

**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

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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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**31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia.** Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra, and Martyr Agathangelus (312). Ven. Gennádii of Kostromá (1565). Translation of the relics of St. Theóctist, Archbishop of Novgorod (1786). Ven. Mausimas the Syrian (4th c.). Ven. Salamanēs the Silent of the Euphrates (ca. 400). St. Paulinus the Merciful, Bishop of Nola (431). Commemoration of the Sixth Ecumenical Council (680-681).

**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!**

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**EPISTLE LESSON**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

1 Timothy 1:15-17

*Luke 18:35-43*

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**Come and See how we are all called to be Stewards of The Church!**

- Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
- Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.
- Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
- Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I Believe . . . ", as proof of that belief.
- Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

If you would like to make a donation to our parish, please feel free to use the QR Code below. Thank you for your continued support and generosity for our parish in bringing The Love and Faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ to all! May God continue to bless and guide you and keep all of you in His loving care today and always!



### HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

#### Troparion for The Resurrection — Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

#### Troparion for The Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia — Tone 4

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

#### Kontakion for The Resurrection — Tone 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

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

### THE EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

1 Timothy 1:15-17

#### **BRETHREN:**

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

### THE GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

*Luke 18:35-43*

#### **Let us Attend!**

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

So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be

**Kontakion for The Holy New Martyrs  
and Confessors of Russia — Tone 3**

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

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

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

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

**PROKEMEINON Tone 6**

O Lord, save Thy people, / and  
bless Thine inheritance!

*V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O  
my God, be not silent to me!*

brought to Him. And when he had come near,  
He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me  
to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may  
receive my sight."

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

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

**ALLELUIA VERSES**

*He who dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High,  
abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.*

*He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my  
Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust."*

**THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

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

**COMMUNION HYMN**

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

Life: "The most sublime  
expression of God's creative  
activity"

The words below from Fr Alexander Schmemman of  
Blessed Memory are very fitting for our life:

"All that exists is God's gift to man, and it all exists to  
make God known to man, and to make man's life  
communion with God!"

Love one another! Pray for one another! Forgive one  
another!

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Another saying from The Holy Fathers for  
everyday of our life and for everything  
that we go through:

"The Will of God will never take us where  
The Grace of God cannot protect us!"

## LOVE CONQUERS 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***



**“To the King of ages, immortal, **invisible**, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

**(1 Timothy 1:17)**

# Lenten and Paschal Cycle



## Zacchaeus Sunday

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Feb 14	Feb 6	Jan 29	Feb 18	Feb 2



## Publican & Pharisee

*Beginning of the Lenten Tridion*

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Feb 21	Feb 13	Feb 5	Feb 25	Feb 9



## Prodigal Son

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Feb 28	Feb 20	Feb 12	Mar 3	Feb 16



## Meatfare

*Sunday of the Last Judgment*

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mar 7	Feb 27	Feb 19	Mar 10	Feb 23



## Cheesefare

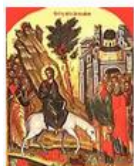
*Forgiveness Sunday*

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mar 14	Mar 6	Feb 26	Mar 17	Mar 2



## Beginning of Great Lent

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Mar 15	Mar 7	Feb 27	Mar 18	Mar 3



## Palm Sunday

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Apr 25	Apr 17	Apr 9	Apr 28	Apr 13



## PASCHA

*Beginning of the Pentecostarion*

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
May 2	Apr 24	Apr 16	May 5	Apr 20

## THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY JANUARY 23, 2022

9:40 A.M. The Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Memoria Litia for Thy Servants of God Tedros – Sammy’s Brother (one-year anniversary of his falling asleep in The Lord) and Elizabeth (Mat. Fran’s sister) on the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her falling asleep in The Lord

Church School Class – 12:30 to 1:15 pm  
(via Google Classroom)

### MONDAY JANUARY 24, 2022

6:30 P.M. St. George Bible Study Class  
(via Zoom)

### TUESDAY JANUARY 25, 2022

9:00 A.M. Daily Matins

### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26, 2022

6:00 P.M. Paraklesis Service

### THURSDAY JANUARY 27, 2022

9:00 A.M. Akathist to St. George

### SATURDAY JANUARY 29, 2022

Eve of The Feast of The Three Hierarchs  
4:00 P.M. Great Vespers

### SUNDAY JANUARY 30, 2022

The Feast of The Three Hierarchs

9:40 A.M. The Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Church School Class – 12:30 to 1:15 pm  
(via Google Classroom)

**An Invitation to Support the Stewards of the OCA!**

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. The foundation for this work is Jesus Christ, Whom we encounter in our spiritual lives, stewardship, evangelism and outreach, and relations with others as we engage the world. Being a steward of the OCA goes beyond the financial gifts which support the work of our church. Being a steward is about caring for and knowing the history of the mission of the Orthodox Church here in North America and finding your place in that history. Having received this great gift of our Orthodox Faith, we bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of Saint Herman and Saint Tikhon; Saint Innocent and Saint Alexis and all the other saints known and unknown who have worked to build up and expand Christ's Church here in North America. Please consider being a part of that mission today by giving to the Stewards of the OCA. For more information, please visit The OCA Website: <https://oca.org/become-a-steward>

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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!**

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**PARISH THEME FOR 2022:**

**Orthodox Christian Stewardship**

**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

**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.

**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**

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

Some of the items on the leaves are as follows:

- Candles
- 7-Day Vigil Candles
- Flowers for Feast Days
- Charcoal
- Altar Wine
- Cups for Zapifka
- Snack Baggies for the Antidoron (Church Bread)
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

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!

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 parish 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 Retreats, gatherings, and fellowship and by supporting our Parish in her many endeavors through which, by the Grace of God, we will bring the light and love of Our Lord to all!

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

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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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**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OCMC PARISH AMBASSADORS**

To The Glory of God, our parish has been blessed with two parishioners who have answered The Call of Our Lord to be Parish Ambassadors for OCMC guiding us to help bring The Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ of “Making Disciples of All Nations baptizing them in The Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit!”

Anthony Gregory DelNuovo and John Moses Lutz are our Parish Ambassadors for OCMC (The Orthodox Christian Mission Center). To help the good work being done by The OCMC of supporting Missionaries around the world, our parish will be sponsoring and supporting a missionary on a annual basis. The cost is only \$600/year. So far we have \$over \$900 collected for this year’s sponsorship. If anyone would like to make a donation, please see or contact Anthony or John. We express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who has graciously donated so far. Thank you for kindness and generosity in supporting the good work and mission of The OCMC in fulfilling Our Lord’s Command in The Gospel of Matthew of: “Making Disciples of All Nations!”

For more information about The OCMC, please visit their website:  
[www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)

Another blessing for our parish of continuing the Good Work that has been entrusted to us of bringing The Gospel Message to All! Lord it is good to be here!

**Scriptural Readings for the Week**  
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**Monday**

Hebrews 11:17-23, 27-31

Mark 8:11-21

**Tuesday**

Hebrews 12:25-26, 13:22-25

Mark 8:22-26

**Wednesday**

James 1:1-18

Mark 8:30-34

**Thursday**

James 1:19-27

Mark 9:10-16

**Friday**

James 2:1-13

Mark 9:33-41

**Saturday**

Colossians 1:3-6

Luke 14:1-11

**Sunday**

1 Timothy 1:15-17

Luke 18:35-43

**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  
(2021)**

Mrs. Diane Salvamoser      Reader Victor Shanchuk      Mrs. Luba Japadjief  
147 West Hazeltine Avenue      McAuley Residence      Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit)  
Kenmore, NY 14217      1503 Military Rd.      245 Bassett Road  
716.875.9503      Buffalo, NY 14217      Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30)  
716.881.3096

Mrs. Bonnie Dan      Mr. Albert Fadell  
15 Pine Street      317.376.2562  
North Tonawanda, NY 14150  
716.693.1377

Andrew Wityk      Mrs. Tita Abraham  
Ellicott Center      84 Stonington Lane  
200 Seventh Street      Getzville, NY 14068  
Buffalo, NY 14201

**IMPORTANT PARISH  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace, Resurrection Life Food Pantry, Baker Victory as well as 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) Pastoral Video for 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  
JANUARY, 2022 - \$**

**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!**

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

We will continue to celebrate 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 Newly Updated Pastoral Guidelines for our Diocese, Parish and the new directives from Erie County:

- To ensure that everyone feels comfortable and safe while attending Divine Services and Fellowship Activities at our parish, all who wish to attend the Divine Service and Fellowship Activities here at our Parish of St George Orthodox Church will be required to wear a mask while indoors (inside of The Church and The Parish Fellowship Hall). 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 both in the Church and in The Parish Fellowship Hall 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.

\* There will be NO Coffee Hour Fellowship until further notice.

\* The choir will continue to sing up front

\* The space in the back of the church (choir area and children's area) will remain open for the 17 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 NOT be passing the Stewardship Collection Plate until further notice. Please leave our Stewardship Offering in the Baskets located up front near The Holy Water container or see Barbara.

\* The Church will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week and after every service

\* The Parish Fellowship Hall will continue to be cleaned and sanitized throughout the week as well as a thorough cleaning/sanitizing 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.

\* 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.

## **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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**“THE ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CORNER”**

**Veneration of the Precious Chains of  
The Holy and All-Glorious Apostle Peter**

**Sunday January 23, 2022**



On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

## **Thirty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

### **The Blind Man at Jericho**

**Luke 18:35-43**

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

**35-43. And it came to pass, that as He was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging. And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me. And they which went before rebuked him, that he should keep silent; but he cried so much the more, Son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto Him: and when He was come near, He asked him, saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.**

The Lord performed this wayside miracle of the blind man so that even His passage along a road would yield a profitable teaching for His disciples and for us: that we should in all things, at all times, and in every place do what is beneficial and never be idle. The blind man believed that Jesus was the awaited Messiah; having been raised among the Jews, it is certain that he knew that the Christ would be of the seed of David. Therefore he cries out with a great voice, Son of David, have mercy on me. His words have mercy on me show that he understood Jesus to be divine and not merely a man. Marvel at his staunch confession: although rebuked by

many, he did not keep silent, but cried out all the more, urged on by the fervent zeal within him. Therefore Jesus summons him as one who is truly worthy to approach Him, and asks him, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? He asks the question, not in ignorance of what the blind man wanted, but so that it would not appear to the others who were present that the Lord gave something different from what the man wanted. Otherwise, some might have said that the Lord, in a vainglorious show of power, healed the mans blindness when the man had only been begging for alms.(1) Envy might well have inspired some to slander the Lord with such foolishness as this. Therefore the Lord asked the blind man what he wanted, and when He heard that he wanted his sight, He gave him his sight. See the absence of vainglory ”the Lord says, "Thy faith hath made thee whole. For you have believed with faith that I am the Son of David, the Christ, Who is now revealed, and you have shown such zeal that you did not keep silent even when rebuked." We may learn from this that when we ask with faith, God does not give something other than what we ask for, but the very same thing. However, when we ask for one thing and receive something else, it is clear that either we did not make a good request or we did not ask with faith. (2) See also the power of the Lord: Receive thy sight.(3) Which of the prophets ever healed in this manner, with such power? His voice, proceeding from Him Who is the true Light, became light to the blind man. See also the gratitude of the healed man: he followed Jesus, glorifying God, and causing others to do the same.

## Seeing the Invisible God: The Need for a Pure Heart



### *5 POINTS FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 18:35-43*

1] The blind man already knew something of Jesus for although he cannot see what is happening, when he hears Jesus of Nazareth is coming by he begins shouting for Jesus' attention. He knows Jesus has no money to give him, but he has obviously heard of the miracles of Jesus. It is obvious that the blind man could *see* who Jesus was based on what he knew about Him and what he believed about Him. The blind beggar not only never saw Jesus before he never saw anything Jesus had done. But he had the eyes of his heart to see, and there was purity enough in his heart for him to see God!

2] The movie, [THE COLOR OF PARADISE](#), has a scene in it in which a blind carpenter takes on as an apprentice a blind boy whose poor father sees only as a terrible burden which he wants to be rid of. The boy explains his sadness to the blind carpenter – God doesn't love him for He made him blind. No one wants him, not even his own father. The blind carpenter points out that God is invisible, eyes will not help you see God. In



fact those with eyes think they can see things about God which they cannot. Eyes will not help you see God. To be born blind is a gift from God for those with eyes keep trying to use their eyes to see God, while the blind already know this is not possible and so skip that deception and immediately use the eyes of their heart to seek God. Seeking God is a matter of faith not sight. Seeing is believing? In the Gospel lesson, believing is seeing.

3] St. Paul reminds us that God is invisible from the day's Epistle –

*“To the King of ages, immortal, **invisible**, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”* (1 Timothy 1:17)

This is why Jesus spoke about those with a pure heart seeing God. You can't see the invisible God with your physical eyes! You need to work on your inner self, your soul, the eyes of your heart to see God. Clearing away all manners of impurities from the heart is needed to see God. Even if you have 20/20 vision, without purity of heart, you won't see God.

4] The blind man already sees that Jesus can give him sight before Jesus does anything! Jesus gives to the blind man what the blind man already believes. Jesus doesn't even claim to heal the man, he tells the blind man, “your faith has made you well.” The fact that the man could see with the eyes of his heart enabled his eyes to be opened. As St. Paul says, *“for we walk by faith, not by sight”* (2 Corinthians 5:7).

5] The people in the Gospel lesson are interesting as well, for they *see* the miracle and praise God. None of them benefitted from the beggar being given sight and yet they praise God. They were able to see and rejoice in the good fortune of another even though they themselves did not benefit from what Jesus did. In fact they had just a few minutes earlier tried to prevent the blind beggar from disturbing Jesus. But their hearts are good as they were able to see what God is doing. [I think we Christians don't always have that ability to rejoice in the good fortune of others. We are often selfish and self-centered, jealous and envious. We more often rejoice in the misfortune of others. What the Germans call Schadenfreude. We seem more likely to take pleasure in the misfortune of others than to find pleasure in the good fortune of others from which we don't personally benefit]. We would do well to learn from this crowd – even if we don't experience a miracle in our lives, we need to be thankful for every blessing others receive, even some people whom we often want to shun and push aside. Jesus is a bridge to the Father, always pointing people to a relationship with the Father. Jesus is trying to make people trust God on their own. Many can see Jesus only, but Jesus keeps encouraging their faith and pointing them to the invisible Father. We also can serve as bridges for people. At first, they are often VERY dependent upon us. We shouldn't be afraid of that, but not seek it. Rather we should see it as a stage of faith. Our goal is to help transfer their faith in us to faith in their Heavenly Father. Only when we have achieved this have we succeeded, only then have we become like Jesus.

"Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God." (18:43) The once-blind man now becomes a disciple and joins Jesus' disciples.

He now is ready. He is a man of faith, and is more than ready to leave begging and take up giving to others. This blind man serves a tremendous encouragement to others who are in the same physical or spiritual that he was.

The story of the blind man is a powerful example to us of how it pleases Jesus for our faith to see its opportunity, grasp it, and refuse to let it go until we receive what we need from God. Who would have thought this beggar would instantly become a giver!

The fathers also give a spiritual interpretation to this miracle, with the blind men symbolizing future generations who would come to faith only by hearing, without the benefit of seeing Christ in person (see Jn 20:29). Those who tried to silence the blind man are persecutors and tyrants who, in every generation try to silence the

Church. Nevertheless, under persecution the Church all the more confesses Jesus Christ and calls us to do the same.

***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***

### **Scriptural Readings for the Week**



#### **Monday**

James 2:14-26

Mark 9:42-10:1

#### **Tuesday**

James 3:1-10

Mark 10:2-12

#### **Wednesday**

James 3:11-4:6

Mark 10:11-16

#### **Thursday**

James 4:7-5:9

Mark 10:17-27

#### **Friday**

1 Peter 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10

Mark 10:23-32

#### **Saturday**

1 Thessalonians 5:14-23

Luke 16:10-15

#### **Sunday**

Hebrews 13:7-16

Matthew 5:14-19

1 Timothy 1:15-17

Matthew 15:21-28



### 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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**JANUARY 23, 2022 NO. 441**