



St. George Orthodox Church
2 Nottingham Terrace - Buffalo, NY 14216
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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

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

6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 5. Blind Man. Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother, Helen (Elena) (327). St. Constantine (1129) and his children, Ss. Michael and Theodore, Wonderworkers of Múrom. Ven. Cassian the Greek, of Uglich (1504). The Meeting of the VLADIMIR Icon of the Mother of God.

EPISTLE: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
 ACTS 16:16-34
 Acts 26:1-5, 12-20

GOSPEL:
 John 9:1-38
 John 10:1-9

CHRIST IS RISEN!

INDEED HE IS RISEN!

****FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK****

In front of the Icon of Our Lord, In front of the Icon of The Theotokos, and on the Center Icon Table are donated by St. George Orthodox Church!

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

TODAY'S WEEKLY MESSENGER IS SPONSORED BY:

St. George Orthodox Church

WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

We welcome all of you to the Divine Liturgy this morning, especially those who are visiting with us here at St. George Orthodox Church. Everyone is invited to the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy for Christian Fellowship. It is our prayer that your experience this morning was spiritually uplifting and you will return very soon to pray with our parish family. In the Orthodox Church, we do not practice open Communion. However we do invite everyone to come and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Hence only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer and fasting may receive Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you with many years of good health and happiness.

HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

Troparion for Resurrection - Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

TROPAR TO SS CONSTANTINE and HELEN, TONE 5 (1X)

Thy servant Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man, beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens. Like Paul, not having received his call from men, but as an apostle among rulers set by Thy hand over the royal city,// he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

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

Kontakion for Sunday of The Blind Man - Tone 4

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, and call to You in repentance:// “Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion for the Feast of Holy Pascha - Tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,// granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

The Prokeimenon Tone 8

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

In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

The Second Prokeimenon Tone 8

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe.

Alleluia Verses

Look upon me and have mercy on me!

Guide my steps according to Thy word!

I have exalted one chosen out of My people.

The Hymn to the Theotokos

The angel cried to the Lady Full of Grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin! Again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself He has raised all the dead! Rejoice, all ye people! Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The Glory of the Lord has shone on you! Exult now and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymn

Receive the Body of Christ! Taste the Fountain of Immortality! Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

In those Days:

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe. Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them

the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

In those Days:

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself: "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently. My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know.

They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

Let us Attend!

Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?"

Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am *he*." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him.

He will speak for himself." His parents said these *things* because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed *that* He *was* Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner *or not* I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear *it* again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; *as for* this *fellow*, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

At that Time:

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

=== Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

Monday	Acts 17:1-5	John 11:47-57
Tuesday	Acts 17:19-28	John 12:19-36
Wednesday	Acts 18:22-28	John 12:36-47
Thursday	Acts 1:1-12	Luke 24:36-53
Friday	Acts 19:1-8	John 14:1-11
Saturday	Acts 20:7-12	John 14:10-21
Sunday	Acts 20:16-18,28-36 <i>{Fathers of 1st Ecumenical Council}</i>	John 17:1-13

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 2023, 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) |
| Mr. Albert Fadell
317.376.2562 | Nicholas Wityk
65 South Main Street
South Oakfield NY | |
| Andrew Wityk
Ellicott Center
200 Seventh Street
Buffalo, NY 14201 | | |

**** NEW COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR 2023 IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL!
 BE SURE TO SIGN UP TO HOST A COFFEE HOUR! PLEASE JOIN US EVERY
 SUNDAY IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY
 FOR SOME CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER!****

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****PLEASE REFER TO THE WEEKLY EMAILS AND PARISH WEBSITE
 FOR CHANGES TO THE CALENDAR!****
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THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY MAY 21, 2023

SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

Matins Service – **8:45 AM** Divine Liturgy – **9:30 AM**

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

MONDAY MAY 22, 2023

Monthly Healing Prayer Service to St. Nektarios – **6:00 PM**

WEDNESDAY MAY 24, 2023

LEAVETAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD EVE OF THE GREAT FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Typika Service in Honor of The Resurrection of Our Lord – **9:00 AM**
Great Vespers with Litiya - **6:00 PM**

THURSDAY MAY 25, 2023

THE GREAT FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Festal Divine Liturgy – **9:30 AM**

SATURDAY MAY 27, 2023

NO VESPERS TODAY

SUNDAY MAY 28, 2023

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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

Memorial Litia in Loving Memory of Hrisa (Mother of Dr. Boris) and Anne
(Mother of Barb Kuvshiboff)
Coffee Hour Fellowship in The Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy



If anyone has any questions about fasting or restrictions when hosting coffee hour, please see Fr. Jason and he will help you and guide you!

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.**

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))



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

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



venmo

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https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=E5X6YTVC9DF3W

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Please remember in prayer Thy Servants of God...

FOR THE HEALTH OF THY SERVANTS:

HIERARCHS

Archbishop BENJAMIN Archbishop ALEJO
Archbishop NATHANIEL Archbishop DANIEL

CLERGY

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

MATUSHKI Mat. Deborah Popadija Sara Mat. Gayle Mat. Natasha
Mat. Barbara Mat. Katia Mat. Paraskeva Mat. Joanna Popadia Vicki
Mat. Patricia Mat. Gloria Christine Coard Karen
Catherine Ivan/Marina/Inna Bonnie/Silviu Jennifer, Amanda
Edwina Irene Luba Jim, Darren, Marsha
Serena/Asma Lillian Reader Victor Nicholas, Andrew
Marilyn Frank June Theodora Amanda, Chase Ronald, Candice
Sarah Albert Boris Oscar Billy Clyde
Xenia, Justin, Danielle, Anne, Patricia Larry Joseph Frank
Victor Catherine Susan Svetlana Juliana
Evelyn Robert Rebecca Paul Brian
Jeanne Angela, Jason, Michelle Linda Justin Frances
John, Helen Ashley Steven Barbara Daniel
Joseph, John, Margaret, Thomas, Victoria, Tyler Matthew William
Melody Natalie, Lorraine Lee, Maribeth Bridget
Kelly, Robert, Boris, Zaeb, Tirza, Sabas, Sada, Charles, Thlisinitsa,
Gemmam, Geesa, and Patric Lia/Isaiah
Olga and Eugene Jeremy Stewart Susan
Susan Justin Louis Yuri/Elena Alex John, Kevin, Sean
Anthony Aldona, Melinda, Pam Valerie Mary John Rebecca
Jaime/Sammy, Juliana Harry James

Lee, Benjamin, Harry Patrick Aspasia/Stavros
Charles Emma/Alexander Elias, John, Joseph, Nadim, Theresa
Vadym Iryna Yuriy Anastasia Rosemary Anthony
Seraphim Anthony
Mary, Hal, Autumn, Ariana, and Amber, Judithann Anita, James, Jeffrey,
Dominic, Douglas, Rachel, Dennis, Edith, Robert, Joanna
Brian John, Roberta, Barbara John, Michael John
George Costa Jonathan, Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Clara, Karl,
Dragica, Mary Al and Sophie and Family
Stephen, Larry, Olga, Olga, Sally, Deborah, David
Rdr Nicholas, Judithann, Michael, Mary, Cate, Michael, Gary, Damian, Olga,
Alexandra, Barbara, Damian
Ron, Illiana, Jillian, Joel, Robert, Susan, Arnold, Kyriaki, Konstantinos,
Danny, Thomas, Amelia, Emily, Kevin/Juanita

Alyssa Marie and the child Luke Joshua born of her
Children of God - Keely, Isla, Talia, Lane, Liam, Caiden
Chryssanthi 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 Mitred Archpriest Ken (*Starevsky*)
Archpriest Jonathan Archpriest Paul

Those Serving in The Armed Forces

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

Inquirers

William and Darlene Matthew Ayden
Rudy and Karen Paul Judy

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

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 Archpriest Rastko
Ever-Memorable Priest John
Ever-Memorable Dn. Mark

Metropolitan HERMAN
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

Priest Angelo Mat. Carol (*Steffera*)
Suha/Grandmother of Mira

Sultana (*mother of*

Lottie Nicholas Vasily Betty

Gi-Day (*Mother of Zenash*)

***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) 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 Donation for Office Supplies (Paper, Copier)
- Monthly Donation for Health Kits for Mats for Mission
- Monthly Donation for Chowder Sale

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

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An Invitation to Support the Ministry of the DDB!

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

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

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and "to the point," offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! For those who do not have internet, please see the handouts from each lesson which are located on the table in the back of the church. **There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!**

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WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

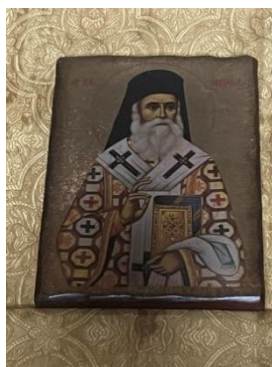
These sermons offered to us by The Diocese via video can be found on the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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MONTHLY HEALING PRAYER SERVICE

**The Supplicatory Canon
Prayer Service to St. Nektarios**

MONDAY MAY 22, 2023 – 6:00 PM



****IMPORTANT FEASTDAYS****

The Great Feast of The Ascension of Our Lord

Wednesday May 24 – Great Vespers with Litiya at 6:00 PM

Thursday May 25 - Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM

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The Great Feast of The Descent of The Holy Spirit:

The Feast of Holy Pentecost

Friday June 2 – Memorial Panahyda Prayer Service – 6:00 PM

Saturday June 3 – Memorial Panahyda Prayer Service – 9:30 AM

Great Vespers with Litiya at 4:00 PM

Sunday June 4 - Festal Divine Liturgy followed by Vespers of Pentecost and Kneeling Prayers at 9:30 AM

Annual Ethnic Parish Pot-Luck Luncheon and Church School Picnic

Father’s Day

Sunday June 18

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

Annual Father’s Day Lunch in Parish Fellowship Hall follwing Divine Liturgy

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CENTER

THE 6TH SUNDAY OF HOLY PASCHA:

THE SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

After the Midfeast (John 7:14), the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Temple again and taught the people who came to Him (John 8:2). After leaving the Temple, He opened the eyes of a man "who was blind from his birth (John 9:1).

The miracle described in today's Gospel (John 9:1-38) is even more remarkable than it might seem at first. St Basil and other Fathers tell us that this was not just a case of giving sight to a blind man born with eyes that did not function, but to someone who had no eyes at all! The second Exapostilarion for this Sunday says, "Along the way, our Savior found a man who lacked both sight and eyes...."

The Gospel says, "Since the world began, it was not heard that any man opened the eyes of one who was born blind" (John 9:32). There are examples in the Old (Tobit 2:17) and New (Mark 8:22-26) Testaments of blind people receiving sight, but this is something completely unprecedented.

The Savior placed clay in the man's empty sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. When he obeyed these instructions, the eyes of clay became living eyes!

On this sixth Sunday of Holy Pascha, the healing of the Blind Man, we are identified with this man who came to see and to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. The Lord has anointed our eyes with his own divine hands and washed them with the waters of our baptism (**John 9:6-11**).

Jesus used clay of spittle and told the man to wash in the waters of Siloam. He did so because it was the Sabbath day on which spitting, clay-making and washing were strictly forbidden. By breaking these ritual laws of the Jews, Jesus showed that he is indeed the Lord of

the Sabbath, and, as such, that he is equal to God the Father Who alone, according to Jewish tradition, works on the Sabbath day in running his world.

There is scandal over the healing of the blind man on the Sabbath day. He is separated from the synagogue because of his faith in Christ. The entire Church follows this man in his fate, knowing that it is those who do not see Jesus as the Lord who are really blind and still in their sins (*Jn 9:41*). The others have the light of life and can see and know the Son of God, for "you have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you" (*Jn 9:37*).

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, and call to Thee in repentance: Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness! (Kontakion)

In his MENAION, St Demetrius of Rostov calls the blind man St Celidonius (see his account of St Lazarus in the Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles on January 4).

An Orthodox Commentary on The Sunday of the Blind Man

{Taken from the OCA Department of Christian Education Weekly Bulletin Inserts}

We read the story of this encounter of Jesus Christ with a man born blind in John 9: 1-38. In the verses immediately preceding this story, He has told hostile questioners that He is "before Abraham" and claims the divine name, "I am." There is no longer any possibility of misunderstanding what He is saying; Jesus is declaring Himself to be the Son of God.

Having done this, He turns His full attention to one person—the man blind from birth. He is going to do a miracle, and because He has just said so unequivocally that He is the Divine Son, we might expect that He will draw down lightning bolts or do something equally dazzling.

But instead He shows Himself as Man, caring for the man who stands in front of Him. He doesn't do anything spectacular, but uses the most basic elements of the earth to do the miracle: "...He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay..." He tells the man to do a basic thing, too—to wash off the clay in the pool of Siloam. By this simple, earthly act the man is healed and becomes able to see. The other reading for this day is Acts 16: 16-34. These verses describe two instances in which Saint Paul follows Christ's example, being concerned for the person in front of him. The first encounter is with a slave girl who has "a spirit of divination" and makes money for her owners by foretelling events. Paul risks his own safety, and drives the spirit out of her in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sure enough, the owners are furious at having lost their income. They drag Paul and his companion Silas into the market place and accuse them of disturbing the city and advocating Jewish customs that are against Roman law. The magistrates and the crowd beat them with rods, and they are dragged off to prison, where their confinement is assured by their feet being fastened in the stocks.

For the second time, Paul extends concern. He does so to a person who is neither his companion nor a fellow prisoner, but who has been put in front of him. When an earthquake shakes the prison, all the prisoners' shackles are unfastened. The jailer is panicked, terrified and fully aware that he will be held responsible when all the prisoners escape. As he is about to kill himself, Paul calls out to him, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

This unexpected concern makes the jailer realize what kind of person Paul is, and he comes to believe in the God to whom Paul is so dedicated. He and his household are baptized that same night. They offer the former prisoners hospitality in their home, and everyone rejoices. They are truly in front of each other, and together in front of God.

The Feast of The Holy Ascension of Our Lord

This holy day is celebrated on the fortieth day after the Resurrection of Christ, on the Thursday of the sixth week of Pascha. The ascension of Christ into heaven is mentioned in the prophecies of the Scriptures. Christ Himself, upon His resurrection, said to Mary Magdalene: *"I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God"* (John 20:17).

This great event, with which Jesus' life on earth concludes, is briefly mentioned in the Gospels of Mark and Luke. But in the Acts of the apostles there is a fuller account. Gathering His disciples, Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to await what had been promised by the Father, that is the descent of the Holy Spirit. *"John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence . . . Ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"* (Acts 1:5, 8).

Saying this, He went with His disciples to Bethany and stopped on the Mount of Olives. "While they beheld, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven'" (Acts 1:9-11).

Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem to where the Theotokos and the myrrh-bearing women were in prayer. In the Gospel of Mark it is written that upon ascending to heaven, the Lord sat upon the right side of God the Father, that is, the human soul and body of Jesus Christ took on the same glory as His Divinity.

Ascending to heaven, Jesus Christ promised to always be invisibly on earth among those who believe in Him.

THINK ABOUT IT ... True or False?

1. The story of the Blind Man teaches us that a person can suffer from both physical or spiritual blindness. True False Explain: _____
2. Christ said that the man's blindness was a punishment for the sins of his parents. True False Explain: _____
3. The Orthodox Church teaches that the scroll in Christ's hand contains the words, "I am the light of the world." True False Explain: _____
4. The Pharisees became disciples of Christ because he healed the Blind Man on a Sabbath day. True False Explain: _____
5. The Blind Man believed that Christ is the Son of God and worshiped Him. True False Explain: _____

The Sunday of The Blind Man

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

Noticing People

Have you ever walked into a room, and maybe you didn’t notice that somebody was there? Maybe you thought you were all alone, or maybe you just noticed a friend or somebody you really wanted to talk to or see. Sometimes we might not see everything or everybody, or maybe sometimes we just don’t care.

In today’s Gospel reading (and in lots of other ones too), we hear how our Lord, Jesus Christ noticed somebody who needed help. A young man couldn’t see at all, and Jesus’s helpers brought him to be healed. Jesus noticed him. He touched his eyes and healed him!

When we read the Gospels, we read so many other stories like this one. We read how our Lord noticed people who needed help. The Bible tells us that God is with us, and God still notices people who need help. When we pray to God, we ask Him to notice us too and to help us.

God wants us to notice others too. When we see people who need help, we can do our best to help them. Remember, Christ didn’t ignore the blind or the sick or the lonely people or the people who couldn’t walk. He didn’t ignore the children either. Can you remember to pay attention to people who need help too?

JESUS CHRIST -- THE SON OF GOD from the Gospel of John 9:1-38 One day

Jesus met a man who was blind from birth. His disciples asked Him,

“Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.” Jesus told them that He had to do the work that the Father sent Him to do. He said, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Then He spat on the ground, made clay with the saliva, and put the clay on the eyes of the blind man. And He told him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, “Sent”). So

the man went and washed, and he came back seeing. The people who previously had seen that he was blind asked him, “How were your eyes opened?” He told them what Jesus had done to heal him. When they asked him where Jesus was, he said, “I do not know.” So they brought him to the Pharisees.

The man told the Pharisees how Jesus healed him. It was a Sabbath, so some of them said, “This Man is not from God, because He does work on the Sabbath.” The man said, “He is a prophet.” But they thought that Jesus was a sinful person and did not believe that Jesus had healed him. They asked his parents who said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he can now see, we do not know. He is of age; ask him.” So they asked him again. He said, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” They were angry and said, “You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.” The man was amazed that they did not know and he said, “We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. ... If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They said, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out. He found him and asked him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The Kontakion (hymn) for today says: I come to You, O Christ, as the man blind from birth. With the eyes of my soul blinded, I cry out to You in repentance, “You are the resplendent Light of those in darkness.”

SPIRITUAL “BLINDNESS”

In the icon of the Sunday of the Blind Man we see Christ healing the man who was blind since birth. Christ is shown putting the clay on the eyes of the man. He is with his disciples. The blind man is shown with his hand outstretched toward Christ, which shows us his faith and willingness to receive healing and grace from the Son of God. Christ has in His hand a scroll, on which the Orthodox Church tells us is written, “I am the light of the world,” (John 9:5) and “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.”

(John 9:39). Sometimes we “see” only what we want to see or we “see” only the things that are physical things. The story of Christ giving sight to the Blind Man tells us that Christ wants us to:

1. Pay attention! Belief in Christ guides people so “that those who do not see may see.” What that means is that sometimes people might be thinking about personal things in day-to-day life so much that they don’t pay attention to their spiritual lives.

2. Pay attention to the right things! When Christ said that He wanted that “those who see may become blind,” He was telling us that sometimes there are things in the world that catch our attention, but they might not always be good things. We should not spend a lot of time (or any time at all) paying attention to things that we know aren’t good for us. We should be “blind” to things that are evil and not allow them into our minds and lives.

3. Look to Christ! When Christ says, “I am the light of the world,” He tells us that it is only through belief in Him that we can “see.” He uses the word “see” to mean “to be enlightened” (as we learned in the story about the Samaritan Woman.) When we are “enlightened” that means that we “understand.” We know that Christ is the Son of God, our Saviour, Who loves us. When we pray to Him, He guides us and helps us to be spiritually healthy.

Equal of the Apostles and Emperor Constantine with his Mother Helen



The Church calls Saint Constantine (306-337) “the Equal of the Apostles,” and historians call him “the Great.” He was the son of the Caesar Constantius Chlorus (305-306), who governed the lands of Gaul and Britain. His mother was Saint Helen, a Christian of humble birth.

At this time the immense Roman Empire was divided into Western and Eastern halves, governed by two independent emperors and their corulers called “Caesars.” Constantius Chlorus was Caesar in the Western Roman Empire. Saint Constantine was born in 274, possibly at Nish in Serbia. In 294, Constantius divorced Helen in order to further his political ambition by marrying a woman of noble rank. After he became emperor, Constantine showed his mother great honor and respect, granting her the imperial title “Augusta.”

Constantine, the future ruler of all the whole Roman Empire, was raised to respect Christianity. His father did not persecute Christians in the lands he governed. This was at a time when Christians were persecuted throughout the Roman Empire by the emperors Diocletian (284-305)

and his corulers Maximian Galerius (305-311) in the East, and the emperor Maximian Hercules (284-305) in the West.

After the death of Constantius Chlorus in 306, Constantine was acclaimed by the army at York as emperor of Gaul and Britain. The first act of the new emperor was to grant the freedom to practice Christianity in the lands subject to him. The pagan Maximian Galerius in the East and the fierce tyrant Maxentius in the West hated Constantine and they plotted to overthrow and kill him, but Constantine bested them in a series of battles, defeating his opponents with the help of God. He prayed to God to give him a sign which would inspire his army to fight valiantly, and the Lord showed him a radiant Sign of the Cross in the heavens with the inscription “In this Sign, conquer.”

After Constantine became the sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire, he issued the Edict of Milan in 313 which guaranteed religious tolerance for Christians. Saint Helen, who was a Christian, may have influenced him in this decision. In 323, when he became the sole ruler of the entire Roman Empire, he extended the provisions of the Edict of Milan to the Eastern half of the Empire. After three hundred years of persecution, Christians could finally practice their faith without fear.

Renouncing paganism, the Emperor did not let his capital remain in ancient Rome, the former center of the pagan realm. He transferred his capital to the East, to the city of Byzantium, which was renamed Constantinople, the city of Constantine (May 11). Constantine was deeply convinced that only Christianity could unify the immense Roman Empire with its diverse peoples. He supported the Church in every way. He recalled Christian confessors from banishment, he built churches, and he showed concern for the clergy.

The emperor deeply revered the victory-bearing Sign of the Cross of the Lord, and also wanted to find the actual Cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. For this purpose he sent his own mother, the holy Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, granting her both power and money. Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem and Saint Helen began the search, and through the will of God, the Life-Creating Cross was miraculously discovered in 326. (The account of the finding of the Cross of the Lord is found under the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, September 14).

The Orthodox Church commemorates the Uncovering of the Precious Cross and the Precious Nails by the Holy Empress Helen on March 6.

While in Palestine, the holy empress did much of benefit for the Church. She ordered that all places connected with the earthly life of the Lord and His All-Pure Mother, should be freed of all traces of paganism, and she commanded that churches should be built at these places.

The emperor Constantine ordered a magnificent church in honor of Christ's Resurrection to be built over His tomb. Saint Helen gave the Life-Creating Cross to the Patriarch for safe-keeping, and took part of the Cross with her for the emperor. After distributing generous alms at Jerusalem and feeding the needy (at times she even served them herself), the holy Empress Helen returned to Constantinople, where she died in the year 327.

Because of her great services to the Church and her efforts in finding the Life-Creating Cross, the empress Helen is called "the Equal of the Apostles."

The peaceful state of the Christian Church was disturbed by quarrels, dissensions and heresies which had appeared within the Church. Already at the beginning of Saint Constantine's reign the heresies of the Donatists and the Novatians had arisen in the West. They demanded a second baptism for those who lapsed during the persecutions against Christians. These heresies, repudiated by two local Church councils, were finally condemned at the Council of Milan in 316.

Particularly ruinous for the Church was the rise of the Arian heresy in the East, which denied the Divine Nature of the Son of God, and taught that Jesus Christ was a mere creature. By order of the emperor, the First Ecumenical Council was convened in the city of Nicea in 325.

318 bishops attended this Council. Among its participants were confessor-bishops from the period of the persecutions and many other luminaries of the Church, among whom was Saint Nicholas of Myra in Lycia. (The account about the Council is found under May 29). The emperor was present at the sessions of the Council. The heresy of Arius was condemned and a Symbol of Faith (Creed) composed, in which was

included the term "consubstantial with the Father," at the insistence of the Emperor, confirming the truth of the divinity of Jesus Christ, Who assumed human nature for the redemption of all the human race.

After the Council of Nicea, Saint Constantine continued with his active role in the welfare of the Church. He accepted holy Baptism on his deathbed, having prepared for it all his whole life. Saint Constantine died on the day of Pentecost in the year 337 and was buried in the church of the Holy Apostles, in a crypt he had prepared for himself.

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

St. Andrew's Camp Summer 2023
Save the Dates!
 Volunteers are ALWAYS needed before, during and after the camping season! Contact us for more information.

Week 1: Sunday, July 2 - Saturday, July 8 -- Horse Week 1
Week 2: Sunday, July 9 - Saturday, July 15 -- Mish Mash Week 1
Week 3: Sunday, July 16 - Saturday, July 22 -- Horse Week 2
Week 4: Sunday, July 23 - Saturday, July 29 -- Teen Week 1
Week 5: Sunday, July 30 - Saturday, August 5 -- Teen Week 2
Week 6: Monday, Aug. 7 - Friday, Aug. 11 -- Family Week
standrewscamp.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Jason, Matushka Katia

Anna and Alexandra Vansuch

Cordially Invite You to a

Parish Open House/ Church School Picnic

Sunday, July 2, 2023

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

2 Nottingham Terrace

Buffalo, NY

Luncheon Foods and Refreshments will be served

Games and Activities for Children and Fellowship for Everyone!!

Please RSVP to Matushka Katia by Wednesday June 28

Katia.vansuch@gmail.com

609-851-3034

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****General Confession will be served on Sunday June 25 at 9:00 AM.****

St. Andrew's Camp and Retreat Center
 Volunteers are ALWAYS needed before, during and after the camping season. Contact us for more information.

WE'RE YOUR CAMP!
 Diocese of New York and New Jersey, OCA

For information regarding programs and rentals • 315-675-9771 • www.standrewscamp.org
 Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/saintandreworthodoxcamp>

1) **The Holy and Great Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord**

Wednesday May 24, 2023

Typika Prayer Service in honor of Our Lord Resurrection – 9:30 AM

Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM

Thursday May 25, 2023

Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

2) **The Holy and Great Feast of the Descent of The Holy Spirit**

The Great Feast of Holy Pentecost

Friday June 2, 2023

Full Memorial Panahyda Prayer Service – 6:00 PM

Saturday June 3, 2023

Great Vespers with Litiya – 4:00 PM

Sunday June 4, 2023

Festal Divine Liturgy followed by Vespers of Pentecost with Kneeling Prayers 9:30 AM

Annual Parish Ethnic Pot-Luck Luncheon in Parish Fellowship Hall following Vespers

3) **The Holy and Great Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist**

Friday June 23, 2023

Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM

Saturday June 24, 2023

Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Great Vespers – 4:00 PM

Parish Council Meeting (Via Zoom) – 5:30 PM

4) **The Holy and Great Feast of Ss Peter and Paul**

Wednesday June 28, 2023

Great Vespers with Litiya – 6:00 PM

Thursday June 29, 2023

Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM

4) Annual Church School Picnic/Moleben - SUNDAY JUNE 4

*Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 4, we will be holding Our Annual Church School Picnic and Parish Ethnic Luncheon. We will also be holding the End-of-the year Moleben Prayer Service of Thanksgiving for the Church School. An email and mailing will be going out with More details and information.

Please plan on joining us for the celebration as we have a day planned filled with activities for everyone, good food, and lots of Fellowship.

**A Very Special Celebration of the
The Great Feast of Holy Pentecost**

JUNE 3, 2023

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

In the Church's annual liturgical cycle, Pentecost is "the last and great day." It is the celebration by the Church of the coming of the Holy Spirit as the end—the achievement and fulfillment—of the entire history of salvation. For the same reason, however, it is also the celebration of the beginning: it is the "birthday" of the Church as the presence among us of the Holy Spirit, of the new life in Christ, of grace, knowledge, adoption to God and holiness.

This double meaning and double joy is revealed to us, first of all, in the very name of the feast. Pentecost in Greek means fifty, and in the sacred biblical symbolism of numbers, the number fifty symbolizes both the fulness of time and that which is beyond time: the Kingdom of God itself. It symbolizes the fulness of time by its first component: 49, which is the fulness of seven (7 x 7): the number of time. And, it symbolizes that which is beyond time by its second component: 49 + 1, this one being the new day, the "day without evening" of God's eternal Kingdom. With the descent of the Holy Spirit upon

Christ's disciples, the time of salvation, the Divine work of redemption has been completed, the fulness revealed, all gifts bestowed: it belongs to us now to "appropriate" these gifts, to be that which we have become in Christ: participants and citizens of His Kingdom.

To read the rest:

http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/pentecost

LINKS TO LEARN ABOUT PENTECOST:

http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/pentecost

http://www.goarch.org/chapel/saints_view?contentid=961&PCode=7PS&D=S&date=6/8/2014

<http://lent.goarch.org/family/pentecost.asp>

Join the celebration!!

MANY LANGUAGES

When we come together for the Pot-Luck Luncheon on the Feast of Holy Pentecost (SUNDAY JUNE 12), we will be singing 'The Our Father' in the various languages of our parish that represent the different ancestral backgrounds altogether simultaneously to represent The Holy Spirit coming down upon the faithful on that First Day of Pentecost and divided the tongues. If you know 'The Our Father' in your native language or another language, please let Fr. Jason know so that he can compile a list. So far we have the following languages:

English	Greek
Russian	Eritrean
Albanian	Spanish
Bulgarian	Ukrainian

Georgian Romanian

Arabic Macedonian

ETHNIC FOODS

We invite you to bring in an ethnic food to share during coffee hour. We hope to see foods from all different ethnicities that reflect the fact that our parish represents people from all different ancestral backgrounds.

If you will be bringing in a pot-luck dish, please let Mat. Katia know by either speaking with her or emailing her: katia.vansuch@gmail.com or call/text her (609.851.3034)

A list of the foods will be sent out separately in preparation for our Annual Festive Ethnic Luncheon.

WEAR GREEN TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY JUNE 4

Many times you will hear Pentecost being called "Green Sunday." So we hope you will wear green to help enhance the special celebration. (Do you think that green is only for the Irish to wear green for a holiday?)

BRING GREEN CUTTINGS

If you can, please cut some greens from your property and bring them in with you on SATURDAY JUNE 3... that we can use to help decorate the church; any length would good 😊

We hope to see everyone on Sunday June 4, wearing green, bringing in a favorite ethnic food, and joining in this special Holy Day of Holy Pentecost.

Father's Day Luncheon - SUNDAY JUNE 18

*Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 18, we will be having our Annual Father's Day Luncheon in the Parish Fellowship Hall. Please plan on joining us for the Divine Liturgy during which we will remember all of our beloved fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, and men of our parish and families as we ask God's blessings upon all of them for continued good health and happiness as well as rest eternal and blessed repose to our beloved fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, and men of our parish and families who now lie asleep in the Lord.

