



HOLY  
PROPHET

HOSEA

**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 Church

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**Altar Candles** are offered by Anthony DelNuovo in Loving Memory  
of Thy Departed Servants of his family. May their memory be eternal.

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**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 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

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**17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 8.**

Martyr Susanna, Princess of Georgia  
Prophet Hosea.

Monastic Martyr Andrew of Crete

Ven. Anthony, Abbot of Leokhnovsk

Martyrs and Unmercenaries

Cosmas and Damian in Cilicia,

and their brothers, Leontius, Anthimus,

and Eutropius. Translation of the Relics of  
St. Lazarus "of the four days" (in the tomb),

Bishop of Kition on Cyprus

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**EPISTLE LESSON**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

Luke 8:5-15

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**OCTOBER 17, 2021 NO. 428**

Tropars/Kontakions for Divine Liturgy

**Troparion for The Resurrection — Tone 8**

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

**Troparion to the Holy Prophet Hosea — Tone 2**

We celebrate the memory of Thy prophet  
Hosea, O Lord; through him we beseech  
Thee:// "Save our souls!"

**THE EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY**

*2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1*

**BRETHREN:**

And what agreement has the temple of God with  
idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As  
God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among  
them. I will be their God, and they shall be My  
people." Therefore "Come out from among them and

**Troparion to the Holy Martyr Andrew of Crete Tone 4**

Trained in asceticism on the mountain,  
with the weapon of the Cross thou didst  
destroy the spiritual assaults of the hostile  
powers, O all-blessed one. Again thou  
didst bravely prepare for combat and  
didst slay Copronymus with the sword of  
faith; // for both struggles thou hast been  
crowned by God, monk-martyr Andrew of  
eternal memory.

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

**Kontakion for The Resurrection — Tone 8**

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

***Now and ever and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.***

**Steadfast Protectress Tone 6**

**(Hymn to the Theotokos)**

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

**PROKEMEINON Tone 8**

Pray and make your vows / before the  
Lord, our God!

v. In Judah God is known; His  
Name is great in Israel.

**ALLELUIA VERSES**

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us  
make a joyful noise to God our  
Savior!  
Let us come before His face with  
thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to  
Him with songs of praise!

be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is  
unclean, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father  
to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says  
the LORD Almighty.”

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us  
cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and  
spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

**THE GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY**

*Luke 8:5-15*

**Let us Attend!**

“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed,  
some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down,  
and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on  
rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away  
because it lacked moisture.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang  
up with it and choked it.

But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and  
yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said  
these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let  
him hear!”

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does  
this parable mean?”

And He said, “To you it has been given to know the  
mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is  
given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And  
hearing they may not understand.’

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.  
Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the  
devil comes and takes away the word out of their  
hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the  
ones on the rock are those who, when they hear,

**THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

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

**COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

## Upcoming Events within The Life of our Parish/Diocese

1) CROP HUNGER WALK/ FOOD DRIVE FOR FEED MORE OF WNY  
SUNDAY OCTOBER 17.

We will be holding a Food Drive for The Feed More of Western NY on SUNDAY OCTOBER 17 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY. We are asking that everyone bring at least 1 bag of non-perishable food items/can goods as well as at least \$1 per walker. For those who would like to participate in The CROP WALK, please bring a change of clothes. We will be walking around Delaware Park (1-2 laps) For more any questions or for more information or to help out, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

2) PENNIES FOR HEAVEN HOAGIE LUNCH SALE  
The Month of October Sunday October 31

We will be holding a collection of loose change/dollars for the entire month of October beginning on Sunday October 3. We will have two (2) jars located in the Parish Fellowship Hall and ask that when we come to church, bring any loose change/dollars that we may have and donate it to the Church. Then on Sunday October 31, we will hold a Hoagie/Steak Sandwich Lunch Sale (Hoagie, Chips, Macaroni Sale or Cole Slaw/beverage/dessert) for \$10 each! We will also have a special for our children!! An email will go out with more information along with information for what help and assistance will be needed on that day. For more any questions or for more information or to help out, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

## OCTOBER 2021

PENNIES FOR HEAVEN HOAGIE LUNCH SALE  
The Month of October Sunday October 31

17 – 1<sup>st</sup> CROP Hunger Walk and Food Drive for Feed More of WNY

18 – Monthly Community Healing Prayer Service at 6:30 PM

19 – Mats for Mission Outreach Ministry Project  
Making Snack bags (6:30 to 8:00 PM)

20 - Monthly Collection for Kevin Guest House

23- Memorial Saturday

Full Panahyda Memorial Prayer Service at 3:00 PM

Great Vespers at 4:00 PM Parish Council Meeting - 5:00pm

30 – GREAT VESPERS AT SS PETER AND PAUL CHURCH

Visit of Archbishop MICHAEL

31 – General Confession – 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

\*Education Sermon on Sunday October 31: The 12 Major Feast Days\*

\*\*HOAGIE/STEAK SANDWICH SALE LUNCH SALE

\*\*BILLS vs DOLPHINS PARISH GATHERING AT PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL (1-4 PM)  
Pizza, Wings, Soda, Ice Tea, Juice, Water, Beer, Wine.

We are asking for a free-will donation

AND BASKET RAFFLE DURING HALFTIME- **PARISH EVENT ONLY!!**

\*\*Bible Study Class – Monday October 18 \*\*St. George Book Club – Monday October 25

*\*\*Please refer to the weekly bulletin, monthly calendar  
and our church website for any changes to the calendar\*\**

**PLEASE SHARE THESE EVENTS WITH EVERYONE!!**

## THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 17, 2021

The Hours 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Memorial Litia

Church School (in person and via  
Google Classroom) following  
Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour Fellowship in the  
Parish Fellowship Hall following  
Divine Liturgy!

CROP HUNGER WALK AROUND  
DELAWARE PARK  
FOOD DRIVE FOR FEED MORE OF WNY

Coffee Hour Host:

Fr. Andreja and Popadija Anica

Coffee Hour Donation:

### MONDAY OCTOBER 18, 2021

Monthly Healing Prayer Service – 6:00 PM

St. George Bible Study Class  
(Via Zoom) – 7:00 to 8:15 PM

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 19, 2021

Daily Matins – 9:00 AM

Paraklesis Service to The Theotokos  
6:00 PM

Mats for Mission Outreach Ministry  
Project (6:30-7:15 pm)

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 23, 2021

MEMORIAL SATURDAY

Full Panahyda Memorial Service 3:00 PM  
Great Vespers - 4:00 PM

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 24, 2021

The Hours 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

Church School (in person and via  
Google Classroom) following  
Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour Fellowship in the  
Parish Fellowship Hall following  
Divine Liturgy!

Coffee Hour Host:

Mariami and Nate

Coffee Hour Donation:

## **DIOCESAN ASSISTANCE/RELIEF FOR HURRICANE IDA VICTIMS**

In response to The Archpastoral Letter from His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL regarding Emergency Hurricane Ida Relief in the Diocese. As a parish, we will be taking a monthly collection throughout October to help and assist our Brothers and Sisters in Christ throughout our Diocese who have been affected by Hurricane Ida ! Matushka and I are hosting Coffee Hour on Sunday October 10 and will designate the collection for Emergency Hurricane Ida Relief in the Diocese. We will be sending a parish donation to the Diocese at the end of October. All donations to the Emergency Hurricane Ida Relief in the Diocese should be in to Barbara by Sunday October 31. Please make checks payable to St. George Orthodox Church and in the memo line - earmark "Diocesan Hurricane Ida Relief Fund"

Come and See how we are all called to be Stewards of The Church by helping and assisting our Brothers and Sisters in Christ throughout our Diocese who have been affected by Hurricane Ida!

May God continue to bless and guide all of you for your continued love, prayerful support, and generosity!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let Fr. Jason know.

## **SAFETY GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR OUR PARISH**

We are celebrating The Divine Services with FULL CAPACITY in The Church. ALL Pews will be open and available for everyone to stand together. So that we can, to the Glory of God, pray together, sing together and stand together as parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Until further notice, we continue to follow the following guidelines based upon The Diocesan Directives/Guidelines and the new directives and announcements

- To ensure that everyone feels comfortable and safe while attending Divine Services and Fellowship Activities at our parish, we will make the wearing of masks a voluntary decision. If someone wishes to continue to wear a mask, that is their choice and their right to. If someone chooses not to wear a mask, that is their choice not to wear a mask. This is to ensure that we, as a parish family and as brothers and sisters in Christ, minister in every way possible through love to those who come to St. George Orthodox Church to grow in their faith and love of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Out of love, care, concern, and the well-being of EVERYONE, The Clergy, when distributing Holy Communion and Holding The Cross at the Veneration of the Cross/Dismissal and whenever there is interaction between The Clergy and parishioners, The Clergy will be wearing a mask to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone. As a parish family, let us continue to love one another, respect one another, and pray for and with one another! As I have mentioned previously, the topic of vaccinated vs unvaccinated has no place in our parish. That is a private and individual matter and choice and above that is a HIPAA Privacy Law!
- We will also continue to have hand sanitizer and masks available for everyone who wishes to use them to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes to St. George Orthodox Church for Divine Services and Fellowship Activities. These precautions are for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes and enters our Church to pray and worship God.
  - \* The choir will continue to sing up front until such time we can move them back to the choir area
  - \* The space in the back of the church (choir area and children's area) will remain open for the 15 chairs socially distant for those who wish to stand there.
  - \* We will continue to use the Common Communion Cloth. However, if anyone wishes to use the individual napkin to wipe their lips after receiving Holy Communion, they may do so.
  - \* We will be passing the Stewardship Collection Plate during The Litany before The Lord's Prayer
  - \* The Church will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week
  - \* The Parish Fellowship Hall will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week by hiring our Professional Cleaner (Rocco) who will come in every week on Saturday Night to clean and sanitize the Parish Fellowship Hall and Restrooms. When Hosting Coffee Hour, we will need to be wearing masks as well as use gloves and proper utensils. Following Coffee Hour, the table and chairs will need to be properly sanitized as well as put away properly along with the kitchen and countertops need to be cleaned and properly sanitized.
  - \* With this in mind, we will still need to sign up when we come to Church for THE DIVINE LITURGY on Sundays! This is to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of everyone attending our Parish for the Divine Liturgy. We do NOT need to sign-up beforehand but rather we will need to sign in at The Candle Desk when we come to church. This sign-up is important for us and our parish not only to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to come to Church to pray, participate in The Divine Liturgy and to receive Holy Communion but also to ensure that I have a record of everyone who attends the Divine Liturgy in case, God-forbid, someone becomes ill I would need to contact everyone who was in attendance. We are taking every measure that we can to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our parishioners and of everyone that comes to our parish to pray. Together, with the Parish Council, we express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your help, assistance, patience, and understanding and for your continued working together and praying together as a Parish Family for The Glory of God, To the Glory of God, and With the Glory of God!

\*\*If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason,

Paul or any member of the Parish Council!\*\*

May God continue to bless and guide all of you!\*\*

# FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME In The Orthodox Christian Church

Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 PM  
SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

~ All are Welcome ~

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

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

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

What is Orthodox Christianity all about? How does it differ from other Christian confessions? This section will attempt to answer these questions and many more.

For a visual introduction to the Orthodox Church, please view the video link below:

[http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player\\_embedded&fs=1](http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player_embedded&fs=1)

For a brief introduction and in depth study to The Orthodox Faith and to find answers to: 'What we Believe?' , "Who we Are?", and "How we Live?", please view the PDF link below:

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

or you may visit the OCA website by clicking the link below:

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

or you can begin a Journey Through Orthodoxy by clicking the link below:

<http://journeytoorthodoxy.com>

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

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

If you have any questions or would like to know more about The Orthodox Faith or needs and help or assistance, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (jvansuch@hotmail.com) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

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**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 225 B Evans Street, Apt 3 Williamsville, NY 14221 716.276.3471 dogthree1@hotmail.com	Reader Victor Shanchuk McAuley Residence 1503 Military Rd. Buffalo, NY 14217 716.881.3096	Mrs. Luba Japadjief Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit) 245 Bassett Road Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30)
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Andrew Wityk Ellicott Center 200 Seventh Street Buffalo, NY 14201	Mrs. Tita Abraham 84 Stonington Lane Getzville, NY 14068	Mr. Albert Fadell 314.376.2562
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**IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace, Feed More of WNY, 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 Outlines for ALL weekend SERVICES**
- 2) **Zoom information for Education Classes and Book Club**
- 3) **Updates on Schedule of Services Events**
- 4) **Parish Monthly Update**

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**EACH WEEK WE WILL BE RECORDING**

**THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH SUNDAY AS WELL AS POSTING THE MONTHLY INCOME and EXPENSE FOR OUR PARISH FOLLOWING THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS!**

**INCOME FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER , 2021 – \$**

**Commercial Savings Account Deposit -  
DONATION TO THE CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT FUND (Kitchen) -**

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

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**\*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 find 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:)**

## **THE HOLY PROPHET HOSEA**

**OCTOBER 17**

The Holy Prophet Hosea the first of the minor prophets, belonged to the tribe of Issachar. He lived during the ninth Century before Christ, in the kingdom of Israel. He was a contemporary of the holy Prophets Isaiah, Micah and Amos. During this time, many of his fellow Israelites had forgotten the true God, and worshipped idols. The holy Prophet Hosea attempted to turn them again to the faith of their Fathers by his wise counsels. Denouncing the iniquities of the people of Israel (i.e. the northern kingdom Israel), the prophet proclaimed to them great misfortunes from a foreign people and their removal into captivity by Assyria.

Almost a thousand years before the coming of the Savior, and through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the prophet foretold the end of sacrificial offerings and of the priesthood of Aaron (Hos. 3:4-5), and that the knowledge of the True God would spread through all the earth (Hos. 2:20-23). Hosea spoke also about Christ, how He would return from out of Egypt (Hos. 11:1; compare Mt. 2:15), that He would be resurrected on the third day (Hos. 6 and especially Hos.6:2; compare with 1 Cor.15:4), and that He would conquer death (Hos.13-14. Compare 1 Cor.15:54-55).

The prophesies of Saint Hosea are included in the book that bears his name. The prophetic service of Saint Hosea continued for more than sixty years. The God-inspired prophet died in deep old age, having devoted all his life to fulfilling the Will of God.

## **THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR ANDREW OF CRETE**

**OCTOBER 17**

The Hieromartyr Andrew of Crete lived during the reign of the iconoclast emperor Constantine Kopronymos (741-775), who ordered Christians, under penalty of death, to remove the holy icons from their churches and homes. Believers, who fearlessly resisted the impious iconoclast, and held firmly to the traditions of the holy Fathers, were locked in prison. When the venerable Andrew heard that the emperor was throwing virtuous and pious Christians into prison instead of thieves and robbers, he went to the Church of the Great Martyr Mamas (September 2) in Constantinople and in front of everyone, denounced the heretic for persecuting the true Faith.

In an attempt to justify himself the emperor said that it was folly to bestow veneration on wood and paint. To this the monk replied that whoever suffers for holy icons suffers for Christ, but whoever reviles the icon upon which Christ is depicted, offers insult to Christ Himself. The enraged iconoclast gave orders to torture Saint Andrew without mercy.

As he was being dragged through the streets to the place of execution, someone cut off the saint's feet. As a result, Saint Andrew was freed from his torments by death. A hundred years later a Canon was written to the saint by Saint Joseph the Hymnographer (April 4). The saint heals those afflicted with seizures.

# **The Parable of the Sower**

**Luke 8:5-15**

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

**4-10. And when many people were gathered together, and were come to Him out of every city, He spake by a parable: a sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the way; and it was trodden down, and the winged creatures of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when He had said these things, He cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And His disciples asked Him, saying, What might this parable be? And He said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.**

What David said of old, speaking prophetically in the person of Christ, has now come to pass: I will open My mouth in parables. [Ps. 77:2] The Lord speaks in parables for many reasons: to make His listeners more attentive and to stir up their minds to seek the meaning of what is said. For we are apt to be curious about sayings that are obscure in meaning and to disregard sayings that are clear. He also speaks in parables so that those who are unworthy may not understand what is said concerning spiritual mysteries. And there are many other reasons why He speaks in parables. A sower, therefore, went out, that is, the Son of God went forth from the Father's bosom, from the hidden fastness of the Father, and became manifest to all. Who went out? He Who is ever sowing. The Son of God never ceases to sow in our souls. Not only by His teaching, but by all of creation and by the events of our daily lives, He plants good seed in our souls. He went out, not to slay trespassers or to burn off the stubble, but to sow. For there are many reasons why a farmer might go forth, besides to plant. He went out to sow His own seed: the word of teaching was His own, and not another's. The prophets had spoken, not their own words, but the words of the Holy Spirit. This is why they said, Thus saith the Lord. But Christ had His own seed to sow. When He taught, He did not say, "Thus saith the Lord," but, "I say unto you." As He sowed, that is, as He taught, some seed fell along the road. He did not say that the sower threw the seed along the road, but instead that some fell there. Christ the Sower sows and teaches, and His word falls upon his listeners everywhere, and it is they who show themselves to be like a road, or a rock, or thorns, or good soil. When the disciples ask about the parable, the Lord says, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, that is, unto you who desire to learn, for everyone that asketh, receiveth. [Mt. 7:8] To the others who are not worthy of the mysteries, He speaks obscurely. They think that they see, but they do not; they hear, but they do not understand. And this is to their benefit. The Lord hides these things from them so that they will not fall under greater condemnation for understanding the mysteries and then disregarding them. He who understands, and then disregards, deserves a more severe punishment.

**11-15. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those along the way are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares of**

**riches and of pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patient endurance.**

Here are described three types of those who are not saved. First, there are those along the way, who do not receive and accept the word at all. Just as a pathway, which is well trodden and compacted, cannot receive the seed because it is hard, so also those who are hardened in their hearts do not accept the word at all. Though they hear the word, they give it no heed. Next there are those on the rock who hear the word, and then do not endure temptations because of human weakness, and deny the faith. The third kind are those who hear the word and then are choked by the cares of life. Three parts, therefore, perish, and only one part is saved. Few are saved; most perish. See that it is not said of those who are choked, that they are choked by riches, but rather by the cares of riches. It is not wealth that harms, but the cares and worries about wealth which fill the mind. Indeed, many have received great benefit from their wealth, when they poured it out to feed the poor. Consider the preciseness of the Evangelist, when he says of those who are saved, that when they have heard the word, they keep it, in contrast to those who are along the pathway, who do not keep the word; instead, the devil takes the word from them. And they bring forth fruit, in contrast to those who are choked by the thorns, and who bring no fruit to maturity. In truth those whose fruit never ripens bear no fruit at all. Those who bring forth fruit with patient endurance stand in contrast to those who are on the rock, who receive the word but then do not endure the onslaught of temptations and show that they cannot withstand the test. See how the Evangelist says three things concerning those who are saved, that they keep the word, that they bring forth fruit, and that they do so with patient endurance. By these three statements he distinguishes the saved from those who perish” those along the pathway who do not keep the word; those among thorns who bring no fruit to perfection; and those on the rock who do not patiently endure the assault of temptations.

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**‘The seed is the Word of God’.**

The Lord often spoke in similes and parables. One of the most important of the parables is that of the sower. A farmer sowed his seed in a field and it fell on four different places: the road, a rock, among thorns and on good soil. Some of the seed which fell on the good soil bore thirty times as much fruit, some sixty times and some a hundred times (Mark 4, 20). Let’s have a look at how the word of God bears fruit.

The explanation of the parable. The Lord interpreted the parable and said that the good soil is those people who have good and pure hearts (Luke 8, 15), people who ‘understand’ (Matth. 13, 23). They’re people who’ve listened with seriousness to the word of God, who’ve ‘received’ it (Mark 4, 20). All of these are people who didn’t reject the word of God, but with great patience and persistence cultivated God’s seed and then enjoyed a bountiful harvest. The word of God is Christ Himself. He’s not merely some human word concealed within a religious message, however great and overwhelming that may be. Behind the messages of the Gospel stands Christ Himself, the Son of God, His Word. As Saint Paul puts it: ‘My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you’ (Gal. 4, 19). Indeed, Christ, the Word of God grows in our heart as an infant. Moreover, Jesus Himself said that those who hear the word of God and keep it are His mother and kin (Luke 8, 21). If we keep the word, the commandments of God, this is irrefutable testimony to the fact that Christ has been formed within us.

### **How do we understand the harvest of the word of God?**

Saint Symeon the New Theologian gives the following example: A woman who’s pregnant with a baby can be absolutely certain that she’s carrying a child, even if there’s no obvious sign of her pregnancy

and if other people don't even suspect that she may be increasing. The same is true of those people who have welcomed the word of God into themselves: they understand very well that they have within themselves the nourishing seeds of God.

Let's give a few examples. There are people who, before they believed in Christ, were egotistical, jealous, immoral and self-centered. Once they accept the seeds of the Gospel message, they begin to accept others, as well as themselves. Sins they once found unimportant, they now fight against. They start to give alms and, with the help of the sacraments of the Church, they make a serious effort to retain within themselves the light and the grace of Christ. They change radically and in a wonderful way. This is the harvest of the divine seed. The full harvest is to see God 'as He is'. (Jn. 3, 2).

In his epistle to the Hebrews, Saint Paul talks about those who 'have tasted the goodness of the word of God' (6, 5). He doesn't talk about those who've heard the word of God, but rather those who've tasted it, those who've tasted Jesus Christ. Those who partake of the body and blood of the Lord- 'in fear of God, faith and love'- taste the joy and presence of the Holy Spirit and feel them within themselves. Those who hear the Gospel feel the presence of God intensely in their lives. Those who cultivate the word of God are saved. To sum up, we can say that the harvest is the words of eternal life, the edicts of immortality, the promise of renewed life, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, the feeling of Paradise, the face of Christ, the spiritual life.

The Church sows the word of God. The Church opens the way for Christ to come and enter into the faithful. It preaches Christ Crucified and Risen, while the sinful world has other messages. In our own warlike and sinful times, our Church urges us to listen to the word of God and to repent: 'Repent then, and turn back so that your sins may be erased' (Acts 3, 19). The word of God is addressed to all of us, including those today who have heard the strangest words, immoral, spiteful, avaricious, self-centered and anti-Christian. It's simple and concise and calls upon us to bring Christ to fruition within ourselves. Let's not ignore the word of our Lord, but let us show patience and offer all our spiritual powers, so that we may increase its bounty as much as we can and thus be saved.

**{Taken from The Orthodox Christian Network}**

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**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**

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**== Scriptural Readings for the Week ==**

<b>Monday</b>	Ephesians 4:25-32	Luke 9:18-22
<b>Tuesday</b>	Ephesians 5:20-26	Luke 9:23-27
<b>Wednesday</b>	Ephesians 5:25-33	Luke 9:44-50

<b>Thursday</b>	Ephesians 5:33-6:9	Luke 9:49-56
<b>Friday</b>	Ephesians 6:18-24	Luke 10:1-15
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Corinthians 15:39-45	Luke 7:1-10
<b>Sunday</b>	2 Corinthians 9:6-11	Luke 16:19-31

## 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.