#### \*\*IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION\*\*

\*\*Until further notice, we will continue celebrating the Divine Services up to no more 25 parishioners in attendance. With this in mind, if single parish members or parish member households - UP TO 25 PEOPLE IN CHURCH AT EACH DIVINE LITURGY - would like to attend the Divine Liturgy on a Sunday please refer to the following signup link <a href="https://signup.com/go/AqSQSmX">https://signup.com/go/AqSQSmX</a> \*\* (Slots 1-25 in the Church)! PLEASE SIGN-UP BY 6:00 PM ON SATURDAY NIGHT!!

#### **Regarding Holy Communion:**

 If anyone would like to come and receive Holy Communion or if you would like Fr. Jason to come and bring Holy Communion to your home, please contact him to make arrangements: jvansuch@hotmail.com/609.851.3811/716.875.4222

#### **Regarding Holy Confession:**

Taking into consideration the spiritual and mental healing that comes through the Sacrament of Confession, His Eminence blesses, for all priests and communities in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, that for this period:

- Confession may continue to be held over the telephone or by live video communication; it may also be done in person with social distancing kept between the priest and the penitent (6 feet), and with face masks worn by both. The Prayer of Absolution can be given by video or phone and especially in person.
- When Confession is heard over the telephone or by live video, the priest must read the Prayer of Absolution before ending the phone call or video communication, in the hearing of the penitent.
  - If anyone would like to have Confession, please contact Fr. Jason to make arrangements:

jvansuch@hotmail.com/609.851.3811/716.875.4222

Please look up the below weblink for the Digital Edition of The Jacobs Well: https://issuu.com/jacobswell/docs/jacobs-well-fall-2019-nk

Please look up the below weblink for the website of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey:

#### https://www.nynjoca.org

Please look up the below weblink for the newly-updated Diocesan Directives of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey for the Gradual Approach of Re-Opening of our Parishes:

https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/covid-19/Diocesan-Directives-on-the-Gradual-Re-Opening-of-Diocesan-Churches-2020-05-08-For-Distribution.pdf



# St. George Orthodox Church 2 Nottingham Terrace - Buffalo, NY 14216 (716) 875-4222

www.stgeorgebuffalo.com

NO.385 JANUARY 24, 2021 \_\_\_\_\_\_JANUARY 24, 2021 NO.385

#### THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and The Orthodox Church in America

#### ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

2 Nottingham Terrace Buffalo, NY 14216

V. Rev. Jason Vansuch, Parish Priest

716-875-4222 Buffalo, NY 14216 2 Nottingham Terrace

Cell Phone: 609-851-3811 Email: <u>ivansuch@hotmail.com</u>

Rev. Peter Irfan, Attached Presbyter Andreja Damjanovski, Attached Reader John Kirwan, Choir Director

Mr. Amil Slaiman, Parish Council President Home: 716-773-2961 Email: aslaiman2014@gmail.com

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. Ven. Xenia of Rome and her two female servants (5th c.). St. Gerásim, Bishop of Perm (1441). Martyr John of Kazan' (1529). Martyrs Babylas (Vavíla) of Sicily, and his two disciples: Timothy and Agapius (3rd c.). St. Macedonius, Hermit, of Syria (ca. 420). Uncovering of the relics of Saint Anastasios the Persian (7th c.). Ven. Dionysius of Olympus (16th c.). Ven. Philotheus, founder of Philotheou Monastery (Mt. Athos—10th c.). Bl. Xenia of St. Petersburg (19th c.).

EPISTLE: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

GOSPEL: Luke 18:35-43

Colossians 3:4-11

**GLORY FOREVER!** 

#### **GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!**

#### \*\*FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK\*\*

In front of the Icon of Our Lord, In front of the Icon of The Theotokos, and on the Center Icon Table are donated by Bonnie Dan 

Altar Vigil Candles are offered by Anthony DelNuovo in Loving Memory of Thy Servant of God - Frank. May his memory be eternal.

#### TODAY'S WEEKLY MESSENGER IS SPONSORED BY:

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

#### WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

We welcome all of you to the Divine Liturgy this morning, especially those who are visiting with us here at St. George Orthodox Church. Everyone is invited to the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy for Christian Fellowship. It is our prayer that your experience this morning was spiritually uplifting and you will return very soon to pray with our parish family. In the Orthodox Church, we do not practice open Communion. However we do invite everyone to come and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Hence only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer and fasting may receive Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you with many years of good health and happiness.

#### THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

#### SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 2021

**SANTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY** 

Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

"On-The-Go" Coffee Hour Fellowship following Divine Liturgy

Church School Class via Google Classroom - 12:30 to 1:15 PM

#### **MONDAY JANUARY 25, 2021**

Monthly Healing Prayer Service -6:00 PM Bible Study Class - 7:00 to 8:30 PM (via Zoom)

#### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27, 2021

Little Compline - 6:00 PM Adult Education Class - 6:30 to 8:00 PM (via Zoom)

#### THURSDAY JANUARY 28, 2021

Akathist Service to Our Lord - 9:00 AM

#### FRIDAY JANUARY 29, 2021

The Eve of The Feast of The Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs Great Vespers - 6:00 PM

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 30, 2021

The Feast of The Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM Great Vespers- 4:00 PM

#### **SUNDAY JANUARY 31, 2021**

Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

"On-The-Go" Coffee Hour Fellowship following Divine Liturgy

Church School Class via Google Classroom - 12:30 to 1:15 PM

#### \* \* \* \* \* PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE \* \* \* \* \* PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH OF THY SERVANTS:

HIERARCHS

Metropolitan HERMAN

**Bishop DANIEL** 

CLERGY

Archpriest Herman, Matushka Cynthia and George {Schick}

Family/Friends/Parishioners of St. George Orthodox Church

Ivan/Marina/Inna Bonnie (Dan)

Archpriest Alexey and his family (Karlgut)

Archpriest Timmothy/Mat. Michelle

Irene

Lillian

Archpriest Ken and Matushka Natalie (Starevsky) Archpriest Gregory and Mat. Diane (Winsky)

Archpriest Leonid Archpriest David (Mezinski)

MATUSHKI Mat. Katia

**Edwina** 

Serena

Mat. Paraskeva Mat. Joanna Mat. Gloria (Martin)

Luba Silvu Dan, Jr.

Reader Victor

Popadia Vicki

Mat. Christine Mat. Patricia (Severeno) Stanley Mandy Annette Anna (Massey)

Archpriest James and Mat. Patricia (Mason)

Archpriest Michael and Mat. Valerie (Hatrak)

Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne

Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather (McNulty)

Presbyter Andreja, Popadija Anica and Family

Priest Peter and Mat. Mary (Irfan)

Presbyter John and Presbytera Nancy

William Natalie Natasha Richie Coard Karen Aliscia (Nick Rostko) Walter, Paul

Jim, Darren, Marsha (Relatives of Elaine M.)

Nicholas, Andrew(Witvk) Frank (Barb, K brother-in-law) Boris (Kuvshinoff) Marilyn (Linda cousin)

Oscar Albert (Fadell) Frank Sarah Xenia, Justin, Danielle (Friends of Fr. Jason) Larry Joseph (Rocco Father in Law) Ronald, Candice (Masset) Victor (Tita Nephew) Catherine (Tony) Susan (Kirwan) June (Pavlov)

Evelyn (Friend of Julie) Billy (William - Mat. Christine's cousin) Clyde Allison (school)

Robert (Phillips) Rebecca (Relative of Mat. Christine) Svetlana (Family friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia)

Angela, Jason, Michelle (Relatives of Dn. Mark) Linda Justin (Slaiman) Jeanne (Mat. Christine's Friend) Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria (Ewing) Ashley (Friend from Roswell) Carol (Mailman's sister-in-law) Melody Lee (Beth's brother) Lee, Bridget (John Kirwan friend) Paul (Shosho) Brain (Brother of Matthew Just)

Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas Sada Thlisinitsa, Gemmal, Geesa, and Patric (Fr. Peter) Child Senit

Anne (Mariami Grandmother) Jeremy Stewart (nephew of Bill George) Susan (Zumba) Juliana (Matusiak) Louis (cousin of Barbara) Yuri/Elena Alex (Valieff) John, Kevin Irene Sean Susan (Deeb) Justin (Cmunt)

Harry (neighbor of Tom and MaryAnne Slaiman) Anthony (DelNuovo) Jaime (Zumba) Rosemary

Aspasia (Dean's Mother) Charles Seraphim Emma/Alexander (relatives of Natalie Huett)

Olga (Friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia) Vadym Iryna Yuriy Anastasia Noah (McEntee) Elias, John, Joseph

Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber Judithann (Friend of Barbara) Steven (Uncle of Dean)

William (Friend of Judge Family) Barbara (Rdr. John's Sister in Law)

Brian John, Roberta, Barbara (Family of Dana and Annette) John, Michael John Matthew (Bashira)

Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga, Clara (Bethlehem)

Jeffry, Dominic, Rachel (Family of Andrea) Lee, Benjamin, HarryPatrick (Relatives of Beth Mellas)

John, Helen (Parents of Tanya Cmunt) Tedros (Brother of Sammy Afeworki)

Diocese of NY&NJ Prayer List

Protopresbyter Leonid (Kishkovsky) Archpriest Samuel (Kedela)

Archpriest George (Hasenecz) Archpriest Paul (Shafran) Archpriest Jonathan (Ivanoff) Archpriest Paul (Kucynda)

Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra (Kovalek) Archpriest Sergei and Mat. Gerry (Glagolev)

Douglas, Chris Costa (Father of Pete Thanos) Randy Iris, Pete, Sara Rachel and the child to be born of her Jonathan Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Dragiza, Karl

**Those Serving in The Armed Forces** Kenneth, Nadine, Jason, Robert, Andrew, Justin, Shawn, Austin, Catechumens Juanita Martha

Chris, John, Daniel, Gjorgie

#### FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:

All of the clergy and parishioners of This Holy House who have departed this life, who now lie asleep in the Lord.

Ever-Memorable Archpriest Eugene Vansuch Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Timko **Ever-Memorable Priest John Bohush Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Aswad Ever-Memorable Archpriest Rastko** Matushka Dorothy (Timko)

Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark **Ever-Memorable Sbdn. Gregory** 

Ever-Memorable Pdn. Gregory Akhtar Remyat, and Barkat (Family of Fr. Peter)

**Newly-Departed Servants of God** 

\*If anyone would like to have their loved ones added to the prayer list for remembrance during the Divine Liturgy, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

### HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY **Tropars/Kontakions for Divine Liturgy**

#### TROPAR FOR THE RESURRECTION, TONE 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

#### TROPAR FOR THE HOLY NEW MARTYRS OF RUSSIA, TONE 4

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passionbearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood. // By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

#### **KONTAKION FOR THE RESURRECTION, TONE 8**

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,// and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

#### KONTAKION FOR THE HOLY NEW MARTYRS OF RUSSIA, TONE 3

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory: "Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God// unto the ages of ages. Amen."

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

#### Steadfast Protectress Tone 6 (Hymn to the Theotokos)

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator. Despise not the entreating cry of us sinners, but in Your Goodness come speedily to help us who call on You in faith! Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos!! For You always protect those who honor You!

#### **PROKEMEINON** Tone 8

**Pray and make your vows / before the Lord, our God!** *v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.* 

#### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

#### **THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

It is truly meet to bless You, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement, You gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify You!

#### **COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! Alleluia, Alleluia!

#### EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

Colossians 3:4-11

#### **Brethren:**

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,

in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

#### GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

Luke 18:35-43

#### Let us Attend!

Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant.

So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well."

And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

= = = Scriptural Readings for the Week = = =		
Monday	Hebrews 8:7-13	Mark 8:11-21
Tuesday	Hebrews 9:8-10, 15-23	Mark 8:22-26
Wednesday	Hebrews 10:1-18	Mark 8:30-34
Thursday	Hebrews 10:35-11:7	Mark 9:10-16
Friday	Hebrews 11:8, 11-16	Mark 9:33-41
Saturday	Hebrews 13:7-16	Matthew 5:14-19
Sunday	Colossians 3:12-16	Matthew 25:14-30

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## \*\* NEW PROTOCOLS WHEN ATTENDING THE DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS.....

- 1) A Parish Council Member will greet everyone at the Front Entrance Doors to the Church. We will have the Sign-Up Sheet there to mark off your name if you signed-up to attend. If we did not sign-up, then we will write your name down and kindly remind you to sign-up before next Sunday.
- 2) EVERYONE attending the Divine Liturgy (those in the Nave and Parish Fellowship Hall parishioners, choir members, parish council members) NEED to sign-up. Only Those in the Altar do not need to sign-up as they are not taking space in The Nave. Once we reach our capacity of 25 people in The Church, everyone else will be seated in The Parish Fellowship Hall. Everyone must were a mask while in Church or on Church Property as well as use the hand sanitizer upon entering the Church at the Front Door Entrance as well as maintain the required 6 feet social distancing. Pews have been marked off as to where we are permitted to stand/sit during The Divine Services.
- 3) When receiving Holy Communion, a Parish Council Member will call everyone up pew by pew to allow for social distancing (the children and Altar Servers will come first, then the first pews up front all the way to the back of the Church with the Choir being the last ones to receive Holy Communion). If any faithful are in The Parish Fellowship Hall, Fr Jason, Fr. Andreja, or Fr. Peter will bring Holy Communion to those in the Hall.

\*\*If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless and guide all of you!\*\*

**2021 PARISH STEWARDSHIP FORM:** If we have not returned our 2021 Parish Stewardship Form, please do so by Sunday December 27, 2020. If we need Stewardship Form, please see Fr. Jason or Barbara Kuvshinoff. As we continue to fulfill the work of Our Lord by living and proclaiming the Gospel Message here at St. George's, let us open our hearts and minds and take a moment to reflect upon what God has given us and to discern how we might be able to return to God a portion of the blessings we have received. On behalf of the parish council, we express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone for your continued love, support, and prayers and for all that you do for our parish and for one another and our community in living, proclaiming and being The Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ!

#### LIVE-STREAMING OF DIVINE SERVICES

As a friendly reminder, ALL DIVINE SERVICES, WILL ALSO BE LIVE-STREAMED from Fr. Jason's Facebook page and our Parish Youtube Page so that we can still be together and pray together. So please continue to join us in prayer!! There are three ways you can join us in prayer via Live-Stream even if we do not have a FaceBook account:

- Go directly to our Parish Website (<u>www.stgeorgebuffalo.com</u>) and on our homepage you will see a a box that says 'Restream: Stream currently offline". When 'live-stream' is active, the live video will automatically appear.
- 2) Go directly to Fr. Jason's Facebook Page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/jason.vansuch">https://www.facebook.com/jason.vansuch</a> and there you will see the Live-stream video.
- 3) Go directly to our Parish Youtube Page

  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCft4AWAX2COrL">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCft4AWAX2COrL</a>
  <a href="mailto:ZExfMJc5KQ">ZExfMJc5KQ</a>

and there you will see the Live-stream video.

Be on the lookout for The January Issue of "The Trophy Bearer". Also in the Parish Fellowship Hall, we have the Giving Tree! If anyone would like to sign up for Coffee Hour Readers Bulletin Collection, Communion Cloth, Home Blessing, please see or contact Fr. Jason!

#### WECOME TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH!

Do we have questions about our life, its meaning, purpose, destiny?
Are we desiring to know Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God?
Are we seeking forgiveness, healing, and wholeness?
Do we wonder where to go to find answers?
We can find the answers to these questions and so many other questions in The Holy Orthodox Church through Her Sacred Tradition,
Holy Scriptures, Her Teachings and Dogmas.

The Orthodox Church is the original Christian Church, the Church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ and described in the pages of the New Testament. Her history can be traced in unbroken continuity all the way back to Christ and His Twelve Apostles, empowered and sent forth on the day of Holy Pentecost. Incredible as it seems, for over twenty centuries she has continued in her undiminished and unaltered faith and practice. Today her apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact. The Orthodox Church maintains that the Church is the living Body of Jesus Christ. Many of us are surprised to learn that for the first 1000 years of Christian history there was just one Church.

Where is "The Church" to be found and experienced today? Come Taste and See How Good The Lord is every Sunday by joining us for The Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

What is Orthodox Christianity all about? How does it differ from other Christian confessions? This section will attempt to answer these questions and many more. For a visual introduction to the Orthodox Church, please view the video link below: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player\_embedded&fs=1">http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player\_embedded&fs=1"</a> For a brief introduction and in depth study to The Orthodox Faith and to find answers to: 'What we Believe?", "Who we Are?", and "How we Live?', please view the PDF link below:

http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/files/studies/InquirersClassV1final.pdf or you may visit the OCA website by clicking the link below:

http://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith

or you can begin a Journey Through Orthodoxy by clicking the link below: http://journeytoorthodoxy.com

To learn more ways that we can teach our children about the Orthodox Faith, The OCA has provided a wonderful website for us to use that provides great resources such as (handouts, texts, articles, stories, and much more)! To see this great website, please view the PDF link below:

http://dce.oca.org/page/resources/

If you have any questions or would like to know more about The Orthodox Faith, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (<a href="mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com">jvansuch@hotmail.com</a>) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

#### IMPORTANT DATES WITHIN THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH

#### **Parish Announcements:**

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace as well as Kevin Guest House and our other outreach ministry projects.
- WE CONTINUE TO CONTACT ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS OKAY, SAFE AND HEALTHY.

\*\*Please be on the lookout for emails this week with the following items:

- 1) Reader Vespers for Saturday Evening (January 30) and Friday (January 29)
- 2) Reader Typika Service for Sunday Morning (January 31) and Saturday (Jan
- 3) Information for St. George Book Club Monday (January 25)
  - Information for Inquirer Class Wednesday (January 27)

BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER, WE WILL BE RECORDING
THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH SUNDAY AS WELL AS OFFERING THE
MONTHLY INCOME and EXPENSE FOR OUR PARISH!

INCOME FOR SUNDAY January 17, 2020 – \$2882.05 & \$500 for Capital Improvement Fund DONATIONS FOR THE NEW BOILER (Capital Improvement Fund) – Total Donations so far for the New Boiler: \$19,030.00

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!

\*Please refer to the Weekly Bulletin and Church Website for any changes to the calendar!\*

#### DAILY FAMILY PRAYER RULE WE CAN PRAY TOGETHER AT HOME WITH OUR FAMILIES

A Prayer Rule must be done in front of the icons and the Gospel in our Icon Corners with a lit candle.. It is important to remember that we must make time for God, for the "Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matt. 11:12). The best time to pray is in the morning or in the evening when we as a family can come together in prayer. Also, when using a Rule of Prayer, we must be flexible and do what we can and do it attentively and consistently. Our goal is to maintain the connection with God and cultivate a real relationship with Him.

With that in mind, please fine below The Rule of Prayer offered by our Diocese for us to use at home especially during this most difficult time when we are not able to be in church together as a parish family.

https://www.nynjoca.org/files/2020/praying-at-home/A-FAMILY-PRAYER-RULE.pdf

May God bless you and keep you always in His Loving Care!

#### ST. ANDREW'S CAMP

\*\* Saint Andrew's Camp has released a new promotional video for prospective campers!

The video can be found here on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/saintandrewsorthodoxcamp/videos/357928144820497/
\*\*Be sure to check it out...you may recognize the priest:)

For more than sixty years, St. Andrew's Camp has offered the young people of our parishes an incredible summer camping experience. Children and teens have been instructed in prayer and the divine services, the reading of Scripture and the teachings of our Orthodox Church. They have been nourished with the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. They have had fun swimming, horseback riding, playing sports, singing and learning musical instruments, creating in the visual arts, learning to safeguard the planet, and exploring the stars. And they have established friendships that last a lifetime, met their future spouses, and nurtured their vocations to serve the Lord in ministry.

As a token of gratitude for the labors of love extended by the administration and staff, both clergy and laypersons, of St. Andrew's over the past six decades, it is now time for us to help the Camp in an especially needed way.

Please join us in raising funds for the new multi purpose building which will include new kitchen, dining hall and activities center. The cost of this new building is \$300,000. To become a reality, the completion and furnishing of this much-needed center will require great generosity of individuals, organizations and parishes.

You can click on the link below which will take you to the gofundme.com page.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-andrew039s-camp-fundraiser-by-ss-peter-and-paul As we continue to fulfill the work of Our Lord by living and fulfilling His Gospel Message, let us open our hearts and minds by providing support and assistance to our Diocese, to our children, by taking a moment to reflect upon what God has given us, and to discern how we might be able to return to God a portion of the blessings we have received.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you and your families for your continued prayers, support and generosity.

\*\*Also, make sure we check out the promotional video for prospective campers!

#### The video can be found here on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/saintandrewsorthodoxcamp/videos/357928144820497/

\*\*Be sure to check it out...you may recognize the priest:)

#### Remember our Loved Ones during Our Daily Prayers

'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

{Matt. 25:40}

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.

Please refer to the of our Parish Shut-Ins below.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless you and guide you!

#### ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH SHUT-INS (2020)

Mrs. Diane Salvamoser
147 West Hazeltine Avenue
Kenmore, NY 14217
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.875.9503
Reader Victor Shanchuk
495 Lafayette Avenue
Elderwood
245 Basset
716.875.9503
Williamsv

Mrs. Luba Japadjief Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit) 245 Bassett Road Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30)

Mrs. Catherine Tony
274 Wadsworth Ave.
317.376.2562
Tonawanda. NY 14150

Tonawanda, NY 14150 716.695.3068

Andrew Wityk Mrs. Bonnie Dan

Ellicott Center Elderwood Nursing Home 200 Seventh Street 200 Bassett Road

Buffalo, NY 14201 Williamsville, NY 14221

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#### WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

These sermons offered to us by The Diocese via video can be found on the Diocesan Website: http://www.nynjoca.org! There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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#### 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: <a href="https://oca.org/become-a-steward">https://oca.org/become-a-steward</a>

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#### 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. 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.

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#### "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: <a href="http://www.nynjoca.org">http://www.nynjoca.org</a>! For those who do not have internet, please see the handouts from each lesson which are located on the table in the back of the church. There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!

#### ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE

As you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our newly-formed Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include: Icon ornaments, jewelry, Icons, prayer books, prayers ropes, and much more. If you need a Gift, come check out the Bookstore...you may find something you like!! We are now also offering Gift Certificates for our Bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information!! We thank David and Andrea Chmiel who are managing of 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 David or Andrea Chmiel and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at: bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com. May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.





ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH
2021 HOME BLESSING SCHEDULE
The Blessing of Homes

**POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER PASCHA** 

Due to the ongoing COVID Pandemic, to ensure the safety, health, and wellObeing of everyone, His Eminence has asked that we postpone Home Blessing until after The Feast of Holy Pascha. A beginning date will be determined once we see how we are as far as the pandemic is concerned. If anyone would like to have their home blessed this year, please contact Fr. Jason with any specific day and time that would be best for him to come and bless your home. You can contact Fr. Jason at (716) 875-4222 or (609)851-3811 or email him at ivansuch@hotmail.com and he will be in contact with you to make other arrangements. As Fr. Jason makes his pastoral visitations to the homes of the parishioners, he will use the sign-up sheet as a guideline for him to follow. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let Fr. Jason know. May God continue to bless and guide all of you and your families. May you have a Holy and Blessed Nativity of Our Lord, a Holy and Blessed Theophany Season and a Blessed, Healthy, and Happy New Year.

The custom of blessing homes during the Theophany season is of special beauty and significance. It is not simply a sentimental tradition without meaning, nor is it a custom whose meaning we have forgotten, like an old friend whose face we remember, but whose irnpact on our life has been forgotten.

When an Orthodox Christian believer moves into a new home, he dedicates his new home as the abode of a follower of Christ. He asks that God, the source of all goodness and the Giver of every perfect gift, to bless his house and all that is within it; he recalls that Jesus Christ, His Son, came to bring Salvation to all, even as He brought Salvation to the house of Zaccheus; he prays that the Holy Spirit may abide in it, guiding those who dwell in it in the Paths of righteousness. On the Feast of Theophany we rededicate our home for its original purpose, just as we must periodically rededicate our life to Christ. We do it especially on this Feast because this is the day on which we remember in the Church Year the coming of Christ who began His Ministry when He descended into Jordan to be Baptized by St. John the

Forerunner and Baptist. He enters again into our lives reminding us that we must "repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

An Orthodox Christian must dedicate not only himself and his house to the Lord, but his daily work and all his efforts as well. All things are to be done to the glory of God. That is why in the Orthodox Church, not only religious objects, such as icons, crosses, churches and vestments, are blessed, but also homes, fields, animals and all objects which are used in our daily life for the good of man. In this the Church expresses its faith that the Holy Spirit's sanctifying action extends over the whole Creation.

#### ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUICATION CORNER



#### **ST. XENIA OF ROME**

Saint Xenia of Rome, in the world Eusebia, was the only daughter of an eminent Roman senator. From her youth she loved God, and wished to avoid the marriage arranged for her. She secretly left her parental home with two servants devoted to her, and set sail upon a ship. Through the Providence of God she met the head of the monastery of the holy Apostle Andrew in Milassa, a town of Caria (Asia Minor). She besought him to take her and her companions to Milassa. She also changed her name, calling herself Xenia [which means "stranger" or "foreigner" in Greek].

At Milassa she bought land, built a church dedicated to Saint Stephen, and founded a woman's monastery. Soon after this, Bishop Paul of Milassa made Xenia a deaconess, because of her virtuous life. The saint helped everyone: for the destitute, she was a benefactress; for the grief-stricken, a comforter; for sinners, a guide to repentance. She possessed a deep humility, accounting herself the worst and most sinful of all.

In her ascetic deeds she was guided by the counsels of the Palestinian ascetic, Saint Euthymius. The sublime life of Saint Xenia drew many souls to Christ. The holy virgin died in 450 while she was praying. During her funeral, a luminous wreath of stars surrounding a radiant cross appeared over the monastery in the heavens. This sign accompanied the body of the saint when it was carried into the city, and remained until the saint's burial. Many of the sick received healing after touching the relics of the saint.

Following the death of Saint Xenia, first one of her former servants died, then the other. They were buried at the saint's feet.

#### **ST. XENIA OF PETERSBURG**



Saint Xenia lived during the eighteenth century, but little is known of her life or of her family. She passed most of her life in Petersburg during the reigns of the empresses Elizabeth and Catherine II.

Xenia Grigorievna Petrova was the wife of an army officer, Major Andrew Petrov. After the wedding, the couple lived in Saint Petersburg. Saint Xenia became a widow at the age of twenty-six when her husband suddenly died at a party. She grieved for the loss of her husband, and especially because he died without Confession or Holy Communion.

Once her earthly happiness ended, she did not look for it again. From that time forward, Xenia lost interest in the things of this world, and followed the difficult path of foolishness for the sake of Christ. The basis for this strange way of life is to be found in the first Epistle to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 1:18-24, 1 Cor. 2:14, 1 Cor. 3:18-19). The Lord strengthened her and helped her to bear sorrow and misfortune patiently for the next forty-five years.

She started wearing her husband's clothing, and insisted that she be addressed as "Andrew Feodorovich." She told people that it was she, and not her husband, who had died. In a certain sense, this was perfectly true. She abandoned her former way of life and experienced a spiritual rebirth. When she gave away her house and possessions to the poor, her relatives complained to the authorities. After speaking to Xenia, the officials were conviced that she was in her right mind and was entitled to dispose of her property as she saw fit. Soon she had nothing left for herself, so she wandered through the poor section of Petersburg with no place to lay her head. She refused all assistance from her relatives, happy to be free of worldly attachments.

When her late husband's red and green uniform wore out, she clothed herself in rags of those colors. After a while, Xenia left Petersburg for eight years. It is believed that she visited holy Elders and ascetics throughout Russia seeking instruction in the spiritual life. She may have visited Saint Theodore of Sanaxar (February 19), who had been a military man himself. His life changed dramatically when a young officer died at a drinking party. Perhaps this officer was Saint Xenia's husband. In any case, she knew Saint Theodore and profited from his instructions.

Saint Xenia eventually returned to the poor section of Petersburg, where she was mocked and insulted because of her strange behavior. When she did accept money from people it was only small amounts, which she used to help the poor. She spent her nights praying without sleep in a field outside the city. Prayer strengthened her, and in her heart's conversation with the Lord she found the support she needed on her difficult path.

When a new church was being built in the Smolensk cemetery, Saint Xenia brought bricks to the site. She did this in secret, during the night, so that no one would know.

Soon her great virtue and spiritual gifts began to be noticed. She prophesied future events affecting the citizens of Petersburg, and even the royal family. Against her will, she became known as someone pleasing to God, and nearly everyone loved her. They said, "Xenia does not belong to this world, she belongs to God." People regarded her visits

to their homes or shops as a great blessing. Saint Xenia loved children, and mothers rejoiced when the childless widow would stand and pray over a baby's crib, or kiss a child. They believed that the blessed one's kiss would bring that child good fortune.

Saint Xenia lived about forty-five years after the death of her husband, and departed to the Lord at the age of seventy-one. The exact date and circumstances of her death are not known, but it probably took place at the end of the eighteenth century. She was buried in the Smolensk cemetery.

By the 1820s, people flocked to her grave to pray for her soul, and to ask her to intercede with God for them. So many visitors took earth from her grave that it had to be replaced every year. Later, a chapel was built over her grave.

Those who turn to Saint Xenia in prayer receive healing from illness, and deliverance from their afflictions. She is also known for helping people who seek jobs.

## Thirty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost The Blind Man at Jericho

Luke 18:35-43

From The Explanation of the Gospel of St. Luke by Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

35-43. And it came to pass, that as He was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging. And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should keep silent; but he cried so much the more, Son of

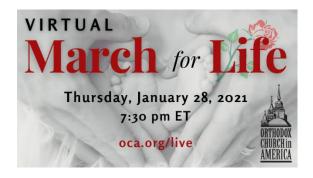
David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto Him: and when He was come near, He asked him, saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.

The Lord performed this wayside miracle of the blind man so that even His passage along a road would yield a profitable teaching for His disciples and for us: that we should in all things, at all times, and in every place do what is beneficial and never be idle. The blind man believed that Jesus was the awaited Messiah; having been raised among the Jews, it is certain that he knew that the Christ would be of the seed of David. Therefore he cries out with a great voice, Son of David, have mercy on me. His words have mercy on me show that he understood Jesus to be divine and not merely a man. Marvel at his staunch confession: although rebuked by many, he did not keep silent, but cried out all the more, urged on by the fervent zeal within him. Therefore Jesus summons him as one who is truly worthy to approach Him, and asks him, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? He asks the question, not in ignorance of what the blind man wanted, but so that it would not appear to the others who were present that the Lord gave something different from what the man wanted. Otherwise, some might have said that the Lord, in a vainglorious show of power, healed the mans blindness when the man had only been begging for alms.(1) Envy might well have inspired some to slander the Lord with such foolishness as this. Therefore the Lord asked the blind man what he wanted, and when He heard that he wanted his sight, He gave him his sight. See the absence of vaingloryâ€"the Lord says, "Thy faith hath made thee whole. For you have believed with faith that I am the Son of David, the Christ, Who is now revealed, and you have shown such zeal that you did not keep silent even when rebuked." We may learn from this that when we ask with faith, God does not give something other than what we ask for, but the very same thing. However, when we ask for one thing and receive something else, it is clear that either we did not make a good request or we did not ask with faith. (2) See also the power of the Lord: Receive thy sight.(3) Which of the prophets ever healed in this manner, with such power? His voice, proceeding from Him Who is the true Light,

became light to the blind man. See also the gratitude of the healed man: he followed Jesus, glorifying God, and causing others to do the same.

## THE 2021 SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY SUNDAY JANUARY 24, 2021

Sanctity of Life Sunday serves to mark the anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States. Orthodox Christians from across the country will proclaim the sanctity of God's precious gift of life and remember the millions of victims abortion has claimed and continues to claim.



The bishops of the Orthodox Church in America have always strongly supported and participated in the annual March for Life held in Washington DC. However, due to the ongoing global health crisis, this year His Beatitude will lead a virtual March for Life event which will be live-streamed on Thursday, January 28 beginning at 7:30 pm ET on <a href="mailto:oca.org/live">oca.org/live</a> and via the OCA's YouTube and Facebook pages. The live-stream will feature a prayer service led by Metropolitan Tikhon, followed by reflections by His Beatitude. The main address will be given by Dr Ana Iltis of Wake Forest University, a leading Orthodox Christian bioethicist. The broadcast will also highlight Orthodox organizations that support women in crisis pregnancies.

In preparation for Sanctity of Life Sunday, the faithful are encouraged to <u>explore the numerous reflections</u>, <u>articles</u>, <u>texts</u>, <u>liturgical services</u> <u>available online</u>.

### Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

Sunday, January 24, 2021



To the Esteemed Clergy, Reverend Monastics, and Beloved Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Over the past year, Orthodox Christians have become urgently aware of the need to protect the most vulnerable members of our society. In the face of a global pandemic, it became necessary for the world and even our Church to take a series of extraordinary measures in order to safeguard the life and the health of the elderly, the infirm, the defenseless, and the weak. In doing so, we pray that we were given the grace to fulfill the prophetic word, the evangelical command, and the apostolic exhortation not only to show mercy to one another, but also to defend the well-being of all members of the Church and of the world.

In exactly the same spirit, as the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, I take this Sunday – the Sunday that we as a Church dedicate to the proclamation of the Sanctity of Life – as an opportunity to reiterate unequivocally our commitment to the defense of the defenseless, and the protection of the most vulnerable, and thus our opposition to abortion. As Christians it cannot be any other way. Our Lord has taught us throughout the Holy Scriptures to be merciful as He is merciful, to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill His law, to defend the widow and the orphan, to welcome the stranger and the sojourner, and to love one another even as He has loved us. This essential message found throughout Scripture must be all-encompassing and extend to the precious lives carried in the womb. If we are to love even our enemies, as He has commanded us, surely we must also love, defend, and seek to protect precious lives being formed within their mothers' wombs.

Beloved children in the Lord, following the example of our response to the pandemic, we can look to concrete ways in order to fulfill what our Lord has commanded us to do. In other words, the teaching of the Lord should inspire us to seek out ways to provide necessary support for mothers or families who might otherwise consider having an abortion. I, together with the members of the Holy Synod, exhort our clergy and faithful to consider different ways that we might be able to serve and assist pregnant mothers, especially within our own local communities. To this end, we should extend the right hand of fellowship to these mothers and their families, provide material support when needed, and assist them in caring for the children who will be born of them. Above all, I believe, we should affirm to the world – to anyone considering an abortion, to anyone counseling someone to

have an abortion, or to anyone who supports this practice — the lessons we have been taught by our Master: the ways of mercy, compassion, and love. In so doing, I pray that we will enkindle in their hearts and minds a change, so that they too will learn to walk in these same ways, and will be moved to protect and defend the most vulnerable among us.

May our Lord Jesus Christ inspire us to remain faithful to the vision of human life as a sacred gift, as we recommit ourselves to defending the lives of the unborn, to offering acts of mercy and kindness to struggling single mothers and families facing hardship, and to praying for the salvation of all of mankind.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Tikhon Archbishop of Washington Metropolitan of All America and Canada

#### **SANCTITY OF LIFE PETITIONS AND PRAYERS**

These petitions are to be inserted into the Litany of Fervent Supplication as part of the annual commemoration of Sanctity of Life Sunday.

Again we pray that Thou will grant to the people of this nation the will to do good, to flee from evil, and to practice all righteousness, making us respectful of life and sharers of Thy blessings, caring for one another in mercy and truth, we pray Thee, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

Again we pray that Thou will banish all evil from our hearts and wickedness from our laws, enabling us to be servants of Thy holy will and performers of Thy love, we pray Thee, O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

Again we pray that Thou will kindle in our hearts the will to care for the needy, to show kindness to the poor, to aid the homeless and help the helpless, we pray Thee, O Compassionate Lord, hearken quickly, and graciously show mercy.

The following prayer is to be read after the singing of "Blessed be the Name of the Lord" for the third time.

**Choir:** "Blessed be the Name of the Lord..." (3x)

**Priest:** The Blessing of The Lord be upon you, always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Let us pray to the Lord. **Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, Who are in the bosom of the Father, True God, source of life and immortality, Light of Light, Who came into the world to enlighten it: Thou wast pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of Thy All-Holy Spirit. O Master, Who came that we might have life more abundantly, we ask Thee to enlighten the minds and hearts of those blinded to the truth that life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with Thine image and likeness; enable us to guard, cherish, and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For Thou art the Giver of Life, bringing each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, to those who, through ignorance or willfulness, affront Thy divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, and all of us, come to the life of Your Truth and glorify Thee, the Giver of Life, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting and Thine All-Holy Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. Followed by the usual dismissal.

**Orthodox Christian Stewardship** is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God by teaching and giving examples of a virtuous life to all (St. John Chrysostom). A primary goal of Stewardship is to strengthen our understanding of the teachings and dogmas of The Orthodox Faith through supporting the work of The Church. This can be found in The Divine Services as reiterated by St. John of San Francisco:" The Divine Services in their composition contain all the fullness of the dogmatic teaching of the Church and set forth the path of salvation." Fulfilling our responsibility of continual learning begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. Through being Stewards of the Gospel and of The Orthodox Church, Education calls on the faithful to cheerfully receive instruction given to the Church by Our Lord, Holy Scripture, The Divine Services, and The Holy Fathers of

the Church. Through Orthodox Christian Stewardship, The Church promotes spiritual growth and strengthened faith and calls on all of us to bring the faith and love of Our Lord to every aspect of our lives as gifts from Him through our time, talents, and treasures. During this year, let us come together as a Diocesan Family and recommit ourselves to both spiritual growth of our Life in Christ as well as through Orthodox Christian Stewardship by attending the Divine Services, attending the many opportunities of Education for both Adults and Children through Parish Education, gatherings, and fellowship and by supporting our Parishes and Diocese in the many endeavors through which, by the Grace of God, we will bring the light and love of Our Lord to all!

#### LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4

LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8