IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION

**Until further notice, we will continue celebrating the Divine Services up to no more 33 parishioners in attendance. With this in mind, if single parish members or parish member households - UP TO 33 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 1-33 in the Church and 34-50 in the Parish Fellowship Hall)! 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: <u>https://issuu.com/jacobswell/docs/jacobs-well-fall-2019-nk</u>

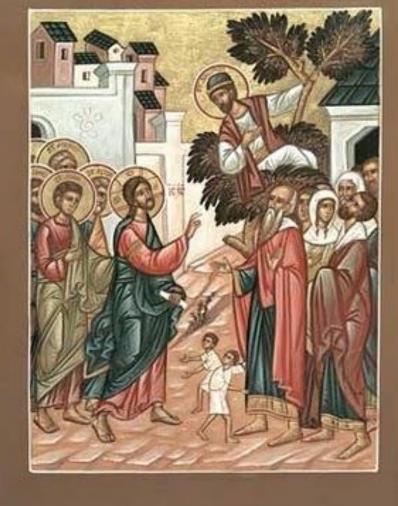
Please look up the below weblink for the website of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey:

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

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

www.stgeorgebuffalo.com

NO.388 FEBRUARY 14, 2021

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: 609-851-3811Email: jvansuch@hotmail.comPresbyter Andreja Damjanovski, AttachedRev. Peter Irfan, AttachedReader John Kirwan, Choir DirectorMr. Paul Shosho, Parish Council PresidentHome: 716-544-7358Email: pshosho@me.com

36th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. Sunday of Zacchaeus. Ven. Auxentius of Bithynia (ca. 470). Repose of St. Cyril, Equal-to-the-Apostles and Teacher of the Slavs (869). Ven. Isaac, Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—ca. 1190). The Twelve Greeks who built the Dormition Cathedral in the Lavra of the Kiev Caves (11th c.). Translation of the Relics of Martyrs Michael and his councilor, Theodore, of Chernígov (1578). Ven. Maron, Hermit, of Syria (4th c.). St. Abraham, Bishop of Charres,

Mesopotamia (5th c.). Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

EPISTLE: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 GOSPEL: Luke 19;1-10

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 Servants of God – Marion Rose, William, and George. May their 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 FEBRUARY 14, 2021 SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Divine Liturgy – **9:30 AM** Coffee Hour Fellowship following Divine Liturgy

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

MONDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2021

St. George Bible Study Class via Zoom -6:30 to 8:00 PM

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Little Compline – **6:00 PM** Adult Education Class – **6:30 to 8:00 PM (via Zoom) TOPIC –** The Mystery of Holy Ordination

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2021

Great Vespers- 4:00 PM

Parish Council Meeting via Zoom - 5:15 PM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2021 SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN and THE PHARISEE

The Hours – 9:10 AM Divine Liturgy– 9:30 AM

Memorial Litia for Thy Handmaiden of God – Mary Abraham and the Victims of Continental Flight 3407 on the 11th Anniversary of their falling asleep in the Lord. And Archpriest Rodion Pfeiffer

Social Distant Coffee Hour Fellowship in Pariah Fellowship Hall 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 <u>FOR THE HEALTH OF THY SERVANTS:</u>

HIERARCHS Metropolitan HERMAN Bishop DANIEL Archbishop ALEJO CLERGY Archpriest Herman, Matushka Cynthia and George {Schick} Archpriest James and Mat. Patricia (Mason) Archpriest Alexey and his family (Karlgut) Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne Archpriest Timmothy/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 Popadia Vicki Mat. Christine Mat. Patricia (Severeno) Mat. Gloria (Martin) Stanley Mandy Annette Anna (Massey) Family/Friends/Parishioners of St. George Orthodox Church William Natalie Natasha Richie 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.) Lillian Reader Victor Nicholas, Andrew(Witvk) Frank (Barb, K brother-in-law) Serena 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 (Tonv) 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) **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) 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) John, Helen (Parents of Tanya Cmunt) 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, Harry Patrick (Relatives of Beth Mellas) Diocese of NY&NJ Praver List Protopresbyter Leonid (Kishkovsky) Archpriest Samuel (Kedela) Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar Archpriest George (Hasenecz) Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra (Kovalek) Archpriest Paul (Shafran) Archpriest Sergei and Mat. Gerry (Glagolev) Archpriest Jonathan (Ivanoff) Archpriest Paul (Kucynda)

Archpriest Terenti (Wasielewski) Expectant Mothers Rachel and the child to be born of her Those Serving in The Armed Forces

Randy Iris, Pete, Sara Douglas, Chris Costa (Father of Pete Thanos) Jonathan Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Dragiza, Karl Catechumens

Juanita Martha

Kenneth, Nadine, Jason, Robert, Andrew, Justin, Shawn, Austin, Chris, John, Daniel, Gjorgie

FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:

All of the clergy and parishioners of This HolyHouse who have departed this life, who now lie asleep in the Lord.Ever-Memorable Archpriest Eugene VansuchEver-Memorable Archpriest George TimkoEver-Memorable Priest John BohushEver-Memorable Archpriest George AswadEver-Memorable Archpriest RastkoMatushka Dorothy (*Timko*)Ever-Memorable Dn. MarkEver-Memorable Sbdn. GregoryEver-Memorable Pdn. GregoryAkhtar Remyat, and Barkat (*Family of Fr. Peter*)Newly-Departed Servants of GodTedros (brother of Sammy Afeworki) Pdn. John (Eby) Proto. Daniel (Hubiak)

*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 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the <u>earth</u> be glad! For the Lord has shown <u>strength</u> with His arm. He has trampled down <u>death</u> by death. He has become the <u>first</u> born of the dead. He has delivered us from the <u>depths</u> of hell, and has <u>grant</u>ed to the world// <u>great</u> <u>mer</u>cy.

TROPAR FOR THE VENERABLE AUXENTIUS, TONE 1

O <u>dwell</u>er of the wilderness and angel in the <u>body</u>,thou wast a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father Au<u>xen</u>tius. Thou didst re<u>ceive</u> heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and <u>prayer</u>, healing the sick and the souls of those <u>drawn</u> to thee by faith. <u>Glory</u> to Him Who gave thee <u>strength</u>! Glory to Him Who granted thee a ^<u>crown</u>!// Glory to Him Who grants <u>heal</u>ing to all!

KONTAKION FOR THE RESURRECTION, TONE 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O <u>Mer</u>ciful One, leading us from the <u>gates</u> of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and <u>Pa</u>triarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine <u>majesty</u> of Thy <u>pow</u>er.

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

KONTAKION FOR VENERABLE AUXENTIUS, TONE 2

Thou didst de<u>light</u> in <u>ab</u>stinence, restraining the de<u>sires</u> of the flesh. Divinely wise and holy Father Au<u>xen</u>tius, thou wast revealed to be <u>shin</u>ing with faith,// blossoming like a plant in the <u>midst</u> of <u>Par</u>adise.

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 3

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

ALLELUIA VERSES

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me!

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!

EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

1 TIMOTHY 4:9-15

BRETHREN:

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach. Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

LUKE 19:1-10

Let us Attend!

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

= = = Scriptural Readings for the Week = = =			
Monday	1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10	Mark 12:13-17	
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:10-22	Mark 12:18-27	
Wednesday	1 Peter 4:1-11	Mark 12:28-37	
Thursday	1 Peter 4:12-5:5	Mark 12:38-44	
Friday	2 Peter 1:1-10	Mark 13:1-8	
Saturday	2 Timothy2:11-19	Luke 18:2-8	
Sunday	2 Timothy 3:10-15	Luke 18:10-14	

**** 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 <u>https://www.facebook.com/jason.vansuch</u> and there you will see the Live-stream video.
- 3) Go directly to our Parish Youtube Page

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCft4AWAX2COrL ZExfMJc5KQ

and there you will see the Live-stream video.

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
- Dr. Boris and Barbara Kuvshinoff for donating the flowers the Feast of The Meeting of Our Lord in The Temple
- Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia/Anna and Alex for donating the flowers the Feast of The Annunciation of The Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
- Paul and Joan Shosho for donating the Vigil Candles near The Gospel Book/Confession, The Icon of The Holy Sepulchre, Icons of All Saints of North America, and The Icons of St. Nektarios and The Holy Relics for the continued good health of their Family.
- Linda and George Mucyn for donating Plastic Bags for Prosphora

Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website (<u>www.stgeorgebuffalo.com</u>) 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!

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 <u>one</u> 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=0xcfcfc&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:

<u>http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/files/studies/InquirersClassV1final.pdf</u> 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: <u>http://journeytoorthodoxy.com</u>

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 (<u>ivansuch@hotmail.com</u>) 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 20)
- 2) Reader Typika Service for Sunday Morning (February 21)
- 3) Information for St. George Book Class Tuesday (February 16)
- 4) Information for Special Inquirer Class Wednesday (February 17)

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 February 7, 2020 – \$ 2480.00 & \$500 for Capital Improvement Fund DONATIONS FOR THE NEW BOILER (Capital Improvement Fund) – Total Donations so far for the New Boiler: \$19,130.00

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!

** 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.

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:**)

ST. ANDREW'S CAMP

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.

Buffalo, NY 14201

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	Reader Victor Shanchuk	Mrs. Luba Japadjief
147 West Hazeltine Avenue	495 Lafayette Avenue	Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit)
Kenmore, NY 14217	Buffalo, NY 14222	245 Bassett Road
716.875.9503	716.881.3096	Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30)
Mrs. Catherine Tony	Mr. Albert Fadell	
274 Wadsworth Ave.	317.376.2562	
Tonawanda, NY 14150		
716.695.3068		
Andrew Wityk		
Ellicott Center		
200 Seventh Street		

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 18th 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: <u>https://oca.org/become-a-steward</u>

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: <u>http://vimeo.com/71021182</u> 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: <u>http://www.nynjoca.org</u>! 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.

The week following the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is a Fast-Free Week in the Orthodox Church. Therefore, Meat and Dairy Products may be eaten on Wednesday and Friday of this week!! If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH MEET n GREET

SUNDAY MARCH 14, 2021 FORGIVENESS SUNDAY



IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS

Please join us on Sunday March 14 for a Special **Social Distant** Lenten Coffee Hour during which we will get to know our parish family a little better as we begin The Great Lenten Season!

Great Food ~~~~ Great Fellowship ~~~~ Great Fun for All

Let us come together as a parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ and enjoy Christian Fellowship as begin The Great Lenten Season!

Please see or contact Fr. Jason, Mat. Katia or Mat. Fran if you would like to help out or bring a Lenten (dairy but no meat) covered dish to share with everyone!!

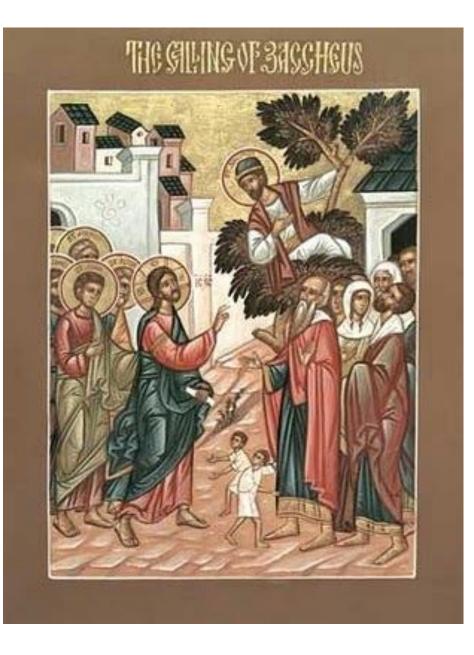




MEATFARE SUNDAY LUNCHEON SUNDAY MARCH 7, 2021

Please see or contact Fr. Jason, Mat. Katia or Mat. Fran if you would like to help out or bring a covered dish to share with everyone!!

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUICATION CORNER



The Sunday of Zacchaeus

The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is also preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man, and how his life was changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Luke 19:3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through Lent towards Pascha. It is the first movement of salvation.

Our lenten journey begins with a recognition of our own sinfulness, just as Zacchaeus recognized his. He promised to make restitution by giving half of his wealth to the poor, and by paying to those he had falsely accused four times as much as they had lost. In this, he went beyond the requirements of the Law (Ex. 22:3-12).

The example of Zacchaeus teaches us that we should turn away from our sins, and atone for them. The real proof of our sorrow and repentance is not just a verbal apology, but when we correct ourselves and try to make amends for the consequences of our evil actions.

We are also assured of God's mercy and compassion by Christ's words to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house" (Luke 19:9). After the Great Doxology at Sunday Matins (when the Tone of the week is Tone 1, 3, 5, 7) we sing the Dismissal Hymn of the Resurrection "Today salvation has come to the world," which echoes the Lord's words to Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree in order to see the Lord. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We are also short in our spiritual stature, therefore we must climb the ladder of the virtues. In other words, we must prepare for spiritual effort and growth.

St Zacchaeus is also commemorated on April 20.

Zacchaeus Sunday

Luke 19:1-10 From The Explanation of the Gospel of St. Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, Archbishop of Ochrid and Bulgaria

1-10. And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, who was a chief publican, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who He was, and could not for the crowd, because he was of little stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him: for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down: for today I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, He has gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. The Lord seizes the mightiest of the devil's vessels and destroys his cities. See how the Lord not only makes publicans His disciples, but He even takes prisoner – in order to save him – the chief of publicans, Zacchaeus. No one doubts that a publican is an abomination: how much more so is the chief publican, who is foremost in wickedness? For the publicans derived their living from no other source than the tears of the poor. But even this chief publican is not despised by the Lord. In return only for showing eagerness to see Jesus he receives salvation. He desired to see Jesus, which is why he climbed up into the sycamore tree, but before he had caught sight of Jesus, the Lord had already seen him. In the same manner, the Lord always anticipates us if only He sees that we are willing and eager. When the Lord sees Zacchaeus, He urges him to come down quickly, for He intends to stay at his house. And Zacchaeus was not slow to obey - when Christ commands anything, we must not hesitate - but he came down and received Him joyfully, even though many people murmured.

Let us see how Zacchaeus reaped the benefit of Christ's entrance into his house. He says, *The half of my goods I give to the poor*. Do you see his fervor? He began to disburse without stint, not giving just a little, but all that he had. Even what he held back, he held back so that he could give to those whom he had wronged. From this we learn that there is no benefit at all to a man who gives alms to others of

money he has obtained unrighteously and ignores those whom he defrauded in obtaining that money. See what Zacchaeus does with this money: if he defrauded anyone he restores to him fourfold, thus remedying the harm he had done to each man he defrauded. This is true almsgiving. He not only remedies the harm, but he does so with increase. This is in accordance with the law, which commanded that that the thief make fourfold restitution (Ex. 22:1). If we consider well, we see that nothing at all remained of Zacchaeus' money. Half he gave to the poor, and of the half that remained to him, he gave fourfold to those whom he had wronged. But since the living of the chief publican was derived from fraud and extortion, and since he paid back fourfold all that he had wrongly taken, it follows that he stripped himself of everything he had. From this we see that his thinking goes beyond the prescription of the law, for he had become a disciple of the Gospel, and he loved his neighbor more than himself. And what he promised to do, he did: he did not say, "I shall give half, and I shall restore fourfold," but instead, Behold, I give and I restore. For he had heard the counsel of Solomon, Say not, Come back another time, tomorrow I will give (Prov. 3:28).

Christ proclaims to him the good tidings of his salvation. By *this house* He means Zacchaeus, for the Lord would not call a building without a soul *a son of Abraham*. It is clear that that the Lord named this living master of the house a son of Abraham, because Zacchaeus was like the patriarch in two respects: he believed and was counted righteous by faith, and with money he was magnanimous and generous to the poor. See that the Lord sys that Zacchaeus is now a son of Abraham, and that in his present behavior the Lord sees the likeness to Abraham. The Lord did not say that Zacchaeus

had always been a son of Abraham, but that he is now a son of Abraham. Before, when he was a chief publican and and tax collector, he bore no resemblance to that righteous man, and was not his son. To silence those who were complaining that the Lord went to be the guest of a sinful man, He says, The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. This is the explanation of the literal words; but it is easy to understand these things in another sense as well, for moral benefit. Anyone who is chief among many in wickedness is little in spiritual stature, for flesh and spirit are opposites to one another, and for this reason he cannot see Jesus for the crowd. Crowded in by a multitude of passions and worldly affairs, he is not able to see Jesus acting, moving and walking about. Such a man as this cannot recognize Christian acts for what they are – Christ acting and moving in us. But such a man, who never sees Jesus passing by and cannot perceive Christ in Christian acts, will sometimes change from negligence and come to his senses. Then he will climb up to the top of the sycamore-fig, passing by every pleasure and sweetness, as signified by the figs, and counting them as foolish and dead. Becoming higher than he was and making ascents in his heart (Ps. 83:6), he is seen by Jesus and can see Jesus, and the Lord says to him, Make haste, and come down, which means, "Through repentance you have ascended to a higher life; come down now through humility lest pride and high mindedness make you fall. Make haste, and humble yourself. If you humble yourself, I must abide at your house, for it is necessary that I abide in the house of a humble man. Upon whom shall I look, if not upon him who is humble and meek, who trembles at My words? (Is. 66:2) Such a man gives half of his goods to the destitute demons. For our substance is twofold: flesh and spirit. The righteous man imparts all his fleshly substance to the truly

poor, the demons who are destitute of everything good. But he does not let go of his spiritual substance, for as the Lord likewise said to the devil concerning Job, Behold, I give into thine hand all that he has, but touch not his soul (Job 1:12). And if he has taken any thing from any man by false accusation, he restores it to him fourfold. This suggests that if a man repents and follows a path that is opposite to his former way of wickedness, he heals his former sins through the four virtues (courage, prudence, righteousness, and self-control), and thus receives salvation and is called *a son of Abraham*. Like Abraham, he also goes out of his land and out of his kinship with his former wickedness and out of the house of his father (Gen. 12:1), meaning, he comes out from his old self and rejects his former condition. He himself was the house of his father, the devil. Therefore, when he went out of the house of his father, that is, when he went out of himself and changed, he found salvation, as did Abraham.

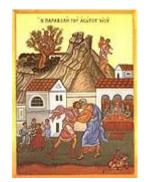
The Pre-Lenten Sundays



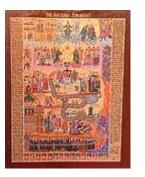
The paschal season of the Church is preceded by the season of Great Lent, which is itself preceded by its own liturgical preparation. The first sign of the approach of Great Lent comes five Sundays before its beginning. On this Sunday the Gospel reading is about Zacchaeus the tax-collector. It tells how Christ brought salvation to the sinful man and how his life was greatly changed simply because he "sought to see who Jesus was" (Lk 19.3). The desire and effort to see Jesus begins the entire movement through lent towards Easter. It is the first movement of salvation.



The following Sunday is that of the Publican and the Pharisee. The focus here is on the two men who went to the Temple to pray—one a pharisee who was a very decent and righteous man of religion, the other a publican who was a truly sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people. The first, although genuinely righteous, boasted before God and was condemned, according to Christ. The second, although genuinely sinful, begged for mercy, received it, and was justified by God (Lk 18.9). The meditation here is that we have neither the religious piety of the pharisee nor the repentance of the publican by which alone we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ's teaching, and to beg for mercy.



The next Sunday in the preparation for Great Lent is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. Hearing the parable of Christ about God's loving forgiveness, we are called to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the movement of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that the Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our selfinflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Lk 15.11–24).



The next Sunday is called Meatfare Sunday since it is officially the last day before Easter for eating meat. It commemorates Christ's parable of the Last Judgment (Mt 25.31–46). We are reminded this day that it is not enough for us to see Jesus, to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as his prodigal sons. We must also be his sons by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in every man and by serving Christ through them. Our salvation and final judgment will depend upon our deeds, not merely on our intentions or even on the mercies of God devoid of our own personal cooperation and obedience.

... for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and in prison and you visited Me. For truly I say to you, if you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me (Mt 25). We are saved not merely by prayer and fasting, not by "religious exercises" alone. We are saved by serving Christ through his people, the goal toward which all piety and prayer is ultimately directed.



Finally, on the eve of Great Lent, the day called Cheesefare Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday, we sing of Adam's exile from paradise. We identify ourselves with Adam, lamenting our loss of the beauty, dignity and delight of our original creation, mourning our corruption in sin. We also hear on this day the Lord's teaching about fasting and forgiveness, and we enter the season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us.

If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses (Mt 6.14–18). 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