orthodox Church in Buffalo, NY - a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and The Orthodox Church in America.



## Feast of the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

SEPTEMBER 8

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

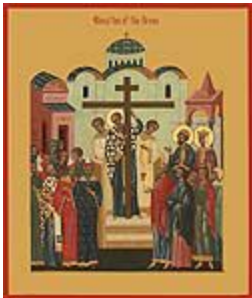
The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastsdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family. The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World. The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6). The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.



## **Feast of the UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS**

SEPTEMBER 14

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he had signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer." Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they

began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326. During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem. During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (see October 28).

The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death. Saint Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khosroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khosroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

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# A Message From Fr. Jason

## **THE GREAT FEASTS OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS AND THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS CHURCH NEW YEAR**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

**"THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS  
MADE! LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN  
IT!"**

I greet all of you with these words of praise as we begin another year within the Liturgical and Spiritual Life of Our Church.

Every year on September 1, Orthodox Christians around the world celebrate this Great Feast to mark the beginning of their spiritual journey through

the cycle of Feasts. Whereas many of the Feasts of the Church revolve around Great & Holy Pascha, it is September 1st that is the start of the Church Calendar. As such, this would be a great time for us, as Christians, to choose a goal that is appropriate for our own spirituality. Perhaps we need to attend the weekly services that are offered on a more regular basis, pray a little more each day, read the Bible all the way through, fast more often or more strictly, extend our time, talents, and efforts a little more. Whatever we need to do to grow spiritually, we need to start today!

The commemoration of The Church New Year, itself, reminds us of the constant need to re-evaluate and recapture that which is central to our lives as Orthodox Christians, to restore balance in all we do, and in repentance to make an earnest attempt to set aside a portion—the "first portion"—of our time to acquire the peace of the Holy Spirit.

By entering the ecclesiastical year we discover -- perhaps for the first time -- the

mercy and love of God revealed in the celebrations, which open to us the great acts of salvation. In these celebrations, culminating in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the body of Christians is made into the body of Christ. In these celebrations, the Kingdom of God is being proclaimed and revealed. With the proclamation of the Gospel we are given the opportunity to receive the living Word of God which renews and illumines those seeking "to run the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). By embracing this Word we are invited to draw near and receive from the table of the Kingdom the bread of life and the fountain of immortality.

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, a great and awesome gift has been entrusted to us. By entering the Ecclesiastical Year, we are given the opportunity to proclaim, in word and in deed, The Gospel of new and eternal life. Let us draw near together, as a parish family, and enter with great joy into the mystery of the Liturgical Life of our Church. Let us proclaim to the world, the saving acts of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ by fulfilling and proclaiming His beloved Gospel.

As we begin the New Liturgical Year, I encourage all of us to participate more in the Liturgical and Spiritual Life of our Parish. We will be offering more services to allow everyone the opportunity of growing in their spiritual life as well as to participate more in the Liturgical Life of the Parish. We will also be offering more Educational class for both the children and the adults of our parish to allow the opportunity for all of us to grow in our faith (Book Club, Bible Study Class, Adult Education Class, Church School, Monthly Parish Family Gatherings). We also have many projects and activities planned for the coming year that we will require everyone's efforts. Through these activities we will allow ourselves the opportunity of coming together as a parish family in prayer to enjoy fellowship with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we begin the New Liturgical Year, I encourage all of us to continue our love, prayer, and support for one another. For through these efforts on everyone's part, not only will our beloved parish family continue to grow in faith and in love but more so it will become what God has intended it to be: A Thriving and Living Body of Christ living and proclaiming the Gospel message of His Beloved Son: Our Lord Jesus Christ.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we begin the New Liturgical Year, I humbly ask for your forgiveness if I have failed you in any way as your parish priest, as your teacher, as your shepherd, as your father in Christ during these past 12 months. I ask for your continued love, support, and prayers for Matushka Katia and I, Anna and Alexandra, our family and for one another. For together, through our faith, love, and prayers and God's Grace and Love, we will be able to grow! We will be able to expand! We will be able to provide a spiritual home for everyone who desires to come to know Christ and to live Christ so that they may grow in their faith and love.

As always, be assured of my continued love and prayers for all of you, your families, and our beloved parish family.

Through the prayers of our Father among The Saints: The Holy Great-Martyr and Wonderworker St. George the Victorious, May God continue to bless, guide us, and protect us and keep us always in His Loving Care as we strive to live, proclaim, and minister The Gospel of His Beloved Our Lord Jesus Christ!

With Love in Christ  
Fr. Jason

## Parish Activities

### PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be Sunday,  
September 22 at 12:30 PM

### CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School will start on Sunday, September 8. After Divine Liturgy we will have a Moleben Prayer Service for the beginning of the school year and the Service Blessing of Children's Backpacks. There will be a Meet & Greet Picnic on Church/Rectory Property. Please bring your children each Sunday as we look forward to another wonderful year of learning. We will be studying the New Testament this year.

### BIBLE STUDY

We will be having a Bible Study class two Sundays each month after coffee hour. See the weekly bulletin, The Messenger, for dates

### ADULT EDUCATION/CATECHUMENS' CLASS

Starting on Wednesday, September 18, we will be having an adult class for Orthodox, non-Orthodox, and inquirers' from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. The class will be 8 weeks long. Bring yourself, your family, and your friends.

### PARISH OUTING TO FOREST LAWN CEMETERY

On Saturday, September 7, the entire parish is invited to a tour of Forest Lawn Cemetery. We will be meeting at the church for a Pot-Luck Luncheon at 11:30 AM. Then we will be off to tour the cemetery at 1 pm. The cost is \$30 per person. Please see or contact Barbara Kuvshinoff for reservations or for more information. Phone: 716-553-5722 Email: [Barbara.kuvshinoff@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.kuvshinoff@gmail.com)

### PARISH SHUT-INS

As we say our daily prayers, let us also take time out to remember our loved ones who are homebound, who are in hospitals and who are in nursing homes. Let us remember them that GOD will continue to watch over them and protect them. Also, during the Year, let us take to either send them a card, give them a call, or visit them to let them know how much we love them, how much we remember them, and how much we pray for them.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

Mr. Albert Fadell  
317.376.2562

Mr. Miro Gergoff  
508 Massachusetts Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14213

Mrs. Luba Japadjief  
189 Tremaine Ave.  
Kenmore, NY 14217  
716.876.6823

Mrs. Mary Massey  
3192 Amsdell Road  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
716.649.4029

Mr. Frank Salvamoser  
147 West Hazeltine Avenue  
Kenmore, NY 14217  
716.875.9503

Reader Victor Shanchuk  
495 Lafayette Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
716.881.3096

Mrs. Catherine Tony  
274 Wadsworth Ave.  
Tonawanda, NY 14150  
716.695.3068

## **ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE**

When you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include icon ornaments, jewelry, icons, prayer books, prayer ropes, and much more. If you need a gift, come check out the bookstore.... you may find something you like!! We are also offering gift certificates for our bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information. We thank David and Andrea who are managing our bookstore for us. If you have any questions or if you would like to order something that you do not see, please see or contact Dave or Andrea and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at [bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com](mailto:bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com). May God continue to bless and guide all of you.

## **Orthodoxy on the Web:**

Keep a daily focus on Christ with Scriptural readings, fast days, prayers, saints of the day, and inspiration from the Fathers. *The Planner* follows the Ecclesiastical (church) year beginning in September and ending in August. You can also use it to keep track of your personal schedule and appointments

The free 2019–2020 digital planner is now available for download!

You can download the Digital Planner to put the daily bible readings and listing of saints directly into your digital calendar (Apple iCal, Google Calendar, Outlook, etc.). Once in your calendar, you will be able to easily synchronize this information and take it with you on your PDA (iPhone, Android, Windows Phone, etc.). It is easy to synchronize with your mobile devices!

Go to <https://www.goarch.org/chapel/planner> and follow the directions for downloading it to your devices.

Also, visit our Diocesan Website:  
[www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)



Also visit The Website of the Orthodox  
Church in America: [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)

## September 2019 Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <i>The Great Feast of the Liturgical Ecclesiastical New Year</i> 9am Matins 10 am Divine Liturgy followed by Moleben for The New Year 1:30 pm Blessing of Waters at Hoyt Lake	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9 am Daily Matins	<b>4</b> Fr.Jason awayat Diocesan Clergy Conference	<b>5</b> Fr.Jason away at Diocesan Clergy Conference	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>Eve of The Great Feast of the Nativity of The Most-Holy Theotokos</i> 11:30 am Potluck lunch 1 pm Forest Lawn Cemetery Tour 4 pm Great Vespers with Litiya
<b>8</b> <i>The Great Feast of the Nativity of The Most-Holy Theotokos</i> 9:40 am The Hours 10 am Festal Divine Liturgy followed by Moleben Prayer Service & Blessing of Children's Backpacks <i>Opening of Church School &amp; Church School Picnic</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9 am Daily Matins 6:30 pm Mats for Missions	<b>11</b> 9:30 am Prayer Service for America 5:30-7:30 pm Monthly Parish Dinner at Kevin Guest House	<b>12</b> 9 am Akathist Service	<b>13</b> <i>Eve of the Great Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross of our Lord</i> 6 pm Vespers with Litiya and Procession of Cross	<b>14</b> <i>The Great Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross of Our Lord</i> <b>Strict Fast</b> 9:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy 4 pm Great Vespers
<b>15</b> 9am Baptism of Dominic George Mule 10 am Divine Liturgy 2:30 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9 am Daily Matins	<b>18</b> 6 pm Monthly Community Healing Prayer Service 6:30-8:00p m Introduction	<b>19</b> 9 am Akathist Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 4 pm Vespers

Community Memorial Prayer Service for the 18 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11			to Orthodoxy Class			
22 9:00 Matins  10 am Divine Liturgy followed by the Service of Thanksgiving for the 50th Marriage Anniversary of <u>Rdr. John and Susan Kirwan</u>  12:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	23	24 9 am Daily Matins	25 6 pm Paraklesis Service to the Theotokos  6:30-8:00P M Introduction to Orthodoxy Class	26 9 am Akathist Service	27	28 4 pm Vespers
29 9:30 am Service of General Confession  10 am Divine Liturgy  <i>Annual COCCNF Walk for Missions &amp; Pan-Orthodox Picnic</i>  1 pm Meet at Annunciation Church  2:30 pm Picnic at St. George Orthodox Church (Buffalo)	30  Eve of the Feast of the Protection of the Theotokos  6:00PM Great Vespers	Oct 1 <i>Feast of The Protection of The Theotokos</i>  9:30am Divine Liturgy	Oct 2 6 pm Paraklesis Service to the Theotokos  6:30-8:00P M Introduction to Orthodoxy Class	Oct 3 9 am Akathist Service	Oct 4	Oct 5 4 pm Vespers

**\*\*Coffee Hour Fellowship is held every Sunday in the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy!**

**\*\*Church School is held every Sunday in the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy!**

## Up-coming events:

9/8: Nativity of the Theotokos/Opening of Church School  
 9/15: 18th Anniversary of 9/11 Prayer Service for Our Nation  
 9/22: 50th Wedding Anniversary of Rdr. John and Susan Kirwan  
 9/29: Annual COCCNF Walk for Missions



10/26: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. George Parish Craft Fair/Bake Sale  
10/27: Annual Community Parish Open House/Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

## Our Parish Outreach Missions:

### **HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS**

There are over 400 red bins located throughout the area. The organization collects items to sell in the thrift store as well as items that can be recycled. With the money earned, they provide meals for the homeless of Buffalo from their mobile soup kitchen as well as a food pantry open to local families. They also are in need of donations of food for the soup kitchen and food pantry. The website is <http://heartsforthehomeless.org>

### **HOMESPACE**

The mission of Homespace is to provide not only transitional housing, but also provide support programs to help families in need break away from dependency and begin a new life of personal growth and economic independence. Homespace provides affordable housing for young (ages 16 - 21), homeless, single parent families.

To see what kind of donations they need, see their website which is <http://www.homespacecorp.org>

### **BUFFALO CITY MISSION**

This organization provides meals, shelter, and services to the homeless. They are looking for donations of canned goods and other non-perishable food. The website is [www.buffalocitymission.org](http://www.buffalocitymission.org)

### **MATS FOR MISSIONS**

This organization collects grocery store bags which they cut into strips and after looping the strips together, crochet mats for the homeless. The homeless put the mats on the ground under their blankets. The mats provide a dry warm base for sleeping on. There is a bin in the social hall to place your grocery bags in. We meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month to sort and cut bags. Dinner is provided. Come and join us.

Please bring these items to church and place them in the collection bins located in the Parish Fellowship Hall. Once a month, we will take these items down to the Hearts for Homeless, HomeSpace, and Buffalo City Mission.

### **KEVIN GUEST HOUSE**

Once a month we provide dinner, conversation, and prayer for the residents of the Kevin Guest House. The residents are patients and their caregivers who are under treatment at local hospitals. If you would like to get involved, dinner is served the second Tuesday of the month. Bring something to share (see Fr. Jason) or just come to share in the conversation and prayer.

## Diocesan Ministries

### **AN INVITATION TO SUPPORT THE STEWARDS OF THE OCA**

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. The foundation for this work is Jesus Christ,

Whom we encounter in our spiritual lives, stewardship, evangelism and outreach, and relations with others as we engage the world. Being a steward of the OCA goes beyond the financial gifts which support the work of our church. Being a steward is about caring for and knowing the history of the mission of the Orthodox Church here in North America and finding your place in that history. Having received this great gift of our Orthodox Faith, we bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of Saint Herman and Saint Tikhon; Saint Innocent and Saint Alexis and all the other saints known and unknown who have worked to build up and expand Christ's Church here in North America. Please consider being a part of that mission today by giving to the Stewards of the OCA. For more information, please visit The OCA Website: <https://oca.org/become-a-steward>

## **AN INVITATION TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF THE DDB**

In order to fund necessary ministries and fulfill the work of the Church in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** generously contribute financial support. To learn more about the DDB, please go to the following link: <http://vimeo.com/71021182> and watch a 60 second video inviting you to join the ever-growing list of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey who joyfully support the on-going work of our diocese. Their support allows us to provide assistance to new mission parishes, scholarships to seminarians, support the departments of The Diocese, and much-needed encouragement to older struggling parishes. How about you? Our parish is a member of the DDB. If anyone would like to join, please see Fr. Jason as well as take a pamphlet from the table in the back of the church. May God continue to bless and guide you for your continued support.

## **MONTHLY PUBLICATIONS**

The Diocese of New York and New Jersey has two monthly newsletters: **"First Fruits"** and **"Beyond the Plateau."** The goal, as expressed by Archbishop Michael, is to increase communication and grow the communal spirit of diocesan fellowship in the building-up and strengthening of our parish communities. To learn more about these monthly diocesan publications, please refer to the diocesan website: <http://www.nynjoca.org/newsletters.html>.

## **"LESSONS IN OUR FAITH" VIDEO PRESENTED BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL**

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and to the point, offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! **There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!**