

**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)

**26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1. Sunday of the Forefathers.**  
 Ven. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople (489-490). Ven. Nikon the Dry of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—12th c.). Martyrs Mirax, Acepisus and Aithalas, of Egypt (7th c.). Ven. Luke the New Stylite of Chalcedon

**EPISTLE:**  
 Colossians 3:4-11

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**GOSPEL:**  
 Luke 14:16-24

**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 Vigil Candles are offered by Anthony DeNuovo 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.

## **HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY**

### **Troparion for The Resurrection – Tone 1**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

### **Troparion for The Holy Forefathers – Tone 2**

Through faith Thou didst justify the Forefathers, betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles. These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit: she who bore Thee without seed.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

### **Kontakion for The Resurrection – Tone 1**

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Thyself, Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished! Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee: Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

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

### **Kontakion for The Holy Forefathers – Tone 6**

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: “Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, // for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!”

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 4**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

*v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!*

### **ALLELUIA VERSES**

*Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.*

*They called to the Lord and He answered them.*

### **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!

## EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

### **Brethren:**

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

## GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

### **Let us Attend!**

Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'

Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'

Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

## **THE MONTHLY SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2022**

**DECEMBER 2022**{Nativity Fast Begins: Nov. 15-Dec. 24}

- 11 - Youth Sunday (Children Sermon and Children Sing during The Liturgy)  
ANNUAL CHURCH SCHOOL ST. NICHOLAS PROGRAM
- 12 - Eve of the Feast of St. Herman of Alaska  
Great Vespers with Litiya at 6:00 PM
- 13 - Feast of St. Herman of Alaska  
Divine Liturgy at 9:00 AM
- 17 - Holiday Cookie Walk/Bake Sale  
Great Vespers - 4:00 PM Parish Council Meeting (Via Zoom) (5:15pm)
- 18 - Elephant Sale  
Make Health/Snack Kits for Mats for Mission

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

- \*\*Bring New Pajamas for patients at Roswell Park\*\***
- \*\*Christmas Cookies are due for Hearts for Homeless\*\***
- \*\*Christmas Gifts are due for Church School Nativity Project\*\***
- \*\* Non-Perishable Food Items are due for Resurrection Life Food Pantry\*\***

19-23 - Little Compline Service - 6:30 PM

24/25 - THE GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

**December 23**

9:00 AM - The Service of Royal Hours

**December 24** (Eve of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord) (STRICT FAST)

9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Vespers

4:30 PM - Nativity Vigil Service

**December 25** (The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:30 AM - Festal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
(Brunch in Parish Fellowship Hall)

**December 26** (2<sup>nd</sup> Day of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:00 AM - Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom  
Nativity Luncheon at Church following Divine Liturgy

**December 27** (3<sup>rd</sup> Day of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:00 AM - Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

30 - Church School Outing to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine for Festival of Lights

31 - **Eve of Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord/St. Basil the Great/New Year's Day  
Great Vespers with Litiya - 4:00 PM**

*\*Church School Children decorate Holy Water Bottles at home with parents  
and bring back to church on Sunday January 10 for Blessing of Water!\**

\*Education Sermon on Sunday December 18\*

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### BIBLE STUDY /ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

EVERY TUESDAY (6:30 - 8:00 PM)

### ADULT EDUCATION/BIBLE STUDY

EVERY WEDNESDAY (10:00 - 11:30 AM)

### BOOK CLUB

EVERY MONDAY DURING THE NATIVITY FAST AND GREAT LENT  
(7:00 to 8:00 PM)

December 12      December 19

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

## ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH (Buffalo, NY) PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRIES

To the Glory of God, every year our beloved parish family answers The Call of Our Lord of ministering to those in need by fulfilling The Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ with participating in 5 on-going Parish Outreach Ministries within the local Buffalo Area on an on-going basis and especially during the Nativity Season.

Every year, we look forward to another wonderful blessed Nativity Season of bringing the joy, the love, and the peace of The Nativity of Our Lord to everyone especially through the following the outreach ministries:

**Hearts for The Homeless** – which is a mobile soup kitchen/thrift shop that feeds the poor and chronic homeless on the street. Characterized by a profound spiritual motivation. The program offers nourishing food, as well as clothing, pertinent information regarding area services, companionship and hope for the future.

- Each Month we collect a different canned good/non-perishable food item along with hygiene products and drop them off at the Hearts for The Homeless Distribution Center

**Buffalo City Mission** – exists to meet the spiritual and practical needs of the poor through the demonstration of the love and preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in providing love, care, shelter, food, and other means necessary to those in need.

- Each Month we collect hygiene products, clothing for men, women, and children and drop them off at the Buffalo City Mission Distribution Center

**HomeSpace** – is a local community organization ministering to local teens and pre-teen moms which provides comprehensive care to 14-21 yr old moms (providing those essential items necessary for caring for their children: diapers, wipes, baby food, clothing (infants through 7/8 years old).

Homespace Corporation supports at-risk young women to achieve independence two generations at a time.

- Each Month we collect hygiene products, clothing for young women and children along with those essential items necessary for caring for their children: diapers, wipes, baby food, clothing (infants through 7/8 years old) and drop them off at the HomeSpace Distribution Center

**Mats for Mission/Resurrection Life Food Pantry** – A Local Organization assisting with providing rest mats made out of plastic bags for the less fortunate as well as providing food and other means necessary to those in need.

- Each Month we collect plastic bags as well as canned goods and non-perishable food items and drop them off at the Resurrection Life Food Pantry Distribution Center.
- Beginning in January 2022, our church school children will be volunteering here on a regular basis assisting with collecting and sorting out Food Bags for those in need.

**Baker Victory** – A Local Organization dedicated to fostering the highest possible quality of life and personal achievement by partnering with children, adults, their families and the WNY community through a diverse array of social, health and human services.

- Twice a year we collect gifts and other essential items necessary for the children and drop them off at the Baker Victory Distribution Center.

**\*\*We also support Compass Care Pro-Life Agency on a regular basis!**

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**MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU**  
**FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!**  
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**Remember our Loved Ones during Our Daily Prayers**

*‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’*  
 {Matt. 25:40}

As we say our daily prayers, let us also take time out to remember our loved ones who are homebound, who are in hospitals and who are in nursing homes. Let us remember them that GOD will continue to watch over them and protect them. Also, during the Year, let us take to either send them a card, give them a call, or visit them to let them know how much we love them, how much we remember them, and how much we pray for them.

Please refer to the of our Parish Shut-Ins below.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless you and guide you!

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH SHUT-INS (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)
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Mr. Albert Fadell  
317.376.2562

Andrew Wityk  
Ellicott Center  
200 Seventh Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201

## THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 2022 YOUTH SUNDAY

The Hours – 9:40 AM    Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Special Coffee Hour Luncheon in The Parish Fellowship following Divine Liturgy  
**Annual Church School St. Nicholas/Nativity Program  
in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy**

### MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2022

**The Eve of The Feast of The Repose of St. Herman of Alaska**

Great Vespers– 6:00 PM

St. George Book Club (Via Zoom) – 7:00 to 8:00 PM

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2022

**The Feast of The Repose of St. Herman of Alaska**

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

### WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2022

Adult Education Class (Via Zoom) – 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Little Compline – 6:00 PM

Bible Study/Adult Education Class (Via Zoom) – 6:45-8:00 PM

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 15, 2022

Akathist to Our Lord – 9:00 AM

### SATURDAY DECEMBER 17, 2022

Assembling Christmas Cookie Trays – 10:00 AM

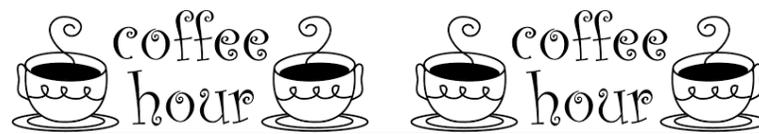
Great Vespers– 4:00 PM

### SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 2022

**THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

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

Special Coffee Hour Luncheon in The Parish Fellowship following Divine Liturgy  
Church School Class in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy



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

When hosting coffee hour, please check the refrigerators in the Parish Fellowship Hall the week before we are hosting 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 or using the dishwasher following Coffee Hour, please see or contact Mat. Katia.

**If there is no host for coffee hour, then we will not have coffee hour on that particular Sunday.**

Also, during The Nativity Fast, when hosting coffee hour, please keep in mind that we will be observing ALL Fasting Guidelines as prescribed by The Church and refrain from using meat and dairy products.

Please refer to the email from Mat. Fran to see which Sundays are available to host coffee hour.

If we do not have a host for a particular Sunday,  
then we will not have coffee hour!

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](tel:610.698.1666)/[frances.vansuch@yahoo.com](mailto:frances.vansuch@yahoo.com))

May all of us have a Blessed, Holy  
and Prayerful Nativity Fast 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!



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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 TIKHON      Archbishop MICHAEL  
Archbishop BENJAMIN      Archbishop ALEJO  
Archbishop NATHANIEL      Archbishop 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 Robert  
Archpriest Andreja, Popadija Anica and Family  
Archpriest Timmothy      Priest Peter and Mat. Mary  
Dn. Sean and Mat. Heather      Archpriest John (Onofrey)

#### **MATUSHKI**

Mat. Katia      Mat. Paraskeva      Mat. Joanna      Popadia Vicki      Christine  
Mat. Patricia      Mat. Gloria      Popadija Sara      Mat. Gayle      Mat. Natasha

Catherine      Ivan/Marina/Inna      Bonnie/Silviu      Coard Karen      Aliscia  
Walter/Paul      Edwina, Irene      Luba      Jim, Darren, Marsha  
Iman.Serena/Asma, Sarah, Lillian, Olga      Reader Victor      Nicholas, Andrew, Theresa  
Xenia, Justin, Danielle      Albert      Frank      June  
Marilyn      Amanda, Chase, Ronald, Candice      Boris      Oscar  
Larry Joseph Frank      Billy      Clyde      Amy  
Victor Catherine      Susan      Svetlana      Juliana  
Evelyn      Robert      Paul      Brian  
Jeanne Angela, Jason, Michelle      Linda      Justin      John, Helen  
Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria, Tyler      Ashley      Steven      Barbara  
Lia/Isaiah      Lee, Bridget      Matthew      William  
Melody Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas      Sada, Charles, Thisinitsa, Gemmal,  
Geesa, and Patric  
Olga and Eugene      Jeremy Stewart      Susan      Mary      John  
Susan Justin Louis Alex      John, Kevin, Sean      Anthony      Aldona, Melinda  
Yuri/Elena      James      Lee, Benjamin, Harry Patrick  
Jaime/Sammy, Juliana      Anthony      Roscoe      Rosemary  
Aspasia/Stavros, Harry      Charles, Seraphim      Emma/Alexander  
Elias, John, Joseph, Nadim, Theresa      Amelia, Emily  
Vadym Iryna Yuriy Anastasia  
Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber, Judithann Anita, James, Jeffry, Dominic,  
Douglas, Rachel, Dennis  
Brian John, Roberta, Barbara John, Michael John      Ron, Illiana, Jillian, Joel

George Costa Jonathan, Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Clara, Karl, Dragica, Mary  
Stephen, Larry, Olga, Olga, Sally, Deborah, David  
Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga,  
Alexandra, Barbara, Damian  
Kyriaki and Konstantinos (*Pete Thanos parents*)      Amy (*friend of Molly Burke*)

Children of God –Keely, Isla, Talia, Lane, Liam  
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  
Archpriest Jonathan      Archpriest Paul

#### **Those Serving in The Armed Forces**

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

#### **Catechumens**

William and Darlene

**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 HERMAN

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

John (Hutnyan) - Grandfather of Danielle Geeza [Spiritual Daughter of Fr. Jason]

40<sup>th</sup> Day - December 13

Dean (Uncle of Mariami Bekauri)

**\*If anyone would like to have their loved ones added to the prayer list  
for remembrance during the Divine Liturgy and Divine Services, 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. 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!**

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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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**2022 POINSETTIA SALE SIGN-UP SHEET**

We are once again looking for donations for our Christmas Poinsettias to adorn and decorate our church during The Nativity Season. We will be ordering 15 Poinsettias this year.

**\*\*ALL POINSETTIAS ARE A \$10.00 DONATION! PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH (Memo Line: Poinsettia Sale)**

**\*\*PLEASE SEE PATTI FIDEN FOR PAYMENT!**

**IF ANYONE HAS ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE SEE MATUSHKA FRAN OR FR. JASON!**

**ORDERS DUE SUNDAY DECEMBER 11**

We extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you and your families for your continued prayers and support.

May GOD continue to bless us and guide us as we grow together in faith and in love as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Joyous Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord GOD and Savior Jesus Christ!

**\*\*POINSETTIAS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING THE FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY ON CHRISTMAS DAY – DECEMBER 25!!**

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**THE 2022 PARISH NATIVITY CHRISTMAS CARD**



FORMS DUE SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

As we enter into The Nativity Fast, we are always finding ways that we can bring the Love and Joy of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ to everyone. One of these ways is to send a Christmas Card to our loved ones during this Holy Season. The idea of sending a Parish Christmas Card is to extend the greetings and prayerful best wishes of The Nativity of Our Lord to our families, friends, and neighbors.

Continuing with our Annual Parish Tradition with the sending of a Parish Christmas Card, we come to all of you – our dear Parish Family for your support in bringing the Love and Joy of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ to everyone during this Holy Season. The cost is only \$20 per family.

If we would like to have our name in the Christmas Card, please fill out the attached form with how we would like our name to appear in the card and hand it in to Matushka Katia or Matushka Fran no later Sunday December 11 along with your payment of \$20.00. Besides our names, we will also have a Nativity Message and Greeting from our parish family.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself (716-875-4222)/jvansuch@hotmail.com or Matushka Katia (609-851-3811) / katia.vansuch@gmail.com or Matushka Fran (610-698-1666)/fances.vansuch@yahoo.com

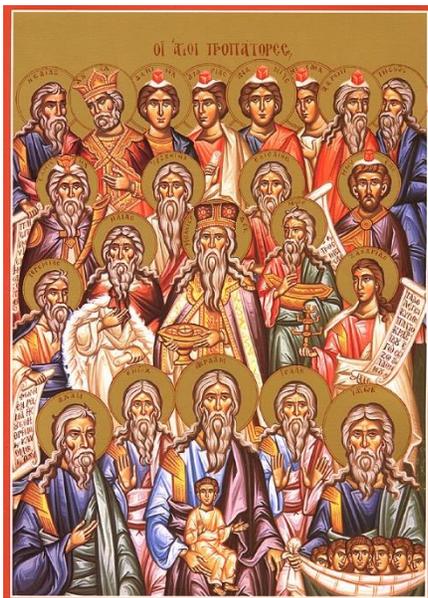
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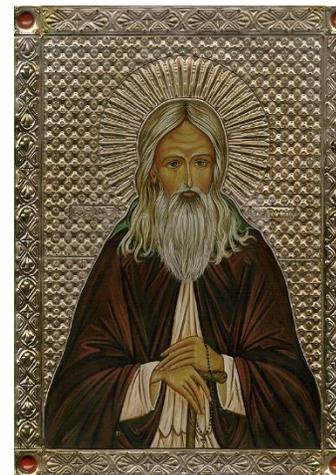
**DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE CELEBRATED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING AT 9:30 AM DURING THE NATIVITY FAST!**

# **The Sunday of The Holy Forefathers**

## **December 11**



The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, “In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).



### **The Repose of St. Herman of Alaska Commemorated on December 13**

SAINT HERMAN OF ALASKA is often referred to as the first American saint. Born in Russia, he entered the monastic life when he was only sixteen. He would eventually take up abode in the Valaam Monastery on Lake Ladoga. When a mission of monks was organized in 1793 to travel to North America, St. Herman was part of that effort. Russian merchants had discovered the Aleutian Islands and, in addition to their trading endeavors they found a great need to bring the Gospel of Christ to the native inhabitants. St. Herman would settle on Spruce Island, calling his home "New Valaam." The rugged island was heavily forested, but the pious monk enjoyed the solitude it brought him. Earthly pleasures meant nothing to him. He dug a cave with his own hands where he lived for more than 40 years. He humbly wore the same clothing every day; he used two bricks for a pillow and he covered himself at night with a board rather than a blanket.

Although only a simple monk and not an ordained priest, St. Herman soon gained a reputation for being a great spiritual teacher. He established a school and enjoyed teaching the native

children about Christ. He particularly loved to teach them the prayers and hymns of the Church. Young and old alike would listen spell-bound for hours to his sermons.

St. Herman also became known for his wondrous works and miracles as well. A great flood once threatened Spruce Island, and the inhabitants came to their blessed Elder in great fear. He took an icon of the Theotokos, placed it on a sandy bank and began to pray. Amazingly, the progress of the waters was impeded immediately! A forest fire broke out once on Spruce Island. St. Herman dug a simple trench and proclaimed: "The fire will not pass this line." It did not!

St. Herman of Alaska died in the same cave in which he had lived for all those years on Spruce Island. His final words were a statement of his entire philosophy of life: "GLORY TO THEE, O LORD."

### **A Prayer to St. Herman of Alaska Wonderworker of All America**

O Almighty God, We praise and glorify You, Our Lord and Creator. All the earth and everything within it acknowledges You as Creator, The Eternal Father.

Heaven and Earth, Angels and Men, together, praise and glorify You, the most glorious company of Apostles, the praiseworthy fellowship of Prophets, the great and noble gathering of Martyrs, the whole community of Saints, all praise You.

We the members of the holy community on earth pray: Make us worthy with all the Saints in Heaven, especially the newly glorified Elder, the Blessed Herman of Alaska, to reign in Your everlasting glory.

On this day the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church praises and glorifies You, our God, in joyful thanksgiving. The inheritors and children of the Holy Church of Christ which you, O Blessed Father Herman and your holy companions planted here, now flowering and growing throughout this great continent, gather at your reliquary. We gaze at your Relics in the knowledge that your soul joins together with the Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs, Saints and the Heavenly Hosts before the Throne of the Most Merciful God in praise of the Holy Trinity.

O Blessed Herman of Spruce Island, good teacher of the faith in the Holy Trinity, and our Spiritual Father, intercede before the throne of the Almighty God, for peace within the Church, the dispelling of all disunity, faithlessness and discord.

Come to the aid of our spiritual leaders that they may always be true and effective instruments of the Holy Spirit, with the power to proclaim the evangelical truths, with the wisdom to enlighten the unenlightened, with the spirit to inspire all to love the knowledge of God, with the perseverance to defend the Church, even unto death, from all enemies both within and without and at all times.

May the hearts of your spiritual children be filled with that faith and love of the Holy Church which you manifested in your holy life; praying to Him to: deliver us from the temptations which cause us to fall; renew our child-like faith in our Heavenly Father; replace our trust in God, and in Him alone; satisfy our thirst for the true knowledge of God; teach us to serve God faithfully; transfigure our life that it may truly reflect the image and likeness of God. O Holy Father and Patron of the Church in America: Be a physician to the weak in faith; be a support to the fallen; be a defender to the defenseless; be a bulwark of strength to the weary in spirit; be a guide to the travelers by sea, by land and by air; be our heavenly intercessor.

O Most wondrous, favorite of God, our Blessed Father Herman, as good laborer you did your great spiritual work in a harsh climate in this land! In the little things you were faithful in your service to God: as the Lord said: "You have been faithful of a little, I will set you over much." And now, when this word has been fulfilled for you, the Lord has set you over our whole church as her heavenly protector.

We all call to you in fervent prayer: Pray for our Holy Church. May the Lord keep her pure in Orthodoxy. May He reveal her as an adornment of our land. May He protect her from all the powers of the enemy. May He drive out all adversaries. May He grant us purity of Faith and beauty of soul. Grant us all the Spirit of Peace and Love, the Spirit of Humility and Meekness. Drive out the sin of pride. Save us from self praise. Be our guard from false teachings. Give healing to the sick; to the sorrowful be a comfort. To those who hunger for spiritual truth, give the Heavenly Food, that we may attain our true desire, receiving the good reward at the Final Judgment.

With all the saints we will praise with song: The Life Creating Trinity: The Ineffable Father, the True and Only Begotten Son, the Comforter, Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

O Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, together with all the Saints and the Heavenly Hosts, pray to God that on each of us He will bestow wisdom for our mind, strength for our will, light for our spirit, enabling us to attain to the true peace of life which is from God alone. We praise with joyous and grateful hearts, the Life-Creating Trinity: Father Almighty, Only-Begotten Son, Comforter, Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## The Parable of the Supper

Luke 14:16-24

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

**16-20. Then said He unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and called many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were called, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one accord began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.**

Because the man who sat at table with Him had said, *Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God*, the Lord teaches him at some length what it means to feast with God, and tells this parable. By *a certain man* the Lord means His Father, the Lover of man. Whenever Scripture alludes to God's power to punish, He is called a panther, a leopard, or a bear [Hos. 13:7-8]. But whenever it alludes to God's love for man, He is presented as a man, as is the case here. Since the parable treats of God's extreme love for man and the divine economy of the Incarnation which He worked in us, making us sharers of the Flesh of His Son, the parable calls God *a man* and this divine economy *a great supper*. It is a *supper* because the Lord came in the last days, as it were at the evening of this age. And this supper is *great* because great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our salvation. [I Tim. 3:16] *And he sent his servant at supper time*. Who is this servant? The Son of God, Who assumed the form a servant and became man, and as a man is said to have been sent forth. Notice how He did not say "a servant," but instead, using the definite article, *the servant [of his.]* (1) Christ is the One and only Servant Who in His human nature was perfectly obedient and pleasing to God. For Christ is pleasing to the Father not only as Son and God, but also as Man. He is the only Sinless One Who carried out all the counsels and commandments of the Father and fulfilled all righteousness, and in this sense is said to serve God the Father. He alone can be called the true Servant of God. He was sent *at supper time*, that is, at the appointed and proper time. For there was no other time more opportune for our salvation than the reign of Caesar Augustus, when iniquity had reached its peak and it was critical that it be cleansed. Just as physicians allow a festering and malignant boil to burst and release all its foul pus, and only then apply the medication, so too it was necessary that sin first display all its forms, and then the Great Physician applied His medicine. For this very reason the Lord

waited for the devil to fill the full measure of iniquity, and then the Son of God took flesh and healed every form of iniquity by every aspect of His holy life. Therefore He was sent at that hour, that is, at that comely and opportune season of which David says, *Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O Mighty One, in Thy comeliness.* (2) Certainly the *sword* here signifies the Word of God [Heb. 4:12], while the words *upon Thy thigh* indicate His Nativity in the flesh which was *in comeliness*, that is, when the time was right and seemly. He was sent to speak to those who had been called. Who are those *that were called*? Perhaps this refers to all men. For God has called all to the knowledge of Him, by means of the order and harmony of visible creation, and by means of the natural law. But those *that were called* are also, more specifically, the children of Israel, who were called through the law and the prophets. In the first place, then, the Lord was sent to the sheep of the house of Israel. [Mt. 15:24] The Lord was saying to all the Jews, *Come, for all things are now ready*, when He proclaimed the good tidings that *the kingdom of heaven is at hand* [Mt. 4:17], and *among you* [Lk. 17:21].

*And they all with one accord began to make excuse*, that is, as if at a signal. For all the leaders of the Jews refused to have Jesus as their King, and thus were found unworthy of the supper, one because of his love of wealth, and another because of his love of pleasure. The man who bought a piece of ground and the man who bought the five yoke of oxen signify those who love wealth, while the man who married a wife signifies those who love pleasure. Furthermore, the man who bought a piece of ground signifies the man who cannot accept the mystery of faith because he is governed by the wisdom of this world. The piece of ground represents the world and, in general, nature, and the man who must *go and see his piece of ground* is he who sees only nature, and cannot accept what is beyond nature. Therefore the Pharisee, for example, "sees his piece of ground," that is, he looks only at the laws of nature and cannot accept that a Virgin gave birth to God, because that is beyond nature. Because they are examining this "piece of ground," that is, nature, none of those who boast in external wisdom have recognized Jesus Who made nature new. The man who bought five yoke of oxen, and tested them, also represents a man who loves the material world. He has yoked the five senses of the soul to the five senses of the body and has made the soul into flesh. For this reason he is concerned only with the earth and does not desire to commune of the rational Supper, for as Wisdom says, *How can he get wisdom that holdeth the plough?* [Eccles. (Wis. of Sirach) 38:25] He who stays behind because of a wife is a lover of pleasure who has devoted himself to the flesh, the mate of the soul. By cleaving to the flesh he cannot please God. You may also understand these things literally. We also fall away from God because of fields, because of yokes of oxen, because of marriages, when we become so attached to them that they consume our whole life and we are carried away even to the point of

shedding blood over them. Then there is no divine thought or word that we can practice, or even comprehend.

**21-24. So that servant came, and declared to his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were called shall taste of my supper.**

The rulers of the Jews were rejected, and not one of them believed in Christ. And they even boasted of their malice, saying, *Have any of the rulers believed on Him?* [Jn. 7:48] Therefore these students of the law and scribes, as the prophet says, became foolish and fell from grace. But the simple from among the Jews are likened to the halt, the blind, and the maimed. It is the foolish of this world, the lowly, who were called. For the multitude marvelled at the words of grace which proceeded from the mouth of Jesus, and they rejoiced in His teaching. But after these had come to Him from the sons of Israel, that is, from the chosen whom God foreordained for His glory, such as Peter, and the sons of Zebedee, and the tens of thousands of those Jews who believed, then God's goodness was poured out also upon the Gentiles. For those who are in *the highways and hedges* mean the Gentiles. The Israelites were within the city, inasmuch as they had received the lawgiving and inherited a civil and moral way of life. But the Gentiles were strangers to the Covenants, and the lawgiving of Christ was foreign to them. They were not fellow citizens of the saints, and did not travel the one true path, but instead followed many highways of lawlessness and coarseness, and were to be found in the hedges, that is, in sins. For sin is a great hedge and middle wall which separates us from God. By *highways* He signifies the Gentiles' coarse way of life, which led them to so many false beliefs. By *hedges* He signifies their life of sins. The master does not command his servant simply to call all those in the highways and hedges, but to *compel them to come in*, although each man is free whether to believe or not. But He uses the word *compel* to teach us that it is a sign of God's great power that the Gentiles, who were in such ignorance, came to believe. If the power of the preaching and the might of the word of truth had not been so great, how could men who were crazed with idol worship and practiced unspeakable things have been persuaded all at once to know the true God, and to perfect a spiritual life? He called this "compulsion" to show the miraculousness of their change. One might say that the pagan Greeks did not want to leave their idols and their rich feasting, yet they were compelled to flee from them by the truth of the Gospel. Also, the power of the miracles He

worked was a strong force that induced them to be converted to faith in Christ. Every day this Supper is prepared and we are all invited to the kingdom which God prepared for man even before the foundation of the world. But we are not worthy of this Supper—some of us because of useless philosophical musings, others because of love of material things, and yet others because of pleasures of the flesh. But God in His love for man freely bestows this kingdom upon other sinners, upon the blind who have no spiritual vision to perceive the will of God; or if they can perceive it, upon those who are crippled and unable to take a step to do the will of God. And in short He grants the kingdom of heaven to all the poor who have fallen away from the glory above, and even to the maimed who cannot show forth in themselves a blameless life. To invite these sinners to the Supper, who are wandering astray in the streets and broad avenues of sin, the Father sends His Son Who became a Servant according to the flesh, and Who came not to call the righteous, but sinners. All these He feasts liberally, instead of the clever, the rich, and those who indulge the flesh. By the judgments known to Him alone He sends diseases and dangers upon many, causing them, even against their will, to renounce this life. Thus He leads them to His Supper, "compelling" them by means of the dangers. There are many examples of this. Understood in a simpler way, this parable also teaches us to show favor to the poor and the crippled rather than to the rich, just as He exhorted us to do a short while before. [Lk. 14:13-14] It is for this reason that He tells this parable, to confirm that we must give hospitality to the poor. And we may also learn from this that we should be so eager and generous in welcoming our brethren that, even when they are reluctant, we should compel them to partake of our good things. This is also good advice for teachers: teach what is necessary, even when the students are unwilling.

***LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14***

***YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37***

***YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39***

***LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44***

***LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4***

***LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8***

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

<b>Monday</b>	1 Timothy 5:1-10	Mark 8:11-21
<b>Tuesday</b>	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 6:17-23
	1 Timothy 5:11-21	Mark 8:22-26
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Timothy 5:22-6:11	Mark 8:30-34
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Timothy 6:17-21	Mark 9:10-16
<b>Friday</b>	2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18	Mark 9:33-41
<b>Saturday</b>	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 14:1-11
<b>Sunday</b>	Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40	Matthew 1:1-25

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**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX**  
**CHURCH NATIVITY PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:  
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Greetings to all of you, your families, and our entire parish family as we prepare to begin The Nativity Fast this week!

Once again, this year, as part of our parish outreach ministry during The Nativity Fast and Christmas Season, we are holding collections for the following Ministries within our Greater Buffalo Area:

- 1) **Baker Victory** – Christmas Gifts for Children  
**BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 11**
- 2) **Roswell Park** – New Pajamas for the Patients  
(adult men and women s-m-l-xl/ children boys and girls s-m-l-xl)  
**BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 11**
- 3) **Hearts for Homeless** – Christmas Cookies and Canned Goods/Non-Perishable Items –  
**BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 11**
- 4) **Mats for Mission** - – **New Pairs of Winter Gloves All Sizes –**  
**AT LEAST 15 PAIRS**  
**BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 11**

**St. George Orthodox Church**  
*Annual Holiday Christmas Cookie Tray Sale*

Sunday, December 18, 2022  
12:00-1:30 pm  
Parish Fellowship Hall



Christmas Cookie Trays ~ Christmas Basket Raffle  
Visit our St. George Bookstore featuring items  
for sale from the Orthodox Church and for great Christmas Gifts!  
3 dozen Homemade Cookies for \$20/tray  
~~ ONLY 30 TRAYS AVAILABLE ~~  
Pre-Paid Orders Only are due by Sunday December 11, 2022

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Thank you for your continued love, prayers, support, generosity and stewardship for our Annual Parish Nativity Outreach Ministry Projects, and for all that you do for our parish and throughout the year as well as for the community in which we live, serve, and dwell.

Looking forward to another wonderful blessed Nativity Season of bringing the joy, the love, and the peace of The Nativity of Our Lord to everyone Be assured of my continued love and prayers for you, your families, and our entire parish family. 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 today and always.

Asking for your continued love and prayers,  
I remain, with love in Christ,  
Your Humble Servant,  
Fr. Jason

# Fatima Shrine Festival of Lights

**Friday December 30, 2022  
6:30 PM**



We will walk the beautiful grounds of Fatima Shrine and see the beautiful Festival of Lights (75 displays) spanning over 15 acres of land dedicated to The Glory of God!

In the Main Rotunda behind the Chapel, we will serve a brief prayer service during which we will sing The Tropar and Kontakion for The Nativity of Our Lord followed by Silent Night!

Let us come together during the Nativity Season and enjoy the Joy, Love, Peace and Glory of God in celebration of The Nativity of Our Lord.

What a blessing for us to have this opportunity during the Holy Nativity Season. If anyone would like to carpool, we will be meeting at church around 6:00 PM and then driving up to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine together. If we are driving straight to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, we will meet right outside the Bookstore. If anyone has any question or concerns, please do not hesitate to let Fr. Jason know.

## 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 an annual basis. The cost is only \$600/year. So far we have collected \$650 for next 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.

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



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 18 IS THE LAST DAY TO MAKE A DONATION!!**

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH 2023 HOME BLESSING SCHEDULE**

**NOTES ON THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS YEAR**

For anyone who would like to have their home blessed, we kindly ask that you write your name and date/time that would be best for Fr. Jason to come and visit you and your family and bless your home. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason. Sign-Up Sheet is located in the Parish Fellowship Hall.

As we begin our journey through the Nativity Fast, May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families, and our entire parish family.

- 1) As Fr. Jason makes his pastoral visitations to the homes of the parishioners, he will use the sign-up sheet as a guideline for him to follow.
- 2) I ask your patience when anticipating my visit. I will do my best to reach every home on the scheduled date. I thank you for your understanding.
- 3) If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you and your families!  
Have a blessed and glorious Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and a Blessed, Happy, and Healthy New Year!

With Love in Christ,  
Fr. Jason

**PARISH FAMILY NATIVITY BRUNCH**

*Immediately Following the Festal Divine Liturgy on Christmas Morning*

As is our tradition here at St. George's, we have a Parish Family Nativity Brunch following the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Morning. Please plan on staying and celebrating The Joy, Glory, and Blessing of The Nativity of Our Lord together as a parish family by enjoying a delicious brunch as well as spending time together in fellowship and enjoying our Parish "Christmas Sing-A-Long"!

With that in mind, if anyone would like to bring something for the Parish Family Nativity Brunch, which will be held on SUNDAY DECEMBER 25 in the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy, please bring it with you to church either when you come for The Vigil Prayer Service on Christmas Eve December 24 at 4:30 PM or when you come to church on Christmas Morning (December 25) for The Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM.

So far, we have the following items for our brunch:

French Toast Casserole, Sausage/Egg Casserole

If anyone has any questions or concerns or would like to bring something for the Parish Family Nativity Brunch, please see or contact Mat. Katia who is organizing the Brunch for us. May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families, and our entire parish family during this Holy Nativity Season.

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**BLESSING OF WATERS AT HOYT LAKE  
SUNDAY JANUARY 8, 2023**

On Sunday, January 6, 2019 we will be gathering at Hoyt Lake in Delaware Park for The Annual Blessing of Waters. Invite our families, friends, and neighbors as we come together and celebrate The Great Feast of Holy Theophany. Please refer to the flyer in today's bulletin!!

**Time** – 1:30 PM  
**Location:** Hoyt Lake – Delaware Park

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**THE GREAT BLESSING OF HOLY WATER FOR CHILDREN WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY JANUARY 8 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY!!**

**PARENTS and CHILDREN: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR HOLY WATER BOTTLES WITH YOU ON SUNDAY JANUARY 8.**

**IF ANYONE NEEDS A HOLY WATER BOTTLE, PLEASE SEE OR CONTACT FR. JASON!!**

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“We can be so busy listing our troubles, that we forget how to count our blessings!”

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“Our life is life to the extent that it is life in Christ. And how much is it life in Christ? This is revealed by its holiness. The holier the life is, the more immortal and eternal it is.”

## The Nativity Eve Holy Supper

Following 40 days of Nativity Lent, the birth of Jesus Christ is commemorated with a final Lenten feast on December 25.

There are several symbolic features to the dinner table, including the placing of **hay** under the tablecloth in memory of the manger in which the Holy Child was placed by His Mother at His birth. Some **grain** is also placed in the straw to represent the abundance of Christ's Coming. The **linen tablecloth** represents the birth clothes Christ was wrapped.

The Supper usually consists of 12 courses, symbolic of the 12 Apostles. The twelve fasting foods usually served are: barley, honey, stewed prunes, pierogi, sauerkraut, potatoes, lima beans, garlic, Lenten bread, mushroom soup and salt. Reminders that life is both bitter and sweet and that the work of each day throughout the current year was required to truly celebrate Christ's Coming.

The meal begins with the singing of the Christmas troparion and the lighting of a **candle** placed in the center of the table. The candle symbolizes the star of Bethlehem.

The Holy Supper usually takes place in the home with the father leading the family in the prayer ritual. It begins with the youngest child reading the Nativity account from the Gospel of St. Matthew 2:1-12. The father then starts with an opening prayer asking God to bless the bread, wine, and food. He then breaks the bread and passes it out to all present. This symbolizes Christ at the Last Supper.

The supper begins with a spoonful of the traditional Kutya, a cooked wheat or barley kasha, sweetened with honey, poppy seeds and chopped nuts – symbolic of joy and happiness.

An extra place is always set at the table for Jesus, either in Spirit, or in the form of a traveller or stranger, for none are turned away on this day without a warm invitation to partake of this Holy Supper.

**MAY ALL OF YOU HAVE A BLESSED, HOLY, AND JOYOUS  
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!**

**CHRIST IS BORN!**

**GLORIFY HIM!**

## THE GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE FLESH

Monday December 19-Tuesday December 20-Wednesday December  
21-Thursday December 22

6:00 P.M. Little Compline

Friday December 23 9:30 A.M. The Royal Hours

### The Eve of The **Great Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ According to the Flesh**

Saturday December 24 9:00 A.M.  
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Vespers  
4:30 P.M. Festive Vigil Service

### The **Great Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ According to the Flesh**

Sunday December 25 9:15 A.M. The Hours  
9:30 A.M. Festive Divine  
Liturgy of St. Basil The Great

Following Divine Liturgy, Annual Parish Brunch  
and Christmas Sing-A-Long in the Parish Fellowship Hall

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Day of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord** (*Synaxis of The Theotokos*)

Monday December 26 9:30 A.M. Festal Divine Liturgy

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Day of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord** (*Feast of St. Stephen the Protomartyr*)

Tuesday December 27 9:30 A.M. Festal Divine Liturgy

**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION  
OF OUR LORD GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST/ST. BASIL THE  
GREAT/NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Saturday December 31 4:00 P.M. Great Vespers with Litiya

Sunday January 1, 2023 9:15 A.M. The Hours  
9:30 A.M. Festal Divine Liturgy

of St. Basil the Great followed by Moleben for the New Year and The  
Blessing of St. Basil Bread

Memorial Litia for Stephen James Silver

(One-Year Anniversary of his falling asleep in The Lord)

**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD GOD  
and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 2023 9:00 A.M.

Royal Hours for The Feast of Holy Theophany

THURSDAY JANUARY 5, 2023 {STRICT FAST DAY}  
**EVE OF THE GREAT FEAST OF THE HOLY THEOPHANY  
OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

9:00 A.M. Vespers with Liturgy of  
St. Basil the Great followed by Lesser Blessing of Water

6:00 P.M. Great Compline with Litiya

FRIDAY JANUARY 6, 2023

**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE HOLY THEOPHANY  
OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

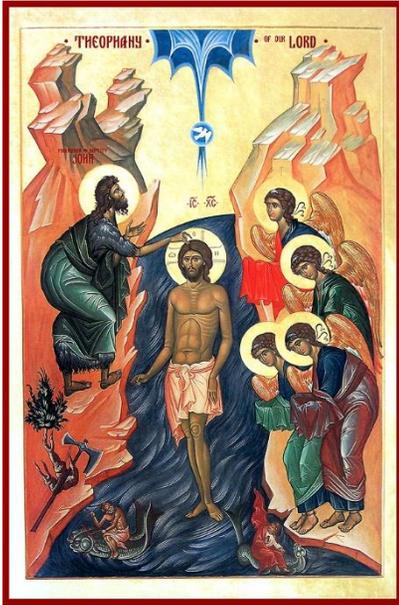
9:30 A.M. Festal Divine Liturgy  
followed by The Great Blessing of Water and Blessing of Church and  
Parish Fellowship Hall

Saturday January 7 3:00 P.M. Blessing of Waters at Hoyt Lake  
4:00 P.M. Great Vespers

Sunday January 8 9:40 A.M. The Hours  
10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Following Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour Fellowship in the Parish Fellowship Hall  
Church School Class in the Parish Fellowship Hall

Blessing of Holy Water for Church School Children



### DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO HOYT LAKE

START: 2 Nottingham Terrace, Buffalo, NY 14216

Head south on Nottingham Terrace toward Meadow Rd

Turn left onto Elmwood Ave

Turn left onto Iroquois Dr

Turn right onto Lincoln Pkwy

END: Destination will be on the left: 199 Lincoln Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14222

# **THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATERS HOYT LAKE – DELAWARE PARK SATURDAY JANUARY 7, 2023 3:00 PM**

Let us come together during this Holy Theophany Season, and join the clergy and the faithful from our sister parishes as we bless the waters of Hoyt Lake in Delaware Park.