

**\*\*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 <https://signup.com/go/AqSQSmX> \*\* (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](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)/[609.851.3811](tel:609.851.3811)/[716.875.4222](tel: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](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)/[609.851.3811](tel:609.851.3811)/[716.875.4222](tel: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](http://www.stgeorgebuffalo.com)**

## 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**

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

**Cell Phone: 609-851-3811 Email: [jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)**

Presbyter Andreja Damjanovski, Attached Rev. Peter Irfan, Attached

Reader John Kirwan, Choir Director

Mr. Paul Shosho, Parish Council President

Home: 716-544-7358 Email: [pshosho@me.com](mailto:pshosho@me.com)

**34th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1.** Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cyrus and John, and with them Martyrs Athanasia and her daughters: Theoctiste, Theodotia, and Eudoxia, at Canopus in Egypt (311). Ven. Nikita of the Kiev Caves, Bishop of Novgorod (1108). Martyrs Victorinus, Victor, Nicephorus, Claudius, Diodorus, Serapion, and Papias, of Egypt (251). Martyr Tryphainē at Cyzicus. St. Arsenios of Paros (1877). Saint Julius of Aegina (330).

**EPISTLE:**  
Colossians 3:12-16

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**GOSPEL:**  
Matthew 25:14-30

**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!**

**GLORY FOREVER!**

### **\*\*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 31, 2021**

Divine Liturgy – **9:30 AM**

Installation of Newly-Elected Parish Council

Memorial Litia for Thy Newly-Departed Servant of God Tedros Ghebratios  
“On-The-Go” Coffee Hour Fellowship following Divine Liturgy

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

### **MONDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2021**

**THE EVE OF THE GREAT FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE**

Great Vespers with Litiya – **6:00 PM**

Blessing of Candles following Great Vespers

### **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE**

Divine Liturgy – **9:30 AM**

Blessing of Candles following The Divine Liturgy

### **WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

Little Compline – **6:00 PM**

Special Adult Education Class – **7:00 to 8:30 PM (via Zoom)**

**TOPIC** – The Philokalia and Understanding God through the Writings of St. Gregory Palamas

### **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

Akathist Service to Our Lord – **9:00 AM**

### **SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2021**

Great Vespers– **4:00 PM**

### **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY**

Divine Liturgy – **9:30 AM**

Memorial Litia for Thy Departed Handmaiden of God Catherine Papaharalambos (beloved Mother of Mat. Fran)

Special “On-The-Go” Coffee Hour Fellowship following Divine Liturgy

Collection for Feed More of WNY (Canned Goods and Non-Perishable Items) and loose change for IOCC

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)* Archpriest James and Mat. Patricia *(Mason)*  
 Archpriest Alexey and his family *(Karlcut)* Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne  
 Archpriest Timothy/Mat. Michelle Archpriest Michael and Mat. Valerie *(Hatrak)*  
 Archpriest Ken and Matushka Natalie *(Starevsky)* Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather *(McNulty)*  
 Archpriest Gregory and Mat. Diane *(Winsky)* Priest Peter and Mat. Mary *(Irfan)*  
 Archpriest Leonid Archpriest David *(Mezinski)* Presbyter John and Presbytera Nancy  
**MATUSHKI** Presbyter Andreja, Popadija Anica and Family  
 Mat. Katia Mat. Paraskeva Mat. Joanna Popadija Vicki Mat. Christine Mat. Patricia *(Severeno)*  
 Mat. Gloria *(Martin)*

**Family/Friends/Parishioners of St. George Orthodox Church**

Catherine Ivan/Marina/Inna Bonnie *(Dan)* Coard Karen Aliscia *(Nick Rostko)* Walter, Paul  
 Edwina Irene Luba Silvu Dan, Jr. Jim, Darren, Marsha *(Relatives of Elaine M.)*  
 Serena Lillian Reader Victor Nicholas, Andrew *(Wityk)* Frank *(Barb. K brother-in-law)*  
 Sarah Oscar Albert *(Fadell)* Frank Boris *(Kuvshinoff)* Marilyn *(Linda cousin)*  
 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)*  
 Jeanne *(Mat. Christine’s Friend)* Angela, Jason, Michelle *(Relatives of Dn. Mark)* Linda Justin *(Slaiman)*  
 Carol *(Mailman’s sister-in-law)* Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria *(Ewing)* Ashley *(Friend from Roswell)*  
 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)*  
 Susan *(Deeb)* Justin *(Cmunt)* Louis *(cousin of Barbara)* Yuri/Elena Alex *(Valieff)* John, Kevin Irene Sean  
 Jaime *(Zumba)* Rosemary Harry *(neighbor of Tom and MaryAnne Slaiman)* Anthony *(DelNuova)*  
 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)*  
 Barbara *(Rdr. John’s Sister in Law)* William *(Friend of Judge Family)*  
 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)* Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar  
 Archpriest George *(Hasenecz)* Archpriest Paul *(Shafran)* Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra *(Kovalek)*  
 Archpriest Jonathan *(Ivanoff)* Archpriest Paul *(Kucynda)* Archpriest Sergei and Mat. Gerry *(Glagolev)*

**Expectant Mothers**

Randy Iris, Pete, Sara Douglas, Chris Costa *(Father of Pete Thanos)*  
 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,  
 Chris, John, Daniel, Gjorgie

**Catechumens**

Juanita Martha

**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** Tedros *(brother of Sammy Afeworki)*

\*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 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

**TROPAR FOR THE HOLY UNMERCENARIES Ss CYRUS AND JOHN, TONE 5**

O Christ God; Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy martyrs Cyrus and John, as an invincible rampart; through their prayers frustrate the plans of the heathens, and strengthen the faith of the Orthodox Christians,// for Thou alone art good and lovest mankind.

**KONTAKION FOR THE RESURRECTION, TONE 1**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself. Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

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

**KONTAKION FOR THE HOLY UNMERCENARIES Ss CYRUS AND JOHN, TONE 3**

Having received the gift of miracles through divine grace, O saints, you work wonders in the world unceasingly. You remove all of our passions through your invisible surgery, divinely-wise Cyrus and glorious John,// for you are truly divine physicians.

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 1**

**Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!**

*v: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!*

**ALLELUIA VERSES**

*God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.*

*He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.*

**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! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY**

*Colossians 3:12-16*

**Brethren:**

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY**

*Matthew 25:14-30*

**Let us Attend!**

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five

talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.'

So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

=====

=== Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

<b>Monday</b>	Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31	Mark 9:42-10:1
<b>Tuesday</b>	Hebrews 7:7-17	Luke 2:22-40
<b>Wednesday</b>	James 1:1-18	Mark 10:11-16
<b>Thursday</b>	James 1:19-27	Mark 10:17-27
<b>Friday</b>	James 2:1-13	Mark 10:23-32
<b>Saturday</b>	Colossians 1:3-6	Luke 16:10-15
<b>Sunday</b>	1 Timothy 1:15-17	Matthew 15:21-28

=====

## **\*\* 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 wear 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:**

- 1) **Go directly to our Parish Website ([www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://www.stgeorgebuffalo.com)) 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 <https://www.facebook.com/jason.vansuch> and there you will see the Live-stream video.**
- 3) **Go directly to our Parish Youtube Page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCft4AWAX2CORLZExfMJc5KQ> and there you will see the Live-stream video.**

**Be on the lookout for The February 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!**



### **A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS TO THE PARISH FROM OUR PARISH GIVING TREE**

- Matushka Fran for donating Hand Sanitizer
- The Thanos Family for donating Liturgical Charcoal
- Drew and Molly for donating Liturgical Incense
- Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia/Anna and Alex for donating cups for Zapifka
- Dr. Boris and Barbara Kuvshinoff for donating the Vigil Candles near The Icons of The Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
- Matushka Christina Hoepflinger for donating the Vigil Candles near The Icons of Extreme Humility
- Dr. Boris and Barbara Kuvshinoff for donating the Vigil Candles by The Gospel Book/Confession for the continued good health of The Kuvshinoff Family.
- Reader John and Sue Kirwan for donating Liturgical Wine as well as towards Supplies for Prospora
- Linda and George Mucyn for donating Plastic Bags for Prospora

Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website ([www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://www.stgeorgebuffalo.com)) to see how we may be able to donate towards the needs of our parish through our continued support and stewardship for our beloved parish.

If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Fr. Jason or Barbara.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support and stewardship. May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families and our entire Parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care!

## WELCOME 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: [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) 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 ([jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com)) 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 (February 6) and Monday (Feb. 1)**
- 2) **Reader Typika Service for Sunday Morning (February 7) and Tuesday (Feb. 2)**
- 3) **Information for St. George Book Class – NO CLASS THIS WEEK**
- 4) **Information for Special Inquirer Class – Wednesday (February 3)**

+++++

**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 24, 2020 – \$536.00**

**& \$500 for Capital Improvement Fund**

**DONATIONS FOR THE NEW BOILER (Capital Improvement Fund) –**

**Total Donations so far for the New Boiler: \$19,130.00 (\$100 donation 1/24/21)**

**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 716.875.9503	Reader Victor Shanchuk 495 Lafayette Avenue Buffalo, NY 14222 716.881.3096	Mrs. Luba Japadjief Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit) 245 Bassett Road Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30)
---	---	---

Mrs. Catherine Tony 274 Wadsworth Ave. Tonawanda, NY 14150 716.695.3068	Mr. Albert Fadell 317.376.2562
--	-----------------------------------

Andrew Wityk  
Ellicott Center  
200 Seventh Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201

+++++

### 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!

+++++



## 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. 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>.

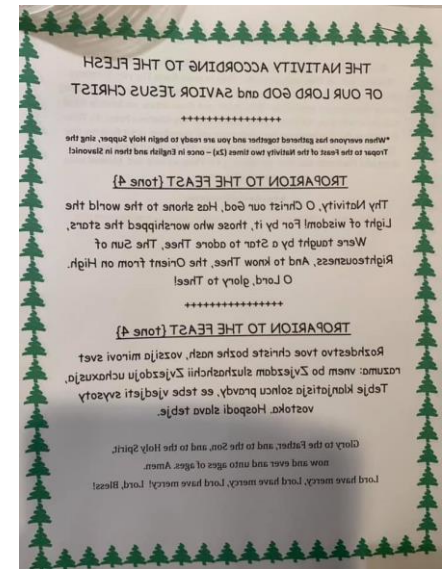
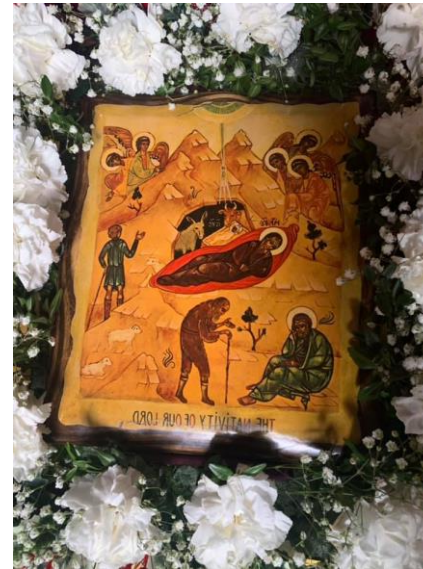
+++++

### "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>! 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](mailto: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**

**THE BLESSING OF CANDLES FOR  
THE FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE**



**If anyone has any candles (wedding candles, baptismal candles, chrismation candles, or any special candles we may have) that they would like to have blessed, please bring them to church either on Monday, Tuesday or Sunday, and place them on the table located in the front of the church to be blessed!**

**St Symeon the New Theologian (+1022) writes:**

**‘The candles which you light reveal to you the intelligible light. Just as the church, that house of great beauty, is full of light from many candles, so the house of your soul, which is more precious than that church, should be illumined and full of light in a noetic sense – that is to say, that within you all the spiritual virtues should burn with divine fire... The multitude of burning lamps signify the illumined thoughts which should shine within you like lamps, so that there should be no dark thought in the house of your soul, but that all should be aflame and shining with the light of the Holy spirit.’”**



**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING LUNCHEON**

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021, Orthodox Christian churches across the country will join a nationwide, ecumenical effort: “Souper Bowl of Caring” to help organizations such as International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). To participate in this annual Tradition of assisting those in need, we will once again hold a Soup Luncheon on Sunday February 2. We will go around the parish fellowship hall holding large soup pots to receive the donations. Please 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. The donations that are collected will then be sent into International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).

We are also asking for donations of canned goods and non-perishable which will be collected and then donated to The Feed More of WNY which exists to meet the spiritual and practical needs of the poor through the demonstration of the love and preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in providing love, care,, food, and other means necessary to those in need.

If anyone would like to bring a soup, chili, salad, bread, or dessert, please see or contact Matushka Katia or Barbara who are organizing the Luncheon for us!!

Let us come together as a parish family and support the church school children and IOCC project of feeding the hungry by ministering to those in need!

## ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CORNER

"Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it unto Me." (Matthew 25:40)

The "Souper Bowl of Caring" began at a Presbyterian church in Columbia, S.C., in 1990 and has grown into a grassroots movement linked with the national pastime of Super Bowl Sunday. Over the past several years, over 15, 000 parishes and congregations, including many Orthodox parishes, participated and generated millions in donations for various charities.

**THE INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (IOCC)** is an agency of The Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) which represents Orthodox Christians in North America and understands its work to include developing in Orthodox Christians a commitment to philanthropy and global cooperative involvement within the Orthodox Church. IOCC was established in March 1992 as the Official Humanitarian Organization of SCOBA.

Consonant with the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20 and Matthew 25:35-46), the vision of IOCC is to provide programs and services such as: providing emergency relief and establishing developmental programs as well as ministering to those who are in need worldwide.

For more information about **IOCC** please visit their website at: <http://www.iocc.org>.



## THE HOLY WONDERWORKERS and UNMERCENARIES Ss CYRUS AND JOHN

Saint Cyrus was a noted physician in the city of Alexandria, where he had been born and raised. He was a Christian and he treated the sick without charge, not only curing their bodily afflictions, but also healing their spiritual infirmities. He would say, "Whoever wishes to avoid being ill should refrain from sin, for sin is often the cause of bodily illness." Preaching the Gospel, the holy physician converted many pagans to Christ.

During the persecution by Diocletian (284-305), Saint Cyrus withdrew into Arabia, where he became a monk. He continued to heal people by his prayer, having received from God the gift to heal every sickness.

In the city of Edessa at this time lived the soldier John, a pious Christian. When the persecution started, he went to Jerusalem and there he heard about Saint Cyrus. He began to search for him, going first to Alexandria and then to Arabia. When Saint John finally found Saint Cyrus, he remained with him and became his faithful follower.

They learned of the arrest of the Christian woman Athanasia and her three young daughters. Theoctiste was fifteen; Theodota, was thirteen; and Eudoxia, was eleven. Saints Cyrus and John hastened to the prison to help them. They were concerned that faced with torture, the women might renounce Christ.

Saints Cyrus and John gave them courage to endure what lay before them. Learning of this, the ruler of the city arrested Saints Cyrus and John, and seeing their steadfast and fearless confession of faith in Christ, he brought Athanasia and her daughters to witness their torture. The tyrant did not refrain from any form of torture against the holy martyrs. The women were not frightened by the sufferings of Saints Cyrus and John, but courageously continued to confess Christ. They were flogged and then beheaded, receiving their crowns of martyrdom.

At the same place they executed the Holy Unmercenarys Cyrus and John. Christians buried their bodies in the church of the holy Evangelist Mark. In the fifth century the relics of

Saints Cyrus and John were transferred from Canopis to Manuphin. Later on their relics were transferred to Rome, and from there to Munchen (Munich) (another account is located under June 28).

Saints Cyrus and John are invoked by those who have difficulty in sleeping.

+++++

### **THE FEAST OF THE THREE HIERARCHS AND ECUMENICAL TEACHERS**

St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom

**January 30**

During the reign of the Emperor Alexius Comnenus (1081-1118), a controversy arose in Constantinople among men learned in Faith and zealous for virtue about the three holy Hierarchs and Fathers of the Church, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. Some argued for Saint Basil above the other two because he was able, as none other, to explain the mysteries of the Faith, and rose to angelic rank by his virtues. Organizer of monastic life, leader of the entire Church in the struggle with heresy, austere and demanding shepherd as to Christian morals, in him there was nothing base or of the earth. Hence, said they, he was superior to Saint Chrysostom who was by nature more easily inclined to absolve sinners.

The partisans of Saint Chrysostom retorted that the illustrious Archbishop of Constantinople had been no less zealous than Saint Basil in combating vices, in bringing sinners to repentance and in raising up the whole people to the perfection of the Gospel. The golden-mouthed shepherd

of matchless eloquence has watered the Church with a stream of homilies in which he interprets the divine word and shows its application in daily life with more accomplished mastery than the two other holy Doctors.

According to a third group, Saint Gregory the Theologian was to be preferred to the others by reason of the majesty, purity and profundity of his language. Possessing a sovereign mastery of all the wisdom and eloquence of ancient Greece, he had attained, they said to such a pitch in the contemplation of God that no one had been able to express the dogma of the Holy Trinity as perfectly as he.

With each faction setting up one of the Fathers against the other two in this way, the whole Christian people were soon caught up in the dispute, which far from promoting devotion to the Saints in the City, resulted in nothing but ill-feeling and endless argument. Then one night the three holy Hierarchs appeared in a dream to Saint John Mauropus, the Metropolitan of Euchaita (5 Oct.), separately at first, then together and, speaking with a single voice, they said: "As you see, the three of us are with God and no discord or rivalry divides us. Each of us, according to the circumstances and according to the inspiration that he received from the Holy Spirit, wrote and taught what befits the salvation of mankind. There is not among us a first, a second or a third, and if you invoke one of us the other two are immediately present with him. Therefore, tell those who are quarrelling not to create divisions in the Church because of us, for when we were on earth we spared no effort to re-establish unity and concord in the world. You can conjoin our three commemorations in one feast and compose a service for it, inserting the hymns dedicated to each of us

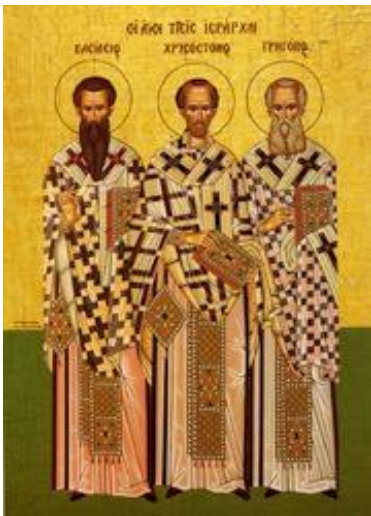
according to the skill and knowledge that God has given you. Then transmit it to the Christians with the command to celebrate it each year. If they honor us thus as being with and in God, we give them our word that we will intercede for their salvation in our common prayer." At these words, the Saints were taken up into heaven in a boundless light while conversing with one another by name.

Saint John immediately assembled the people and informed them of this revelation. As he was respected by all for his virtue and admired for his powerful eloquence, the three parties made peace and every one urged him to lose no time in composing the service of the joint feast. With fine discernment, he selected 30 January as appropriate to the celebration, for it would set the seal to the month in which each of the three Hierarchs already had a separate commemoration (Saint Basil - January 1; Saint Gregory - January 25; Saint John (translation of relics) - January 27).

The three Hierarchs—an earthly trinity as they are called in some of the wonderful troparia of their service—have taught us in their writings and equally by their lives, to worship and to glorify the Holy Trinity, the One God in three Persons. These three luminaries of the Church have shed the light of the true Faith all over the world, scorning dangers and persecutions, and they have left us, their descendants, this sacred inheritance by which we too can attain to utmost blessedness and everlasting life in the presence of God and of all the Saints.

With the feast of the three Hierarchs at the end of January—the month in which we keep the memory of so many glorious bishops, confessors and ascetics—the Church in a

way recapitulates the memory of all the Saints who have witnessed to the Orthodox faith by their writings and by their lives. In this feast we honor the whole ministry of teaching of the holy Church, namely, the illumination of the hearts and minds of the faithful through the commemoration of all the Fathers of the Church, those models of evangelic perfection which the Holy Spirit has raised up from age to age and from place to place to be new Prophets and new Apostles, guides of souls heavenward, comforters of the people and fiery pillars of prayer, supporting the Church and confirming her in the truth.



## Thirty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

### The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25: 14-30

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

**14-19. It is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and handed over to them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to each one according to his own strength; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them another five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained another two. But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.**

Having said above, "You do not know the day when the Lord will come," He adds this parable as well, showing that He will come suddenly. For like a man about to travel into a far country, so too the Lord has called His own servants and distributed His property among them, some to one, some to another. Christ, Who became man for our sake, is the man travelling into a far country, in reference either to His ascent into the heavens or to the length of time that He is long-suffering and does not summarily demand works from us, but waits. His servants are those who have been entrusted with the ministry of the Word, such as bishops, priests, and deacons, and who have received spiritual gifts, some greater, some lesser, each one according to his own strength, that is, according to the measure of his faith and purity. For into the vessel which I will offer to God, He places His gift to me. If it is a small vessel, a small gift; if it is a large vessel, a large gift. Immediately he who had received the five talents went and traded with them. See the speed with which he acts, not in the least bit negligent, but immediately trading and doubling what he had received. Whether a man be gifted with speech, wealth, the authority of kingship, or any other power or skill, if he desires to benefit not only himself but others as well, he doubles what has been given to him. But he who buries the talent is he who cares only for his own benefit and not for that of others, and he is condemned. But if you should see an intelligent and skilled man misusing his intelligence in various pursuits, in deceitfulness, and in earthly affairs, you may say that such a man has buried his talent in the earth, that is, in earthly matters. But after a long time he who bestowed the silver talent returns. The silver talent may be in the form of a silver tongue, the gift of eloquence, for the eloquence of God is as silver that is tried by fire. Or, the silver talent may be any gift that makes one

brilliant and glorious. He comes and demands a reckoning from those who received.

**20-30. And so he that had received five talents came and brought another five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained besides them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewn; and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strewn: thou oughtest therefore to have put my money with the bankers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with increase. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have in abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

Both of those who had worked and traded with the talents given to them are praised equally by the master, each one hearing, Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Good we understand here to mean "loving all mankind" and "without spite," he who imparts his own goodness to his neighbors. Those who have shown themselves to be faithful over a few things are made rulers over many things. But even if we are deemed worthy of gifts in this life, that is nothing in comparison to the good things that are to come. The joy of the Lord is the unending gladness which God has, rejoicing in His works, as David says (Ps. 103:31). With such a joy do the saints also rejoice in their works, just as the sinners grieve over their own deeds and regret them. The saints have the Lord

as their wealth and they rejoice in Him. See that he who received the five talents and he who received two were deemed worthy of the same good things. Though a man may have received but a few things, if he is a good steward even of his small gift, he will enjoy the same honor as he who was deemed worthy of, and accomplished, great things. For each one, according to what he has received, is seen to be perfect to the degree that he accomplishes what he has been given to do. Such are the good servants; but the wicked and slothful servant justifies himself differently, in a manner befitting to him. For he calls his master hard, as many today call their teachers "hard" or "exacting." It is indeed exacting to look for obedience from men, for God did not create obedience within man, nor did He sow in him an obedient disposition, [but instead God gave man free will]. This is what the unprofitable servant means when he says, "You reap where you have not sown," that is, You require an obedient disposition from all men, although You have implanted in no man an obedient disposition. When the servant says that the master is hard, he condemns himself. For the servant ought all the more to have been diligent knowing that his master was hard and severe. For if the master required this of others, so too would the master require this of him. And you, O unprofitable servant, ought also to have multiplied what you had received and made disciples from whom I, the Master, could demand what is due. Christ calls disciples bankers, for both exactly account for what has been delivered to them. What is the increase which He requires of the disciples? The showing of works transacted. For the disciple who receives the word from the teacher, must keep the word and give it back in its entirety; but the disciple also adds to it the interest, which is the doing of good. So God takes the gift away from that wicked and slothful servant. He who has received a gift by which to benefit others, and does not so use it, forfeits the gift itself. Do you see that he who applies the greater diligence draws to himself the greater gift? To him who has the greater diligence, more grace will be given and in abundance. But from him who is not diligent, even the gift which he thinks he has will be taken away. For he who is not diligent and does not work and trade with what he has received, does not have the gift, but only appears to have it. He has blotted it out by his neglect.

**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***