



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

**[www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://www.stgeorgebuffalo.com)**

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends  
of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY  
a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
and The Orthodox Church in America

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**2 Nottingham Terrace Buffalo, NY 14216**

**V. Rev. Jason Vansuch, Parish Priest**

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

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

Archpriest Andreja Damjanovski, Attached Rev. Peter Irfan, Attached

Mat. Katia Vansuch, Choir Director

Dr. Boris Kuvshinoff, Parish Council President

Home: 716-812-6132 Email: [boris.kuvshinoff@gmail.com](mailto:boris.kuvshinoff@gmail.com)

**7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6.** Forefeast of the Procession of the Honorable and Lifegiving Cross of the Lord. Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia (9th c.). Martyr Julitta at Cæsarea (304-305). St. Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre (448). Hieromartyr Benjamin, Metropolitan of Petrograd and Gdovsk (1922), and those with him: Archimandrite Sergius and the Laymen, Yuri and John

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**EPISTLE:**  
Romans 15:1-7

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**GOSPEL:**  
Matthew 9:27 -35

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

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**\*\*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 Vigil 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

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**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.

# **HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY**

## **Tropars/Kontakions for 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 Precious and Life-Giving Cross of Our Lord - Tone 1**

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation!

### **Troparion for St. Eudocimus - Tone 4**

He Who called thee from earth to heaven keeps thy body unharmed after death, holy Eudocimus; for thou didst live a sober and holy life and didst not defile thy flesh; // so with boldness intercede with Christ that we may be saved!

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

### **Kontakion for 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.

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!*

## **ALLELUIA VERSES**

*He who dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High will 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."*

### **EPISTLE LESSONS**

Romans 15:1-7

### **GOSPEL LESSONS**

Matthew 9:27-35

## **THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

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

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

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

## EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

### **Brethren:**

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

## GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

### **Let us Attend:**

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it."

But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons."

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

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

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

<b>Monday</b>	Hebrews 11:33-12:2 Hebrews 2:11-18 1 Cor. 9:13-18	Matthew 10:32-36; 11:1 John 5:1-4 Matt 16:1-6
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Cor. 10:5-12	Matt. 16:6-12
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Cor. 10:12-22	Matt. 16:2-24
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Cor. 10:28-11:7	Matt. 16:24-28
<b>Friday</b>	1 Cor. 11:8-22	Matt. 17:10-18
<b>Saturday</b>	2 Peter 1:10-19	Matt. 17:1-9
<b>Sunday</b>	1 Cor. 1:10-18	Matt. 14:14-22

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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***

## **THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES**

### **SUNDAY JULY 31, 2022**

**EVE OF THE FEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD**

The Hours – **9:10 AM**

Divine Liturgy followed by Memorial Litia for

Thy Newly-Departed Handmaiden of God Elinor Deeb – **9:30 AM**

Special Chiavetta's Luncheon in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy

### **MONDAY AUGUST 1, 2022**

**THE FEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF OUR LORD**

**BEGINNING OF THE DORMITION FAST {August 1-15}**

Akathist in Honor of The Life-Giving Cross of Our Lord followed by Lesser Blessing of Water  
– **9:00 AM**

Paraklesis Service to The Theotokos – **6:00 PM**

### **TUESDAY AUGUST 2, 2022**

Daily Matins – **9:00 AM**

### **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 3, 2022**

Paraklesis Service to The Theotokos – **6:00 PM**

### **FRIDAY AUGUST 5, 2022**

**EVE OF THE GREAT FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

Great Vespers with Litiya followed by Blessing of Fruits and Vegetables – **6:00 PM**

### **SATURDAY AUGUST 6, 2022**

**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

Festal Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Fruits and Vegetables – **9:00 AM**

Great Vespers– **4:00 PM**

### **SUNDAY AUGUST 7, 2022**

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

Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy

110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting during Coffee Hour

**\*\*PLEASE REFER TO THE WEEKLY EMAILS AND PARISH WEBSITE FOR CHANGES TO THE CALENDAR!\*\***

**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 (2022)**

Mr. Anthony Dipiano  
305 North Street  
Apt. 77  
Buffalo, N

Reader Victor Shanchuk  
McAuley Residence  
1503 Military Rd.  
Buffalo, NY 14217  
716.881.3096

Mrs. Luba Japadjief  
Elderwood Nursing Home  
104 Old Niagara Rd.  
Lockport, NY 14221 (Room 47A)

Mrs. Bonnie Dan  
15 Pine Street  
North Tonawanda, NY 14150  
716.693.1377

Mr. Albert Fadell  
317.376.2562

Andrew Wityk  
Ellicott Center  
200 Seventh Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201

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**\*\*A REMINDER FOR HOSTING COFFEE HOUR \*\***

When hosting coffee hour, please check the refrigerators in the Parish Fellowship Hall the week before we are histing to see what supplies we will/may need.

We will also be using real coffee cups for coffee hour. If anyone needs assistance with cleaning them following Coffee Hour, please see or contact Mat. Katia.

If anyone would like to host coffee hour or has any questions regarding one's preparations for Coffee Hour, please see or contact Mat. Fran  
(610.698.1666/[frances.vansuch@yahoo.com](mailto:frances.vansuch@yahoo.com))

May all of us have a Blessed, Joyous, Holy  
and Prayerful Summer Season!



## FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME In The Orthodox Christian Church

Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 PM  
SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM (Sept-May)  
9:30 AM (May-September)

~ 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.

# 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 or link to our parish website donation page 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!



St George Orthodox Churc...  
@StGeorgeOrthodoxChurch



[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=E5X6YTV9DF3W](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=E5X6YTV9DF3W)

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**FR. JASON, MAT. KATIA, MAT. FRAN, ANNA, AND ALEX WILL BE AWAY ON VACATION  
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 10-MONDAY AUGUST 22**

FR. JASON, MAT. KATIA, MAT. FRAN, ANNA, AND ALEX WILL BE AWAY ON VACATION FROM AUGUST 10-AUGUST 22.  
IF THERE IS A PASTORAL EMERGENCY OR IF ANYONE NEEDS THE ASSISTANCE OF A PRIEST, PLEASE  
CONTACT FR. PETER (716.342.8520)! IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN THE PARISH THAT NEEDS IMMEDIATE  
ATTENTION, PLEASE CONTACT DR. BORIS OR YOU MAY ALSO CONTRACT FR. JASON ON HIS CELL PHONE!

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS AND GUIDE ALL OF YOU!

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# ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PRAYER LIST

*Please remember in prayer Thy Servants of God...*

## FOR THE HEALTH OF THY SERVANTS:

### HIERARCHS

Metropolitan HERMAN      Archbishop BENJAMIN      Archbishop ALEJO  
Archbishop NATHANIEL      Bishop DANIEL

### CLERGY

Archpriest Herman, Matushka Cynthia and George, Elizabeth      Archpriest Leonid      Archpriest David  
Archpriest Alexey and his family      Archpriest Vladimir and Matushka Jeanne  
Archpriest Timmothy/Mat. Michelle      Archpriest John and Presbyter Nancy  
Archpriest Ken and Matushka Natalie      Archpriest Andreja, Popadija Anica and Family  
Archpriest Timmothy      Priest Peter and Mat. Mary  
Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather      Archpriest John (Onofrey)  
Archpriest Robert

### MATUSHKI

Mat. Katia	Mat. Paraskeva	Mat. Joanna	Popadija Sara	Mat. Gayle	Mat. Natasha	
Catherine	Ivan/Marina/Inna	Bonnie/Silviu	Popadia Vicki	Christine	Mat. Patricia	Mat. Gloria
Edwina	Irene	Luba	Coard	Karen	Aliscia	Walter/Paul
Serena/Asma	Lillian	Reader Victor	Jim, Darren, Marsha	Nicholas, Andrew	Frank	June
Sarah		Albert	Boris		Marilyn	Amanda, Chase
Xenia, Justin, Danielle, John	Larry Joseph	Frank	Frank		Oscar	Ronald, Candice
Victor	Catherine	Susan	Susan		Billy	Clyde
Evelyn	Robert	Rebecca	Rebecca		Svetlana	Juliana
Jeanne Angela, Jason, Michelle	Linda	Justin	Justin		Paul	Brian
Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria, Tyler	Ashley	Ashley	Ashley		Olga	John, Helen
Melody	Lee	Lee, Bridget	Lee, Bridget		Steven	Barbara
Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas	Sada Thlisinitsa,	Gemmal, Geesa, and Patric	Gemmal, Geesa, and Patric		Matthew	William
Olga and Eugene	Jeremy Stewart	Susan	Susan		Mary	Lia/Isaiah
Susan Justin Louis Yuri/Elena	Alex	John, Kevin, Sean	John, Kevin, Sean		Anthony	John
Jaime/Sammy, Juliana	Harry	James	James		Anthony	Aldona, Melinda
Aspasia/Stavros	Charles	Emma/Alexander	Emma/Alexander		Lee, Benjamin, Harry Patrick	
Vadym Iryna Yuriy Anastasia	Rosemary	Anthony	Anthony		Elias, John, Joseph, Nadim, Theresa	
Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber, Judithann Anita, Jeffry, Dominic, Douglas, Rachel, Dennis					Seraphim	Roscoe
Brian John, Roberta, Barbara John, Michael John						Amelia, Emily
George Costa Jonathan, Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Clara, Karl, Dragica, Mary						Ron, Illiana, Jillian, Joel
Stephen, Larry, Olga, Olga, Sally, Deborah, David						
Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga, Alexandra, Barbara, Damian						
Kyriaki and Konstantinos ( <i>Pete Thanos parents</i> )	Amy ( <i>friend of Molly Burke</i> )					

Children of God - Harry, Keely, Isla, Talia, Lane, Liam

Corina and Nicole and the children born of them  
(*Laura Rose*) (*Landry*)

Alyssa Marie and the child to be born of her

### Diocese of NY&NJ Prayer List

Archpriest Samuel	Mitred Archpriest Joseph Lickwar	Mitred Archpriest Daniel and Mat. Myra
Archpriest George	Archpriest Paul	Matushka Patricia ( <i>Bohush</i> )
Archpriest Jonathan	Archpriest Paul	

### Those Serving in The Armed Forces

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

### Catechumens

Juanita Martha, Selathiel

**For All of our Parishioners and their families, the communicants of this holy house, those who pray here, our loved ones and their families and for those who are praying with us today and all of those whom we have in our hearts and minds**

**For All of our parishioners who are in hospitals, nursing home, and those who are homebound.**

**For All of the ill-afflicted of our parishes and families especially those affected with the Coronavirus and other ailments and for their continued full recovery and good health**

**For All of our doctors, nurses, physicians, and medical professionals**

**For our Nation that The Lord our God will continue to bless us and guide and teach us to love another, pray for one another and forgive one another.**

**For All of those who are travelling and for their safe journey and return to their homes**

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**FOR THY DEPARTED SERVANTS OF GOD:**

**For all of those who tragically lost their lives to the Coronavirus and other ailments  
All of the clergy and parishioners of This Holy House who have departed this life, who now lie asleep in the Lord**

Metropolitan THEODOSIUS  
Ever-Memorable Archpriest Eugene  
Ever-Memorable Priest John  
Ever-Memorable Archpriest Rastko  
Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark

Ever-Memorable Archpriest Bernard  
Ever-Memorable Archpriest George  
Ever-Memorable Archpriest George  
Matushka Dorothy  
Khouria Grace

Priest Leonid Gregory, Priest Peter, Archpriest Kirill, Dn. Michael, John Robert, Sister Thomas, Frank, Jenny, Charles, Florence, Michael Stevens, William, George, Marion

Ever-Memorable Pdn Gregory

Ever-Memorable Sbdn Gregory

Martha, Akhtar, Barkat, Rehmat

**Newly-Departed Servants of God**

**Elinor** (*mother of Susan Deeb – 40<sup>th</sup> Day September 5*)

**\*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.**

### **ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE**

As you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our newly-formed Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include: Icon ornaments, jewelry, Icons, prayer books, prayers ropes, and much more. If you need a Gift, come check out the Bookstore...you may find something you like!! We are now also offering Gift Certificates for our Bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information!! We thank David and Andrea Chmiel who are managing of our Bookstore for us. If you have any questions or if you would like to order something that you do not see, please see or contact David or Andrea Chmiel and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at: [bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com](mailto:bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com). May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

**Also in the Parish Fellowship Hall, we have the Giving Tree! If anyone would like to sign up for 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  
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!

### **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!**

**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!**

**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 EDUCATION CENTER**

## **Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord**

**(First of the three “Feasts of the Savior” in August)**



The origin of this Feast is explained in the Greek *Horologion* of 1897: “Because of the illnesses which occur during the month of August, it was customary at Constantinople to carry the Precious Wood of the Cross in procession throughout the city for its sanctification, and to deliver it from sickness.”

On the eve (July 31), the Cross was removed from the imperial treasury and placed it upon the Holy Table of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (which is dedicated to Christ, the Wisdom of God). From August 1 until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, there was a procession throughout the entire the city, and then the Cross was placed where all the people could venerate it.

In the Russian Church this Feast is combined with the remembrance of the Baptism of Rus on August 1, 988. In the “The order of services for the holy, catholic, and apostolic Great Church of the Dormition,” which was compiled in 1627 by order of Patriarch Philaret of Moscow and All Rus, there is a similar explanation of the Feast: "On the day of the Procession of the Precious Cross there is a Cross Procession with the Sanctification of Water, for the enlightenment of the people, in all the towns and places."

Knowledge of the day of the actual Baptism of Rus is preserved in the Chronicles of the XVI century: “The Baptism of the Great Prince Vladimir of Kiev and of all Rus took place on August 1.”

In the current practice of the Russian Church, the service of the Lesser Sanctification of Water on August 1 takes place either before or after Liturgy. Because of the Blessing of Water, this first Feast of the Savior in August is sometimes called “the Savior of the Water.” Along with the Blessing of Water, there may also be a Blessing of Honey (thus it is also called “the Savior of the Honey),” because on this day, the newly-gathered honey is blessed and tasted.

## **Righteous Eudocimus of Cappadocia**



Saint Eudocimus, a native of Cappadocia (Asia Minor), lived during the ninth century during the reign of Emperor Theophilus (829-842). He was the son of the pious Christians Basil and Eudokia, an illustrious family known to the emperor. They raised their son “in discipline and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6: 4), planting in his soul a sincere faith and holy virtues.

The righteous life of Saint Eudocimus was devoted to pleasing God and serving his neighbor. Having given a vow to remain unmarried and chaste, he avoided conversation with women and did not look at them. He would speak only with his own mother, whom he greatly respected. The emperor valued his virtue and talents, so he appointed Saint Eudocimus as governor of Chorziene, Armenia. Fulfilling his duty as a servant of God, Saint Eudocimus governed the people justly and with kindness. He concerned himself with the unfortunate, and with orphans and widows, and he was a defender of the common people. His personal Christian exploits which he did in secret, were known only to God.

Eudocimus pleased God by his blameless life, and the Lord called him at age 33. Lying on his deathbed, Saint Eudocimus gave final instructions to place him in the grave in those clothes in which he would meet death. Then he sent everyone out of the room and entreated the Lord that no one would see his end, just as no one saw his secret efforts during life. His attendants buried him as he had instructed them. Right after the death of Saint Eudocimus miracles took place at his grave. Many sick people were healed, and the news of the miraculous healings spread.

After 18 months, the mother of Saint Eudocimus came from Constantinople to venerate his relics. She gave orders to remove the stone, dig up the ground, and open the grave. Everyone



beheld the face of the saint, bright as if alive, altogether untouched by decay. A great fragrance came from him. They took up the coffin with the relics from the earth, and they dressed the saint in new clothes. His mother wanted to take the relics of her son to Constantinople, but the Kharsian people would not clear a path for their holy one. After a certain time the hieromonk Joseph, having lived and served at the grave of the saint, transported the relics of Saint Eudocimus to Constantinople. There they were placed in a silver reliquary in the church of the Most Holy Theotokos, built by the parents of the saint.

Saint Eudocimus is considered by the Russian Church to be one of the special protectors and intercessors before God of the family hearth. He was, as his name implies, truly successful in every virtue.

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## The Dormition Fast



The Dormition fast was established as preceding the great feasts of the Transfiguration of the Lord and of the Dormition of the Mother of God. It lasts two weeks – from August 1-14.

The Dormition fast comes down to us from the early days of Christianity.

We find a clear reference to the Dormition fast in a conversation of Leo the Great from around the year 450 A.D. “The Church fasts are situated in the year in such a way that a special abstinence is prescribed for each time. Thus, for spring there is the spring fast ] – the Forty Days[Great Lent; for summer there is the summer fast... [the Apostles’ fast]; for autumn there is the autumn fast, in the seventh month [Dormition fast]; for winter there is the winter fast [Nativity fast].”

St. Symeon of Thessalonica writes that, “The fast in August [Dormition fast] was established in honor of the Mother of God the Word; Who, foreknowing Her repose, ascetically labored and fasted for us as always, although She was holy and immaculate, and had no need for fasting. Thus, She especially prayed for us in preparation for being transported from this life to the future life, when Her blessed soul would be united

through the Divine spirit with Her Son. Therefore, we also should fast and praise Her, emulating Her life, urging Her thereby to pray for us. Some, by the way, say that this fast was instituted on the occasion of two feasts – the Transfiguration and the Dormition. I also consider it necessary to remember these two feasts – one which gives us light, and the other which is merciful to us and intercedes for us.”

The spiritual fast is closely united with the bodily, just as our soul is united with the body, penetrates it, enlivens it, and makes one united whole with it, as the soul and body make one living human being. Therefore, in fasting bodily we must at the same time fast spiritually: “Brothers, in fasting bodily let us also fast spiritually, severing all union with unrighteousness,” the Holy Church enjoins us.

The main thing in fasting bodily is restraint from abundant, tasty and sweet foods; the main thing in fasting spiritually is restraint from passionate, sinful movements that indulge our sensual inclinations and vices. The former is renunciation of the more nourishing foods for fasting food, which is less nourishing; the latter is the renunciation of our favorite sins for exercise in the virtues which oppose them. The essence of the fast is expressed in the following Church hymn: “If you fast from food, my soul, but are not purified of the passions, in vain do we comfort ourselves by not eating. For if the fast does not bring correction, then it will be hateful to God as false, and you will be like unto the evil demons, who never eat.”

## **SERMON ON THE GOSPEL LESSON MATTHEW 9:27-35**

*Archpriest Vsevolod Shpiller*

Today’s Gospel reading tells of the healing of two blind men. Every Gospel narrative, just as every word of the Gospel, conceals immeasurable meaning. This is because the Gospel speaks of eternal and timeless truths, of the eternal truth of life in God. Today’s Gospel reading likewise speaks of eternal truths that are of great importance to our everyday lives. It speaks of the love of God for man and of the love of man for God; of the fact that God never leaves us without His merciful assistance. Whatever may befall us, God will never leave us in either trouble or woe – if only we remain with Him through our faith in Him, our love for Him, and our fidelity to Him in our lives.

Here come the two blind men of the Gospel, crying out: “Have mercy on us, Jesus!” They are very persistent. They know and believe in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ without any doubt whatsoever. They follow Him into someone’s house, continuing to ask and plead: “Heal us!” The Lord asks them: “Do you believe in Me? Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They reply: “Yes, Lord, of course we believe!” Then He touches their eyes and they are opened – the blind men recover their sight.

We all resemble these two blind men in our spiritual blindness – and not in this alone. We resemble these ailing people, who were tormented by their infirmities, in both our spiritual and bodily infirmities, which torment us as did theirs; and in that, like them, we continue to ask for things from the Lord: for the alleviation of suffering, for our healing, for the return of our health and the joy of life, which we have somehow lost. But, brethren, we do not always resemble them in their faith in the Lord and in His power. We do not resemble them in their fidelity to God, which is not as strong and undoubting as that of these two blind men. Is that not why we remain unhealed?

All our suffering – both individual and general – and all the pangs of life come about because we are under the control of the passions. It is they that compel us to work for sin, that is, for evil; it is they that rob us of the true joy of life. They extinguish the flame that gives true light and warmth to the heart. While initially they seem to add to our lives, they in fact devastate them. Disillusionment comes next, and the soul grows cold and hard. Without our noticing it, we sometimes give into the passions and they cripple both our own lives and those of the people around us. Alas, we give into them too easily, thereby obscuring the light of the image and likeness of God according to which we were created.

But the passions can only overshadow the image of God in us, brethren, but not destroy it – for the image of God in man is indestructible. The passions in us are not all-powerful; their dominance, even over the very worst sinner, is not unlimited. The power of the passions over the soul can be overcome; the heart can free itself, becoming changed and sanctified. Everyone that has come into this world can be enlightened and illumined by that same Divine power that gave sight to the two blind men of today's Gospel reading. This power is Divine grace, which is given to all who seek it. One only needs to seek it, to desire it with faith and love for God – and, certainly, with fidelity to Him in mind, will, and all one's heart.

Brothers and sisters, we have often heard sermons from this ambo concerning the teaching of the Holy Fathers of Christ's Church about Divine grace. And who among us has not in fact experienced the action of Divine power to a greater or lesser extent? We know that it is by this Divine power, by this Divine energy, that man is made a partaker of the Divine. ["We are partakers of the Divine,"](#) in the wondrous words, familiar to you all, of St. Gregory Palamas. We revere him above all for his sublime and inspired teaching about the Divine energies, which disclose God to the world and unite us with God.

But it is not enough only to know about the Divine power that abides eternally in the world. It is not enough to know about this even by experience, only in memory and the remembrance of the past; most likely each one of us has felt the grace of God momentarily touch our sinful hearts in miraculous manner. We need to want it unwearyingly and strive to acquire it actively, that we might be with God and in God; that the light of the image of God might never be extinguished in our hearts; and that true joy might never be taken away from us.

Brethren, let us not despair and lose heart in the darkness of sin and evil that envelops our souls. Let us not imagine that darkness, sin, and evil – and the grief that accompanies them – are our inescapable destiny. No! *God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.* Let us endeavor to possess humility, and then God's power will certainly raise us from the lowest

depressions of our sinful fallenness. Let us try to acquire at least this one Christian virtue, and then we are bound to feel the wondrous action of His grace-filled energy illuminating our souls. These are the Savior's words: *To whom will I look, but unto the humble and the meek* [Isaiah 66:2]. Let us try to become meek. Let us thus rearrange our relations with people, both near and far. Then the power of God's mercy will not leave us and the power of Divine grace will not depart from us. It will unfailingly heal our infirmities of both soul and body.

The Lord Jesus Christ walked the earth very long ago, healing every infirmity and disease in people, just as He healed these two blind men of the Gospel who had unwavering faith in Him. Now, too, the Lord Jesus Christ heals all who have faith in Him throughout the entire world with that same Divine power, granting them peace, true joy, and salvation. Let us believe Him, as the two blind men believed Him. Let us, brethren, be faithful like them in our faith and love for Him. And let us glorify throughout all the earth His most wondrous and majestic Divine Name. Amen.

## **WHY DO WE BLESS HONEY ON THE FEAST OF THE PROCESSION OF THE CROSS**

### **August 1**

The Procession of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: In the Greek Horologion of 1897 the derivation of this Feast is explained: "Because of the illnesses that occur in August, it was customary, in former times, to carry the Venerable Wood of the Cross through the streets and squares of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city, and for relief from sickness. On the eve (July 31), it was taken out of the imperial treasury, and laid upon the altar of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (the Wisdom of God). From this Feast until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, they carried the Cross throughout the city in procession, offering it to the people to venerate. This also is the Procession of the Venerable Cross."

In the Russian Church this Feast is combined also with the remembrance of the Baptism of Rus, on August 1, 988. In the "Account of the Order of Services in the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Great Church of the Dormition," compiled in 1627 by order of Patriarch Philaret of Moscow and All Rus, there is the following explanation of the Feast: "On the day of the Procession of the Venerable Cross there is a church procession for the sanctification of water and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places."

Knowledge of the day of the actual Baptism of Rus was preserved in the Chronicles of the sixteenth century: "The Baptism of the Great Prince Vladimir of Kiev and all Rus was on August 1."

In the present practice of the Russian Church, the Lesser Sanctification of Water on August 1 is done either before or after Liturgy. Because of the Blessing of Water, this first Feast of the Savior in August is sometimes called 'Savior of the Water.' There may also be a Blessing of New Honey today, which is why the Feast is also called "Savior of the Honey." From this day the newly gathered honey is blessed and tasted.

**WHY DO WE BLESS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES  
ON THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**

**August 6**

The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God's unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

This is an ancient Christian custom. The first week of August, on the sixth of August, the farmers use to gather the early fruits of their summer harvest (grapes, figs etc.) and to present them in the Church to be blessed and to give them for free to congregation. These fruits are called the "beginnings".

In a text from the 7th century ("the laws of the kingdom" by emperor Constantine Porfirogenitos) this custom is described vividly: "The Emperor of Constantinople gathers the "beginnings" ("aparches") in Chalcedone, where there are many vines, and then he waits for the Patriarch of Constantinople to come on the the Holiday of Transfiguration, to bless the fruits and to personally hand out the grapes to the laymen".

This custom is honored in many places in Greece where there are plantation with vines.

We must not forget that the Church was presented once as a "vine". So, [the] Church blesses the first fruits of vine giving a "theological" meaning to farmer's work.

**SERVICES AND EVENTS WITH THE LIFE OF ST. GEORGE PARISH**

**1) DORMITION FAST – MONDAY AUGUST 1 to MONDAY AUGUST 15**

**2) BLESSING OF WATER**

**FEAST OF THE CROSS/BEGINNING OF THE DORMITION FAST**

**MONDAY AUGUST 1, 2022**

**MOLEBEN AND AKATHIST SERVICE FOLLOWED BY BLESSING OF WATER– 9:00 AM**

**FRIDAY AUGUST 5 & SATURDAY AUGUST 6**

*Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

**Friday August 5, 2022**

**Great Vespers with Litiya followed by Blessing of Fruits and Vegetables – 6:00 PM**

**Saturday August 6, 2022**

**Divine Liturgy followed by**

**Blessing of Fruits and Vegetables – 9:00 AM**  
**Great Vespers – 4:00 PM**

**3) 110<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING/ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR  
2022-2023 PARISH CALENDAR**

SUNDAY AUGUST 7, 2022

**4) FR. JASON, MAT. KATIA, ANNA, ALEX, AND MT. FRAN AWAY ON VACATION  
AUGUST 10-22, 2022**

\*\*FR. PETER WILL BE SERVING GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY AUGUST 13&20

\*\*FR. PETER WILL BE SERVING DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY AUGUST 14&21

**THE FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS**

FR. PETER WILL BE SERVING DIVINE LITURGY FOLLOWED BY BLESSING OF FLOWERS  
AND HERBS ON MONDAY AUGUST 15

**SATURDAY AUGUST 27, 2022**

**Great Vespers – 4:00 PM**

**Parish Council Meeting via Zoom – 5:15 PM**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28 & MONDAY AUGUST 29 (Strict Fast Day)**

*Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist*

**Sunday August 28, 2022**

**The Hours – 9:10 AM**

**Divine Liturgy followed by Vespers – 9:30 AM**

**Monday August 28, 2022 (Strict Fast Day)**

**Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28, 2022**

*Chicken/Beef Chowder Sale (Mike Dan)*  
*and Zoo Trip (Robin Damiano)*

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**  
**BEGINNING OF THE NEW LITURGICAL CHURCH YEAR**

*Moleben Prayer Service – 6:00 PM*

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2022**

*9/11 Memorial Prayer Service – 9:30 AM*

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2022**

*OPENING OF CHURCH SCHOOL*

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**

*Mini Byzantine Dinner (Patti Fiden)*

**OCTOBER 30, 2022**

*Chili Cook-Off*

*Trunk or Treat Fall Festival*

**NOVEMBER 13, 2022**

*Stewardship Thanksgiving Luncheon (PC)*

**DECEMBER 17, 2022**

*Cookie Walk/Bake Sale (Mat. Fran)*

*Fun White Elephant Auction*

**\*\*PLEASE SHARE THESE FEASTS, DIVINE SERVICES,  
AND EVENTS WITH EVERYONE!!\*\***