

****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 34-55 in the Parish Fellowship Hall)! **PLEASE SIGN-UP BY 6:00 PM ON SATURDAY NIGHT AS WELL AS ANSWER THE COVID QUESTIONNAIRE!!

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

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Please look up the below weblink for the Digital Edition of The Jacobs Well:

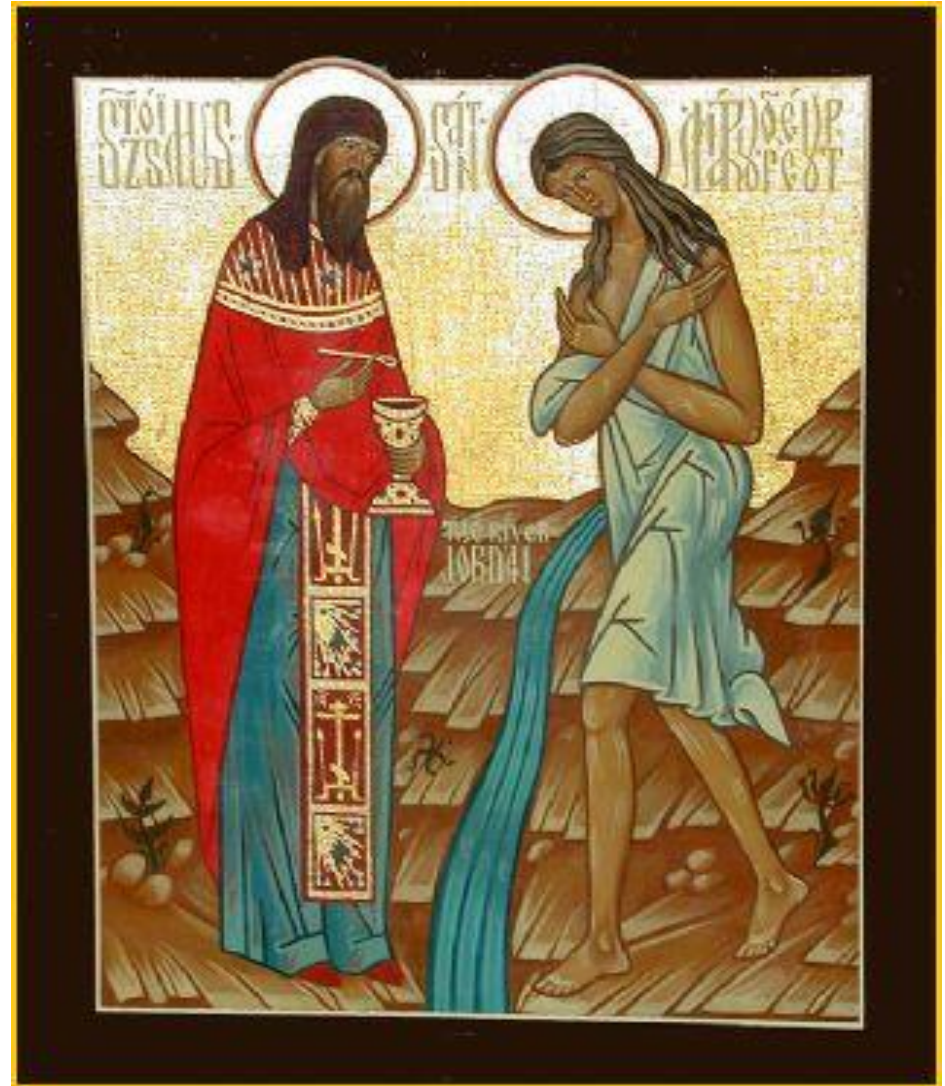
<https://issuu.com/jacobswell/docs/jacobs-well-fall-2019-nk>

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

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

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT — Tone 4. St Mary of Egypt. Ven. John, disciple of Ven. Gregory of Decapolis (9th c.). Martyrs Victor, Zoticus, Zeno, Acindynus, and Severian, of Nicomedia (303). St. Cosmas, Bishop of Chalcedon, and his fellow ascetic, St. Auxentius (815-820). New Martyr John the New of Epirus (1526). Ven. Evfimii (Euthymius), Enlightener of Karelia; and the Righteous Anthony and Felix.

EPISTLE: Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Hebrews 9:11-14
Galatians 3:23-39

GOSPEL:

Mark 10:32-45
Luke 7: 36-50

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 St. George Orthodox Church

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 April 18 FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – ST. MARY OF EGYPT
9:30 A.M. General Confession
10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Social Distant Coffee Hour in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy
Church School Class via Google Classroom (12:30-1:15 PM)
5:00 P.M. Lenten Vespers Service

Sixth Week of Great Lent {April 19 - April 25}

Monday April 19 6:30 P.M. St. George Bible Study Class via Zoom
Tuesday April 20 9:00 A.M. Daily Lenten Matins
Wednesday April 21 5:00 P.M. Confessions
6:00 P.M. Presanctified Liturgy
Social Distant Pot-Luck Lenten Meal and Discussion in Parish Fellowship Hall following Liturgy
Thursday April 22 9:00 A.M. Akathist to Our Lord Jesus Christ
6:30 P.M. Adult Education Class via Zoom

THE FEAST OF ST. GEORGE

Friday April 23 9:00 A.M. Confessions
9:30 A.M. Presanctified Liturgy
6:00 P.M. Matins for Lazarus Saturday

Saturday April 24 SIXTH SATURDAY OF GREAT LENT – LAZARUS SATURDAY
Eve of the Great Feast of the Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem

9:00 A.M. Proskomedia Lesson in Church
9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy
11:30-1:30 P.M. Church School Retreat via Google Classroom
4:00 P.M. Great Vespers with Litiya followed by Blessing of Palms and Pussywillows

Sunday April 25 THE FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM
9:00 A.M. Proskomedia Lesson in Church
9:45 A.M. The Service of General Confession
10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

(Annual Palm Sunday Procession around the outside of Church
Social Distant Palm Sunday Luncheon following Divine Liturgy in Parish Fellowship Hall

1:30 P.M. Bridegroom Matins

*** * * * * PRAYERFUL REMEMBRANCE * * * * ***

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

HIERARCHS

Metropolitan HERMAN Bishop DANIEL Archbishop ALEJO

CLERGY

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

Family/Friends/Parishioners of St. George Orthodox Church

Catherine	Ivan/Marina/Inna Bonnie <i>(Dan)</i>	Coard	Karen	Aliscia <i>(Nick Rostko)</i>	Walter, Paul
Edwina	Irene	Luba	Silvu Dan, Jr.	Jim, Darren, Marsha <i>(Relatives of Elaine M.)</i>	
Serena	Lillian	Reader	Victor	Nicholas, Andrew <i>(Wityk)</i>	Frank <i>(Barb. K brother-in-law)</i>
Sarah	Oscar	Albert <i>(Fadell)</i>	Frank	Boris <i>(Kuvshinoff)</i>	Marilyn <i>(Linda cousin)</i>
Xenia, Justin, Danielle <i>(Friends of Fr. Jason)</i>	Larry Joseph <i>(Rocco Father in Law)</i>	Ronald, Candice <i>(Masset)</i>			
Victor <i>(Tita Nephew)</i>	Catherine <i>(Tony)</i>	Susan <i>(Kirwan)</i>	June <i>(Pavlov)</i>		
Evelyn <i>(Friend of Julie)</i>	Billy <i>(William – Mat. Christine’s cousin)</i>	Clyde	Allison <i>(school)</i>		
Robert <i>(Phillips)</i>	Rebecca <i>(Relative of Mat. Christine)</i>	Svetlana <i>(Family friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia)</i>			
Jeanne <i>(Mat. Christine’s Friend)</i>	Angela, Jason, Michelle <i>(Relatives of Dn. Mark)</i>	Linda	Justin <i>(Slaيمان)</i>		
Carol <i>(Mailman’s sister-in-law)</i>	Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria <i>(Ewing)</i>	Ashley <i>(Friend from Roswell)</i>			
Melody Lee <i>(Beth’s brother)</i>	Lee, Bridget <i>(John Kirwan friend)</i>	Paul <i>(Shosho)</i>	Brain <i>(Brother of Matthew Just)</i>		
Kelly, Robert, Boris, ZaeB, Tirza, Sabas	Sada Thlisinitsa, Gemmal, Geesa, and Patric <i>(Fr. Peter)</i>	Child	Senit		
Anne <i>(Mariami Grandmother)</i>	Jeremy Stewart <i>(nephew of Bill George)</i>	Susan <i>(Zumba)</i>	Juliana <i>(Matusiak)</i>		
Susan <i>(Deeb)</i>	Justin <i>(Cmunt)</i>	Louis <i>(cousin of Barbara)</i>	Yuri/Elena	Alex <i>(Valieff)</i>	John, Kevin Irene Sean
Jaime <i>(Zumba)</i>	Rosemary	Harry <i>(neighbor of Tom and MaryAnne Slaيمان)</i>	Anthony <i>(DelNuova)</i>		
Aspasia <i>(Dean’s Mother)</i>	Charles	Seraphim	Emma/Alexander <i>(relatives of Natalie Huett)</i>		
Olga <i>(Friend of Fr. Jason/Mat. Katia)</i>	Vadym Iryna Yuriy Anastasia	Noah <i>(McEntee)</i>	Elias, John, Joseph		
Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber	Judithann <i>(Friend of Barbara)</i>	Steven <i>(Uncle of Dean)</i>			
Barbara <i>(Rdr. John’s Sister in Law)</i>	William <i>(Friend of Judge Family)</i>	John, Helen <i>(Parents of Tanya Cmunt)</i>			
Brian John, Roberta, Barbara <i>(Family of Dana and Annette)</i>	John, Michael John	Matthew <i>(Bashira)</i>			
Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga, Clara <i>(Bethlehem)</i>					
Jeffry, Dominic, Rachel <i>(Family of Andrea)</i>	Lee, Benjamin, Harry Patrick <i>(Relatives of Beth Mellas)</i>				

Diocese of NY&NJ Prayer List

Protopresbyter Leonid <i>(Kishkovsky)</i>	Archpriest Samuel <i>(Kedela)</i>	Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar
Archpriest George <i>(Hasenech)</i>	Archpriest Paul <i>(Shafraan)</i>	Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra <i>(Kovalek)</i>
Archpriest Jonathan <i>(Ivanoff)</i>	Archpriest Paul <i>(Kucynda)</i>	Archpriest Sergei and Mat. Gerry <i>(Glagolev)</i>
Archpriest Terenti <i>(Wasielewski)</i>	Dn. Stephan <i>(Karlcut)</i>	

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, Juanita Marthia

Chris, John, Daniel, Gjorgie

FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:

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

Ever-Memorable Archpriest Eugene Vansuch	Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Timko
Ever-Memorable Priest John Bohush	Ever-Memorable Archpriest George Aswad
Ever-Memorable Archpriest Rastko	Matushka Dorothy <i>(Timko)</i> Met. THEODOSIUS
Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark	Ever-Memorable Sbdn. Gregory
Ever-Memorable Pdn. Gregory	Martha, Akhtar Remyat, and Barkat <i>(Family of Fr. Peter)</i>

Newly-Departed Servants of God Audrey *(Grandmother of Mariami)* Robert *(Father of Karen Kristich)*

***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 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!

Troparion for St. Mary of Egypt— Tone 8

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ. By so doing, thou taughtest us to disregard the flesh for it passes away; but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal. // Therefore thy spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

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

Kontakion for The Resurrection – Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion for St. Mary of Egypt- Tone 3

Having been a sinful woman, thou becamest through repentance a bride of Christ. Having attained angelic life, thou didst defeat demons with the weapon of the Cross. // Therefore, O most glorious Mary, thou art a bride of the Kingdom.

PROKEMEINON Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

THE SECOND PROKEMEINON Tone 4

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

ALLELUIA VERSES

Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity.

I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication.

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing the following)

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child – our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! The light of Thy countenance has shone on us, O Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

HEBREWS 9:11-14

BRETHREN:

But Christ being come a High Priest of the good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building. Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered, in once, into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us.

For if the blood of bulls and of goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

GALATIANS 3:23-29

BRETHREN:

But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

MARK 10:32-45 {St. Mary of Egypt}

LET US ATTEND:

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And He said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to Him, "Grant that we may sit, one at Your right hand and one on Your left, in Your glory."

But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

And they said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at My right hand or at My left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles, lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

LUKE 7:36-50 {*St. Mary of Egypt*}

LET US ATTEND:

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more? Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little. Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

**** NEW PROTOCOLS WHEN ATTENDING THE DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAYS****

☒ **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. We will also take your temperature as well. If someone has a fever or is experiencing symptoms or answers YES to any of the COVID Questions, they will not be permitted to come into the church.**

☒ **EVERYONE attending the Divine Liturgy (those in the Nave and those in The 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 33 people in The Church, everyone else will be seated in The Parish Fellowship Hall. We must also remember to wear a mask in Church and in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on Church Property at all times and maintain social distancing. If we forget one, we will have them available at the Candle Desk as well as in the Parish Fellowship Hall. Also, when we enter the Church and say our prayers, we must use the hand sanitizer that is located at the Candle Desk as well as review the posted Diocesan Guidelines. These (masks, prayers, hand sanitizer) are also located in the Parish Fellowship Hall These precautions are for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes and enters our Church to pray and worship God.**

☒ **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!****

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) and on our homepage you will see 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/UCft4AWAX2COorLZExfMJc5KQ> 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

- Fr. Jason and Mat. Katia for donating the flowers the Feast of The Annunciation of The Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
- John and Gretchen Judge and Rebecca Torres for donating the Incense
- John and Gretchen Judge for donating the Vigil Candles near The Gospel Book/Confession, The Icons of The Holy Sepulchre, The Icons of All Saints of North America, and The Icons of St. Nektarios and The Holy Relics, The Icons of Our Lord, and The Icons of The Mother of God for the continued good health of their Family.

Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website (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 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) 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 (April 24)**
- 2) **Reader Typika Servius for Saturday Morning (April 24)**
- 3) **Reader Typika Service for Sunday Morning (April 25)**
- 4) **Information for St. George Book Class – Monday (April 26)**
- 5) **Information for Adult Education Class – Thursday (April 29)**
- 6) **Reader Vespers and Typika Service for Wednesday and Friday (April 28/April 30)**
- 7) **Reader Vespers Service for Sunday Evening (April 25)**

**EACH WEEK 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 APRIL 11, 2020 – \$ 3107.00
& \$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!

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.

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

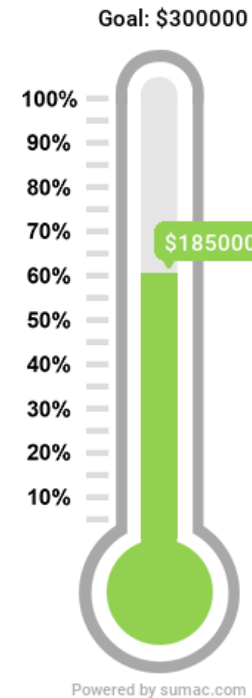
The video can be found here on Facebook:

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

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

New Dining Hall and Kitchen - \$300,000.00

\$185,000 has already been donated to the construction of our new Dining Hall and Kitchen.



****As part of our commitment of supporting the good work being done at St. Andrew's Camp of ministering to and nurturing the spiritual growth of our children in the love and faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will be holding collections in response to the Diocesan Appeal during this Great Lenten and Paschal Season. ****



Announcing 2021 Season!

It's time to beat the quarantine blues this summer at Camp! We are *very excited* to be reunited with our beloved campers for our 64th Camp Season of 5 glorious weeks in the beautiful outdoors on Lake Oneida, New York!

FAMILY WEEK
July 5-10

HORSE WEEK 1
July 11-17

MISH MASH WEEK
July 18-24

HORSE WEEK 2
July 25-31

TEEN WEEK
August 1-7



Click [here](#) to REGISTER your child for a summer of fun!

WAIT! WE WANT YOU TOO!

Are you ready to get out and interact with people? Want to make a difference in the lives of youth, while growing your faith and enjoying nature? Then helping out at Saint Andrew's Camp is for you!

We have a need for counselors, cooks & kitchen assistants, nurses, and weekend work crews. Join us for a weekend, a week or more!

Take your summer to the next level and join the fun and important ministry at Saint Andrew's Camp!

For more information about the camp program or helping out, contact the Camp Office at (315) 675-9771 or saintandrewscamp@aol.com

www.saintandrewscamp.org

www.facebook.com/standrewsorthodoxcamp

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)
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Mrs. Catherine Tony 274 Wadsworth Ave. Tonawanda, NY 14150 716.695.3068	Mr. Albert Fadell 317.376.2562	Mrs. Bonnie Dan 15 Pine Street North Tonawanda, NY 14150 716.693.1377
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Andrew Wityk Ellicott Center 200 Seventh Street Buffalo, NY 14201	Mrs. Tita Abraham 84 Stonington Lane Gertzville, NY 14068
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WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

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

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An Invitation to Support the Stewards of the OCA!

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 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: <https://oca.org/become-a-steward>

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An Invitation to Support the Ministry of the DDB!

In order to fund necessary ministries and fulfill the work of the Church in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** generously contribute financial support. To learn more about the DDB, please go to the following link: <http://vimeo.com/71021182> and watch a 60 second video inviting you to join the ever-growing list of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey who joyfully support the on-going work of our diocese. Their support allows us to provide assistance to new mission parishes, scholarships to seminarians, support the departments of The Diocese, and much-needed encouragement to older struggling parishes. How about you? Our parish is a member of the DDB. If anyone would like to join, please see Fr. Jason as well as take a pamphlet from the table in the back of the church. May God continue to bless and guide you for your continued support. The Diocese of New York and New Jersey has two monthly newsletters: "**First Fruits**" and "**Beyond the Plateau**." The goal, as expressed by Archbishop Michael, is to increase communication and grow the communal spirit of diocesan fellowship in the building-up and strengthening of our parish communities. To learn more about these monthly diocesan publications, please refer to the diocesan website: <http://www.nynjoca.org/newsletters.html>.

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"Lessons in Our Faith" Video presented by His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and "to the point," offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <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. May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

Self Preservation

Many things have been done - or words were said
That pierced the heart - like a bullet of lead
And though the event came - and soon was gone
The sting of it all - lingered on and on.

Dwelling on the past - though time has marched on
Will make us miserable - no mood for a song,
Because peace and joy - Satan is stealing
Thus, he alone prospers - if we hold an ill-feeling.

We must forgive others - in a way that is right:
Leaving their flaws - for only God's sight.
Sometimes it's impossible - to humanly do
So we call on the Holy Spirit - to see us through.

When the Lord forgives us - our slate is wiped clean.
God doesn't hold grudges - or see us as mean.
Yes, He gives us a chance - for a whole new start.
He holds no memory - of our mistakes in his heart.

If we can't forgive - like the Lord intended
We have a miserable life - which can't be mended.
Because an unforgiving heart - is real devastation
And forgiving completely - is self-preservation.

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****A REMINDER FOR HOSTING COFFEE HOUR DURING GREAT LENT****

When hosting coffee hour during Great Lent, we must refrain from using meat and dairy products in our foods and beverages.

If anyone has any questions about fasting or restrictions when hosting coffee hour, please see Fr. Jason and he will help you and guide you! If anyone would like to host coffee hour, please see or contact Mat. Fran (610.698.1666/frances.vansuch@yahoo.com)

May all of us have a Blessed, Peaceful, Holy and Prayerful Great Lenten Journey!

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****NEW SECTION IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN: LENTEN RECIPES****

As we are in the midst of Great Lent, we would like to share with one another those delicious Lenten Recipes that we have from our home kitchens. If anyone would like to share a Lenten Recipe with our parish family, please email it to Fr. Jason (jvansuch@hotmail.com) so that we can include it in the weekly bulletin. This will be another way for us to stay connected with one another as well as an opportunity to build up and expand our recipe books at home 😊

TODAY'S RECIPE..... Potato Leek Soup

A simple soup with a creamy texture using cashew cream. [Cashew "cream"](#) is made by soaking cashews overnight then blending them into a very smooth consistency.

The cashew cream doesn't add much flavor but it does deliver some fat and protein. However, this is a light carby soup.

If you use soy you might balance the carbs with a bit of soy milk. Alternatively, you could use a 1/2 cup of tahini provided the tahini is pretty oily and not over roasted.

If you don't give a hoot about the protein then use any old non dairy milk

This recipe is adapted from Robert Irvine's on Foodnetwork.com

Ingredients

8 cups vegetable stock

6 russet potatoes, peeled and cut into large pieces

4 leeks (whites only), thoroughly washed and sliced

3 stalks celery, roughly chopped

1 bay leaf

1 1/2 teaspoons finely chopped fresh thyme

1/2 teaspoon of salt & pepper

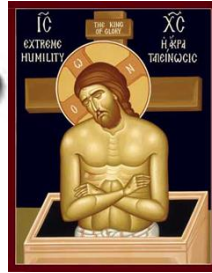
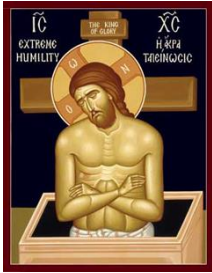
1 cup of raw cashews for cashew cream (or 1/2 cup tahini)

Cashew cream:

- 1 cup of raw cashews, soaked overnight in enough water to completely cover
- 1. Drain soaked cashews, add cashews and 3/4 cup of water into a blender or use a stick blender and blend until absolutely smooth

Directions

1. Lord, bless my work.
2. Put the vegetable stock, potatoes, leeks, celery, bay leaf and thyme in a large pot and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Boil until the potatoes are soft, 15 to 20 minutes.
3. Remove the bay leaf. Using an immersion blender (or in batches in a blender or food processor), blend the soup until smooth.
4. Pour the soup into a medium pot; add the cashew cream and simmer briefly. Serve.



2021 - THE SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY GREAT LENTEN VESPERS - 2021

“Fulfilling the Gospel through Our Life in Christ”

****ALL SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS
WILL BE SERVED AT ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH (BUFFALO, NY)****

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Discussion: “Being called to be Living Icons of The Gospel in our everyday life”

**Sunday March 21, 2021
5:00 PM**

St. Gregory Palamas

Discussion: “Prayer as a key to Fulfilling The Gospel in our everyday life”

**Sunday March 28, 2021
5:00 PM**

Veneration of the Cross

Discussion: “The Cross a key to Fulfilling The Gospel in our everyday life”

**Sunday April 4, 2021
5:00 PM**

St. John Climacus

Discussion: “The Ladder of Divine Ascent a key to Fulfilling The Gospel in our everyday life”

**Sunday April 11, 2021
5:00 PM**

St. Mary of Egypt

Discussion: “Repentance a key to Fulfilling The Gospel in our everyday life”

**Sunday April 18, 2021
5:00 PM**



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT:

ST. MARY OF EGYPT

= Scriptural Readings for The Sixth Week of Great Lent =

Monday	Genesis 27:1-41	Proverbs 19:16-25
Tuesday	Genesis 31:3-16	Proverbs 21:3-21
Wednesday	Genesis 43:26-32; 45:1-6	Proverbs 21:23-22:4
Thursday	Genesis 46:1-7	Proverbs 23:15-24:5
Friday	Genesis 49:33-50:26	Proverbs 31:8-31
Saturday	Heb. 12:28-13:8 (Lazarus Saturday)	John 11:1-45
Sunday	Phil. 4:4-9 (Palm Sunday)	John 12:1-18

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

ST. MARY OF EGYPT

The Fifth Sunday recalls the memory of **Saint Mary of Egypt**, the repentant harlot. Mary tells us, first of all, that no amount of sin and wickedness can keep a person from God if he truly repents. Christ himself has come "to call sinners to repentance" and to save them from their sins (*Lk 5:32*). In addition, Saint Mary tells us that it is never too late in life -- or in Lent -- to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to him even at the eleventh hour of their lives. But their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.

The commemoration of the life of St. Mary of Egypt, who formerly had been a great sinner, is intended to serve as an example of true repentance for all and convince us of the ineffable compassion of God. The Church finds in her an image of true repentance and a source of encouragement for those engaged in spiritual endeavors, by virtue of the example of the ineffable mercy of God shown towards her a repentant sinner.

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THE AKATHIST TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS
The Fifth Saturday of Great Lent

On the Fifth Saturday of Great Lent, the Saturday of the Akathist, we commemorate the "Laudation of the Virgin" Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos.

In 625, when the emperor Heraclius was fighting the Persians, the Khan sent forces to attack Constantinople by land and by sea. Patriarch Sergius urged the people not to lose heart, but to trust in God.

A procession was made around the city with the Cross of the Lord, the robe of the Virgin, the Icon of the Savior not made by hands, and the Hodigitria Icon of the Mother of God. The Patriarch dipped the Virgin's robe in the sea, and the city's defenders beat back the Khan's sea forces. The sea became very rough, and many boats sank. The invaders retreated, and the people of Constantinople gave thanks to God and to His Most Pure Mother. On two other occasions, in 655 and 705, the Theotokos protected the city from Saracen invaders. A feastday dedicated to the Laudation of the Virgin was established to commemorate these victories. The Akathist to the Mother of God is believed to originate from this period, and its use has spread from Constantinople to other Orthodox lands.

Fifth Sunday of Lent
St. Mary of Egypt
Can ye drink of the Cup that I drink of?

Mark 10:32-45

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

32-34. And they were on the road going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And He took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto Him, saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem: and the Son of Man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn Him to death, and shall deliver Him to the Gentiles: and they shall mock Him, and shall scourge Him, and shall spit upon Him, and shall kill Him: and the third day He shall rise again.

Why does He foretell the things that will happen to Him? To prepare and to calm the minds of the disciples, so that having heard of these things beforehand they would more easily endure them, and not be overwhelmed all at once in their anguish. He also foretold these things so that they would know that He suffered them of His own will. Although He knows these things beforehand, and is able to flee from them, He does not do so, thus making it abundantly clear that He willingly gives Himself over to His sufferings. The Lord takes the disciples aside privately to speak with them alone. For His Passion is a mystery to be revealed only to those closest to Him. And this is why on the road

He leads the way before them all, wanting to separate His disciples from the rest of the crowd. But also, by leading the way, He shows that He hastens to His Passion, and does not evade His death which is for our salvation. Although He lists all these sorrowful things that will happen, yet there is one consolation, that He will rise on the third day.

35-39. And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto Him, saying, Master, we want that Thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall ask. And He said unto them, What do ye want that I should do for you? They said unto Him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on Thy right hand, and the other on Thy left hand, in Thy glory. But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? And they said unto Him, We can.

Another Evangelist says that the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached Christ. [Matt. 20:20] It is likely that both events took place. The apostles were embarrassed, and had their mother go first, and then they themselves approached Christ in private. This is what the Evangelist means here when he says that they *come unto Him*, that they approach Him in private, apart from the others. Let us learn what it was they asked. They thought that His going up to Jerusalem meant that He was going to ascend the throne of an earthly kingdom, and that after He had become king He would suffer those things which He said He would suffer. With this understanding, they are asking to sit at His right hand and His left. This is why the Lord rebukes them for asking for something

foolish. *Ye know not what ye ask*, He says. You are thinking that My kingdom is an earthly kingdom, and you are asking for an earthly throne. But it is not so; rather, these things are beyond your understanding. To sit at My right hand is something so great that it goes beyond what even the angelic hosts can do. You are craving honor and glory, but I am calling you to die. By *baptism* and *cup* He means the cross. For a cup of wine is something a man gladly accepts, and it quickly puts him to sleep. And baptism is something which is done to cleanse sins. But James and John gave their promise without understanding what He said, thinking that He was speaking of an actual cup of wine, and the washing of the body which the Jews performed before they ate.

39-40. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized with shall ye be baptized: but to sit at My right hand and at My left hand is not Mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

Martyrdom, He is saying, will be yours, and you will die for Truth's sake. [For bold confession of the Truth James was beheaded in Jerusalem in 45 AD, and John was cruelly tortured in Rome and then exiled to the island of Patmos. Tr.] But to sit at My right hand and at My left is not Mine to give. Two questions may be asked: first, has it been prepared for anyone to sit there? Second, is the Master of all unable to bestow this seat? In answer we say that no one will sit at His right or at His left. Although in many places of Scripture you hear mention of sitting upon a seat in heaven [Mt. 19:28, Lk. 13:29, Eph. 2:6, etc.], understand that this refers to great honor,

not a chair. *It is not Mine to give* has this meaning: it is not for Me, the Just Judge, to bestow this honor as a favor, for that would not be just. Instead, this honor has been prepared for those who have contested and struggled for it. It is as if a just king had set a day for a contest of athletes, and then some of his friends come to him and say, "Give us the crowns." The king would say, "The crowns are not mine to give; rather, a crown is prepared for that contestant who shall compete and win." So too with you, O sons of Zebedee, you shall be martyrs for My sake; but if there is one who, along with martyrdom, exceeds you in every virtue, he shall precede you in honor.

41-45. And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are thought to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your servant: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

The disciples are still subject to human weaknesses, and here they are stung with envy. This is why the ten were displeased with the two. When did they begin to be indignant? When they realized they had not been received by the Lord, and thought they had been pushed away. As long as the ten were shown honor by the Lord,

it did not bother them that the Lord held these two in special honor. But here when they see these two asking for honor, the others could no longer endure it. Although they act in this imperfect way now, later you will see each one of them conceding the first place of honor to the other. Christ heals them, first calming them by calling them to Himself, and then showing them that to grasp for honors and to desire the chief place is the behavior of Gentiles. For the Gentile princes lord it over others in a tyrannical and domineering manner. But it is not so with My disciples, He says; instead let him who would be great serve all the others, for the mark of a great soul is to endure all things and to serve everyone. The example of this is near at hand: the Son of Man Himself did not come to be served but to serve, and, what is even greater, He came to give His life as a ransom for many. What could be greater and more marvelous than a man who not only serves, but even dies for the sake of the one he serves? Yet the Lords serving and His humble lowering of Himself to be with us has become the exaltation and the glory of Him and all creation. Before He became man, He was known only to the angels; but after His incarnation and crucifixion, His glory is even greater and He reigns over all the earth.

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2021		
Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)		
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 21st	 Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 28th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 7th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 14th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 21st	 SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 28th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 4th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 11th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 18th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 25th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 30th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 2nd NO FASTING!	 BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

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

