

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

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 AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5. Fathers of the 1st Six Ecumenical Councils. Hieromartyr Athenogenes, Bishop of Heracleopolis, and his ten disciples (ca. 311). Martyrs Paul and two sisters, Chionia (Thea) and Alevtina (Valentina), at Cæsarea in Palestine (308). Martyr Antiochus, Physician, of Sebaste (4th c.). Virgin Martyr Julia of Carthage

EPISTLE:	Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	GOSPEL:
Hebrews 13:7-16		John 17:1-13
Romans 12:6-14		Matthew 9:1-8

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!

Altar Vigil Candles are offered by Anthony DelNuovo 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 The 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.

Troparion for The Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils — Tone 8

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God, Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith.// O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

Kontakion for The Resurrection – Tone 5

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

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

Kontakion for The Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils — Tone 8

The Apostles’ preaching and the Fathers’ doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,// It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Steadfast Protectress Tone 6

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 5

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from this generation forever.

v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!

THE SECOND PROKEMEINON Tone 5

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is

Thy Name forever!

ALLELUIA VERSES

I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens.

The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

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:

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Brethren:

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been

occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

Let us Attend!

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

At that Time:

So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemeth!"

But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?"

But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" – then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." And he arose and departed to his house.

Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

=== Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

Monday	1 Corinthians 5:9-6:11	Matthew 13:54-58
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 6:20-7:12	Matthew 14:1-13
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 7:12-24	Matthew 14:35-15:11
Thursday	1 Corinthians 7:24-35	Matthew 15:12-21
Friday	1 Corinthians 7:35-8:7	Matthew 15:29-31
Saturday	Romans 12:1-3	Matthew 10:37-11:1
Sunday	Romans 15:1-7	Matthew 9:27-35



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

THE 2023 SCHOOL **BACKPACK/SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE**

Once again we will be holding our Annual Backpack/School Supply Drive for The Salvation Army spearheaded by The Church School. This is a wonderful project of preparing backpacks for the children at Salvation Army for the upcoming school year.

With that in mind, please refer to The Annual Backpack/School Supply Drive for Salvation Army Flyer in the parish emails as well as hanging on the bulletin board in the Parish Fellowship Hall which contains all of the information needed for our Backpack Collection Drive. The Drive will run from June 25 through July 28! We will have a collection gathering on Friday July 28 for the children followed by a food collection drive/drop-off at Feed-More of WNY and outing to ice cream shop.

As this is our seventh year, we look to this great idea and wonderful opportunity as a chance for us to get more involved within the community by giving back and helping these dear children prepare for the upcoming school year by providing for them those school supplies and materials that they will need to succeed in their studies.

For more information or any questions, please contact Andrea: 585-576-4287 or ajchmiel@gmail.com.

****OUR GOAL IS TO COLLECT and
DONATE AT LEAST 25 BACKPACKS!****

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

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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!****

THE SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY JULY 16, 2023

Matins – **8:45 AM** Divine Liturgy followed by The Annual Blessing of Vehicles – **9:30 AM**

Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy!

FR. JASON, ANNA, AND ALEXANDRA WILL BE AWAY ATTENDING ST. ANDREW CAMP

Fr. Jason, Anna, and Alexandra will be away from Sunday July 16 (leaving after Divine Liturgy) and will be returning on Saturday July 22 following Great Vespers and Wedding Rehearsal at St. John the Baptist in Rochester. With that in mind, if there is an emergency or if anyone needs the assistance of a priest, please contact Fr. Andreja (716) 345-5381 or Fr. Peter (716-342-8520) who are covering for Fr. Jason while he is away. Also, if anyone needs anything while Fr. Jason is away, please contact Dr. Boris (716. 812-6132). You may also contact Fr. Jason on his cell phone as well as call the rectory and leave a message and he will return your call as soon as he can.

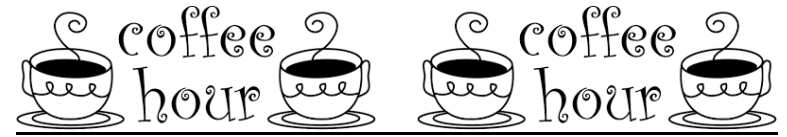
SATURDAY JULY 15, 2023

THERE WILL BE NO VESPERS TODAY AS FR. JASON WILL BE AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH IN ROCHESTER FOR GREAT VESPERS AND THE WEDDING REHEARSAL FOR NATE AND MARIAMI

SUNDAY JULY 23, 2023

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

Coffee Hour Fellowship in 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))

****We have 10 available Sundays in 2023!****



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

Scan this code to pay

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,
Gemmal, 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 Edward
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

***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 fine 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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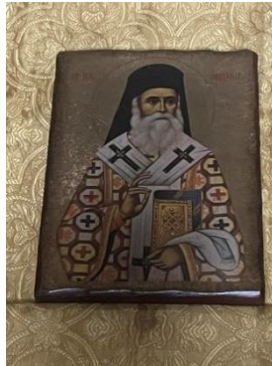
WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

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 with Lesser
Blessing of Water
MONDAY JULY 31, 2023 – 6:00 PM



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

1) ADULT BIBLE STUDY/EDUCATION CLASS WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER ALONG WITH ST. GEORGE CATECHISM/CONVERT CLASS AND ST. GEORGE PRAYER GROUP

2) ST. GEORGE SENIOR DAYS WILL BEGIN ON JULY 26 (10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM)

- A morning filled with prayer, fellowship, education and fun for all of our retired parishioners to come together and spend time together

- Coffee, tea, juice and snacks will be provided

- Held 1-2x a month

3) ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CLASS ON THE ICONS OF THE 12 MAJOR FEAST DAYS WILL BE HELD IN JULY ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS (Via Zoom)

July 24 (The Holy Theophany of Our Lord - January 6 and The Meeting of Our Lord in The Temple - February 2)

July 31 (The Annunciation of The Theotokos - March 25 and The Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem,

The Feast of The Transfiguration of Our Lord - August 6) (The Feast of Holy Pentecost and The Feast of The Ascension of Our Lord, The Feast of The Dormition of The Theotokos - August 15)

4) ST. GEORGE SENIOR/RETIREE DAY

TUESDAY JULY 25

10:00 am to 12:30 PM

We invite all Seniors and Retirees to come and join us as we spend a morning together in prayer and Christian fellowship!



THE 2023 SCHOOL BACKPACK/SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Saint George Orthodox Church

2 Nottingham Terrace, Buffalo, NY 14216
(716) 855-4222

HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

By collecting backpack and school supply items

Collection will occur from June 25th to July 23rd

**Please bring items with you to church and
place them in the Red Bins located in the Parish Fellowship Hall.**

****OUR GOAL IS TO COLLECT and DONATE ITEMS/SUPPLIES FOR AT LEAST 25 BACKPACKS!!****

Church School Food Pantry/Ice Cream Outing on Friday, July 28th

Items needed:

Backpacks
2 pocket folders
Pencils
Composition notebooks
Spiral notebooks
Crayons
Colored pencils
Washable Markers
Tissues
Glue sticks
Dry erase markers
Blunt-tip scissors



**For more information or any questions, please contact Andrea: 585-576-4287
or ajchmiel@gmail.com.**

This year the Salvation Army has a **Walmart Registry** at <https://bit.ly/3ymRNgO>
where items will be sent directly to their 960 Main Street location.

THE BLESSING OF VEHICLES:

To Honor The Feast of the Prophet Elias (Elijah)

SUNDAY JULY 16, 2023

After his ministry on earth, the Prophet Elias (Elijah) was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot. He is therefore known as the patron saint of vehicles, reminding us that we must struggle to manifest holiness in our lives, especially when we travel.

To honor and celebrate this great Feast and Holy Prophet, THIS SUNDAY JULY 16, following the Divine Liturgy, we will gather together in church to serve the customary service for the blessing of vehicles followed by a procession to the Church Parking Lot where we will bless our vehicles (cars, vans, motorcycles, trucks, bikes, strollers, wagons, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.)

Just as we have our homes blessed each year, everyone is encouraged to bring their vehicles for this special service and have them blessed with Holy Water.

I encourage all of us, our parishioners and families to come and bring our vehicles to church SUNDAY JULY 16 and have them blessed!! For our children, I encourage them to bring their bikes and other modes of transportation that they use/play with so that they, too, can participate in this wonderful tradition!! This is a wonderful pious tradition for us to participate in!! I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday July 16!!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY CHRISTMAS QUILT RAFFLE

Announcing a Christmas in July Quilt Raffle! Barb Kuvshinoff has made and donated this gorgeous quilt! Tickets are \$10. Only 100 are being sold so your chances are good to win this beauty! The drawing is July 30! Please get your ticket during coffee hour!

All proceeds to benefit the church!



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

August 1

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

throughout the city in procession, offering it to the people to venerate. This also is the Procession of the Venerable Cross.”

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

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

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

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

August 6

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

This is an ancient Christian custom. The first week of August, on the sixth of August, the farmers use to gather the early fruits of their summer harvest (grapes, figs etc.) and to present them in the Church to

be blessed and to give them for free to congregation. These fruits are called the “beginnings”.

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

This custom is honored in many places in Greece where there are plantation with vines. We must not forget that the Church was presented once as a “vine”. So, [the] Church blesses the first fruits of vine giving a “theological” meaning to farmer’s work.

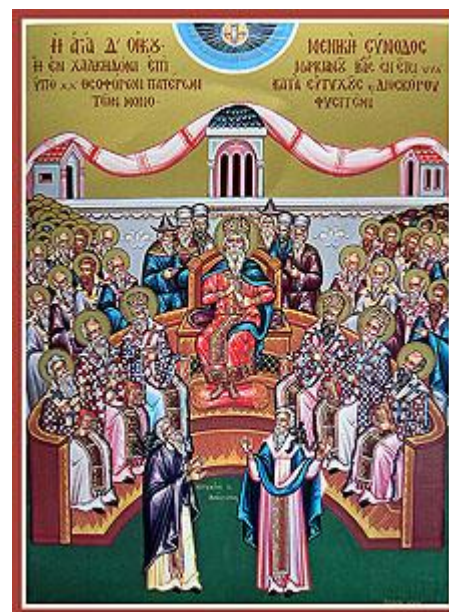
THE BLESSING OF HONEY
SUNDAY JULY 31

THE BLESSING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
SUNDAY AUGUST 6

THE BLESSING OF HERBS AND FLOWERS
MONDAY AUGUST 14 and TUESDAY AUGUST 15

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CENTER

The Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils



The Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils.

In the Ninth Article of the Nicea-Constantinople Symbol of Faith proclaimed by the holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils, we confess our faith in “One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” By virtue of the catholic nature of the Church, an Ecumenical Council is the Church’s supreme authority, and possesses the competence to resolve major questions of church life. An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the “oikumene” (i.e. from all the whole inhabited world).

The Orthodox Church acknowledges Seven Holy Ecumenical Councils:

The First Ecumenical Council (Nicea I) (May 29, and also on seventh Sunday after Pascha) was convened in the year 325 against the heresy of Arius, in the city of Nicea in Bithynia under Saint Constantine the Great, Equal of the Apostles.

The Second Ecumenical Council (Constantinople I) (May 22) was convened in the year 381 against the heresy of Macedonias, by the emperor Theodosius the Great.

The Third Ecumenical Council (Ephesus) (September 9) was convened in the year 431 against the heresy of Nestorius, in the city of Ephesus by the emperor Theodosius the Younger.

The Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon) (July 16) was convened in the year 451, against the Monophysite heresy, in the city of Chalcedon under the emperor Marcian.

The Fifth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople II) (July 25) "Concerning the Three Chapters," was convened in the year 553, under the emperor Justinian the Great.

The Sixth Ecumenical Council (Constantinople III) (January 23) met during the years 680-681, to fight the Monothelite heresy, under the emperor Constantine Pogonatos.

The fact that the Seventh Ecumenical Council (Nicea II) is not commemorated today testifies to the antiquity of today's celebration. The Seventh Council, commemorated on the Sunday nearest to October 11, was convened at Nicea in the year 787 against the Iconoclast heresy, under the emperor Constantine and his mother Irene.

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as "lights upon the earth," guiding us to the true Faith. "Adorned with the robe of truth," the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority

in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.

The Orthodox Church's conciliar definitions of dogma have the highest authority, and such definitions always begin with the Apostolic formula: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15: 28).

The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church's teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. The Church, in expounding its dogmas, is dealing with the concerns of a given historical moment, "not revealing everything in haste and thoughtlessly, nor indeed, ultimately hiding something" (Saint Gregory the Theologian).

A brief summary of the dogmatic theology of the First Six Ecumenical Councils is formulated and contained in the First Canon of the Council of Trullo (also known as Quinisext), held in the year 692. The 318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council are spoken of in this Canon I of Trullo as having: "with unanimity of faith revealed and declared to us the consubstantiality of the three Persons of the Divine nature and, ... instructing the faithful to adore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with one worship, they cast down and dispelled the false teaching about different degrees of Divinity."

The 150 Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council left their mark on the theology of the Church concerning the Holy Spirit, "repudiating the teaching of Macedonius, as one who wished to divide the inseparable Unity, so that there might be no perfect mystery of our hope."

The 200 God-bearing Fathers of the Third Ecumenical Council expounded the teaching that "Christ, the Incarnate Son of God is One." They also confessed that "she who bore Him without seed was the spotless Ever-Virgin, glorifying her as truly the Mother of God.

The 630 Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council decreed that “the One Christ, the Son of God... must be glorified in two natures.”

The 165 God-bearing Holy Fathers of the Fifth Ecumenical Council “in synod anathematized and repudiated Theodore of Mopsuestia (the teacher of Nestorius), and Origen, and Didymus, and Evagrius, renovators of the Hellenic teaching about the transmigration of souls and the transmutation of bodies and the impieties they raised against the resurrection of the dead.”

The 170 Holy Fathers of the Sixth Ecumenical Council “taught that we ought to confess two natural volitions, or two wills [trans. note: one divine, and the other human], and two natural operations (energies) in Him Who was incarnate for our salvation, Jesus Christ, our true God.”

In decisive moments of Church history, the holy Ecumenical Councils promulgated their dogmatic definitions, as trustworthy delimitations in the spiritual battle for the purity of Orthodoxy, which will last until such time, as “all shall come into the unity of faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God” (Eph. 4: 13). In the struggle with new heresies, the Church does not abandon its former dogmatic concepts nor replace them with some sort of new formulations. The dogmatic formulae of the Holy Ecumenical Councils need never be superseded, they remain always contemporary to the living Tradition of the Church. Therefore the Church proclaims:

“The faith of all in the Church of God hath been glorified by men, which were luminaries in the world, cleaving to the Word of Life, so that it be observed firmly, and that it dwell unshakably until the end of the ages, conjointly with their God-bestown writings and dogmas. We reject and we anathematize all whom they have rejected and anathematized, as being enemies of Truth. And if anyone does not cleave to nor admit the aforementioned pious dogmas, and does not teach or preach accordingly, let him be anathema” (Canon I of the Council of Trullo).

In addition to their dogmatic definitions, the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils exerted great efforts towards the strengthening of church discipline. Local Councils promulgated their disciplinary canons

according to the circumstances of the time and place, frequently differing among themselves in various particulars.

The universal unity of the Orthodox Church required unity also in canonical practice, i.e. a conciliar deliberation and affirmation of the most important canonical norms by the Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils. Thus, according to conciliar judgment, the Church has accepted: 20 Canons from the First, 7 Canons from the Second, 8 Canons from the Third, and 30 Canons from the Fourth Ecumenical Synods. The Fifth and the Sixth Councils concerned themselves only with resolving dogmatic questions, and did not leave behind any disciplinary canons.

The need to establish in codified form the customary practices during the years 451-680, and ultimately to compile a canonical codex for the Orthodox Church, occasioned the convening of a special Council, which was wholly devoted to the general application of churchly rules. This was convened in the year 692. The Council “in the Imperial Palace” or “Under the Arches” (in Greek “en trullo”), came to be called the Council in Trullo. It is also called the “Quinisext” [meaning the “fifth and sixth”], because it is considered to have completed the activities of the Fifth and Sixth Councils, or rather that it was simply a direct continuation of the Sixth Ecumenical Council itself, separated by just a few years.

The Council in Trullo, with its 102 Canons (more than of all the Ecumenical Synods combined), had a tremendous significance in the history of the canonical theology of the Orthodox Church. It might be said that the Fathers of this Council produced a complete compilation of the basic codex from the relevant sources for the Orthodox Church’s canons. Listing through in chronological order, and having been accepted by the Church the Canons of the Holy Apostles, and the Canons of the Holy Ecumenical and the Local Councils and of the holy Fathers, the Trullo Council declared: “Let no one be permitted to alter or to annul the aforementioned canons, nor in place of these put forth, or to accept others, made of spurious inscription” (2nd Canon of the Council in Trullo).

Church canons, sanctified by the authority of the first Six Ecumenical Councils (including the rules of the Seventh Ecumenical Council in 787, and the Constantinople Councils of 861 and 879, which were added later under the holy Patriarch Photius), form the basis of THE RUDDER, or KORMCHAYA KNIGA (a canon law codex known as “Syntagma” or “Nomokanon” in 14 titles). In its repository of grace is expressed a canonical norm, a connection to every era, and a guide for all the local Orthodox Churches in churchly practice.

New historical conditions can lead to the change of some particular external aspect of the life of the Church. This makes creative canonical activity necessary in the conciliar reasoning of the Church, in order to reconcile the external norms of churchly life with historical circumstances. The details of canonical regulation are not fully developed for the various eras of churchly organization all at once. With every push to either forsake the literal meaning of a canon, or to fulfill and develop it, the Church again and again turns for reasoning and guidance to the eternal legacy of the Holy Ecumenical Councils, to the inexhaustible treasury of dogmatic and canonical truths.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:1-8)

Often in the Gospel stories, when Jesus brings hope, comfort and healing, detractors often show up. Like the scribes in today’s story. See them as representing the know-it-alls and the self-righteous. We all know people like that and sometimes they may even be us. We must be careful not to be like that.

Jesus comes into the scene as usual, full of compassion. He sees the paralytic and focuses on him. Can’t you just see him smile? Can’t you just feel his heart break? He says to him so gently, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven,” and the know-at-alls go nuts. These great defenders of morality and truth can’t control themselves! They seek to control others and cannot control themselves. They cry out, “He is a blasphemers!”

St. Isaac of Syria has a unique perspective on this.

“Someone who has tasted truth,” he writes, “is not contentious for truth. Someone who is considered by people to be zealous for truth has not yet learned what truth is really like; once he has truly learned it, they will cease from zealotry on its behalf.”

So, our first lesson today is that zealotry is not a sign of faith at all, but rather a cover for the lack of it. Those who are really acquainted with truth are very much like Jesus himself. They display a remarkable and peaceful countenance always ready to listen, always open, always caring, never afraid, never contentious and never judgmental.

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness comes so easy for Jesus. No strings, no prerequisites, no preconditions. Just the assurance that “I am here and everything’s alright.” Isn’t this the message of the Gospel? His name is Emanuel after all. God with us. And because he is and has promised that he will never leave us or forsake us, everything is going to be fine no matter what - come good or bad, come hell or high water, in darkness and in light, in joy and in sorrow.

And therefore the fear we carry is only a twisted perception and a lie. The genius of the Christianity is that it promises we find our peace and joy in the midst of the suffering of this world for we are never separate from God.

PERSPECTIVE

To the Lord’s detractors, for whatever reason (and I can think of several that might be true), his beautiful and compassionate gesture sounded like blasphemy. Is it not strange that something that to one person sounds so kind can sound like blasphemy to another? It is all a matter of perspective.

The stoic philosopher, Marcus Aurelius, said it like this: “Everything we hear is an opinion, not a fact. Everything we see is a perspective, not the truth.”

And I love this saying by Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Dream delivers us to dream, and there is no end to illusion. Life is like a train of moods, like a string of beads, and, as we pass through them, they prove to be many-colored lenses which paint the world their own hue. . . .”

So, we must be humble and admit that no matter what we think or believe, we might be wrong. Our perspectives might be way, way off. This takes humility and to discover when we are wrong is the pathway to freedom. “The truth,” Jesus says, “shall set you free.” Truth can be perceived correctly only by the humble.

When we allow ourselves to be open always to the reality before us, without the mediation of interpretation or opinion or belief, all of which are, in the end, false securities, then, through the clear lens of the sacred mindfulness, truth reveals itself, in the spaces between thoughts, in the emptiness between words, in the silence between breaths.

Cleansing the doors of our perception we become, as Alan Watts so rightly says, open to whatever the truth turns out to be. For faith to be alive it must always be growing. Faith is not holding on, faith is letting go.

“Our faith, must be alive. It cannot be just a set of rigid beliefs and notions. Our faith must evolve every day and bring us joy, peace freedom and love.”

Those in the Gospels who did that, who were able to let go of family and business and their dreams and all manner of false securities, are the ones who became the Lord’s faithful disciples. If we are willing to do the same, to adopt a faith that lets go and grows continuously in the life of Christ, then we too can become his disciples.

[Taken from the parish website of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church
Cambridge, MA

www.stmaryorthodoxchurch.org/orthodoxy/sermons/2016/faith-lets-go

THE DIOCESAN-WIDE APPEAL FOR THE DIOCESE OF ALASKA

Diocese of Sitka and Alaska

The Mother Diocese of
The Orthodox Church in America



“Jesus Christ loved everyone and did good to all. So should we love our neighbor and do good to as many people as possible. Jesus Christ did everything possible for the salvation of mankind. So must we do good to others, not sparing our own well-being and time.”

— Saint Innocent of Alaska



Bishop Alexei at Saint Stephen of Soreau Parish in Dillingham

A MISSIONARY FUND

A flight from Anchorage to a parish in rural Alaska can be more expensive than a flight from New York to Paris. Once at that parish, the bishop often learns of pressing needs, but is helpless to address them. This missionary fund would enable the bishop not only to visit and serve at these parishes, but also to offer assistance when such assistance is needed most.

A RECTORY CONSTRUCTION FUND

Survival in the far North obviously requires a place to be sheltered from the elements. Priests obviously need homes for their wives and children. Unfortunately, rectories are not a given in rural Alaska. Of the thirteen villages of the Yukon deanery, there is not a single rectory. There are also rarely homes to rent in these remote regions accessible only by small plane or boat. If a priest is not already a villager with a home, he cannot be assigned to that village. Through the Rectory Construction Fund, you can help us build rectories in these villages, so that priests and their families might have a place to lay their heads and so that the faithful in them can have the Liturgy regularly served.

A CLERGY STIPEND ENDOWMENT

The median family income for the state of Alaska is \$77,790 per year. But the median stipend for native priests is \$7,200 per year, a salary that is \$26,000 below the poverty line for a family of four. Almost all the clergy and their wives worry about a future that is so financially fragile. Some priests have been forced to leave priestly ministry to provide for their families. And pious young men considering the priesthood have hesitated to answer the call with such abject poverty looming in their future. Through a replenishing clergy stipend endowment, you can help establish a means to provide our priests and their families with basic necessities every month for their entire active ministry.



A LAND MANAGEMENT FUND

Fully aware of how crucial financial support was for the diocese of Alaska, the Mother Church insured by treaty that various lands would be allocated throughout the state to continue to provide for the local church.

Unfortunately, the Diocese has not had the staff necessary to oversee these lands properly tracking rentals, negotiating new leases, ascertaining whether lands have been lost through adverse possession. This has not only crippled the Diocese financially, but also made it impossible for the Diocese to develop programs to encourage growth and health.

The best way to rectify this situation is to establish a LLC (Limited Liability Company) that would survey our lands, determine which lands are still in our possession, put our leases in order, collect the rents, negotiate new leases, and recruit developers for underutilized properties.

The Land Management Fund would provide the seed money to form that LLC, which could provide a source of revenue in a Diocese in which 80% of the faithful in most villages are unemployed.

If you desire to be a good Samaritan to your brothers and sisters up North, if you desire to give back something to the Diocese that first brought Orthodoxy to this continent, please consider making a donation to one of the following funds:

- **The Land Management Fund**
- **The Missionary Fund**
- **The Clergy Stipend Endowment**
- **The Rectory Construction Fund**

Please make your offering through our website or to our mailing address indicating the fund that you would like to support.

No donation is too small; the widow's mite is most welcome.

“Let us do that which is good to all men, and especially to them that are of the household of faith.” — Galatians 6:10



Diocese of Sitka and Alaska
P.O. Box 210569
Anchorage, AK. 99521

Telephone 907-677-0224
adminsecretary@odosa.org

Website: <https://odosa.org>

****We will be holding a special collection for The Diocese of Alaska – ON SUNDAY JULY 30 as part of our commitment to assisting His Grace Bishop Alexei and the Clergy and Faithful of The Mother Diocese of the Orthodox Church America. We will also be holding additional collections in August and September.**

This is a Diocesan-Wide Appeal for our Diocese to help support The Diocese of Alaska.**



A Note on Christian Stewardship

Life is given to us through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Our commitment to expressing gratitude for this great blessing is seen through our participation in Christian Stewardship by being faithful stewards of The Gospel. Our commitment reveals how we live our faith in the Resurrected Lord. It is in The Resurrection of Our Lord that we receive eternal life and we express our hope in the life to come by our response as Orthodox Christian stewards.

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

Please take a moment to reflect upon what God has given us, and to discern how we might be able to return to God a portion of the blessings we have received.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

May God continue to bless and guide you and keep you always in His Loving Care!

**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY**



**St. George Orthodox Church
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V. Rev. Jason Vansuch, Parish Priest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sunday July 16, 2023

Holy Fathers of The First Six Ecumenical Councils

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Greetings to all of you our dear parish family on this double Feast of The Holy Fathers of The First Six Ecumenical Councils I trust and pray that all of you and your families are doing well. We pray that all of you and your families are keeping safe and staying healthy.

At the beginning of 2023, the parish council, during their monthly meetings, addressed, reviewed, and discussed the life and mission of our parish especially in particular The "St. George Capital Improvement and Maintenance Campaign Drive" for the many upcoming maintenance projects and undertakings that we will be addressing between this year (2023) and next year (2024).

Over the past several months, the parish council has worked very hard on this project by meeting, reviewing, and discussing the projects and maintenance items of our church, hall, rectory, and parish property that need to be addressed and prioritizing them as to which need immediate attention. After carefully reviewing the recommendations from our parish

family, it was decided to focus in on the following key projects and capital improvements for 2023:

Complete downstairs rectory window replacement - COMPLETED

Fence for back of rectory property

Security Cameras (Church/Hall and Rectory)

Shed for Rectory Backyard

Upon reviewing these items and projects, the Parish Council feels that these are the most viable and vital items and projects that are the best option for us to focus on at that time as they would not only benefit and meet our needs and that of our parish at this present time but also for the many years to come.

As we continued of our work on these important projects within the life of our parish, let us keep in mind the main purpose and focus of us working together as a family– to focus on how we, as Orthodox Christians, as Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as a parish family are living and proclaiming the Gospel of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ in working for the extension of the Kingdom of God here at St. George Orthodox Church!

Let us come together and look into our hearts to discern God’s Will on how we can give back to God a portion of the blessings He has given to us by supporting our next parish endeavor The "St. George Capital Improvement and Maintenance Campaign Drive" A project that will not only benefit and meet our needs and that of our parish at this present time but also for the many years generations to come.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the parish council and our entire parish family, to thank each and everyone for your continued support and stewardship to our beloved parish through our time, talents, and treasures and for all that you do for our beloved parish and outreach ministries and projects and for one another. I am very grateful and blessed by your love, prayers, kindness, stewardship, and

generosity. Our prayer is but one that all who enter into St. George Orthodox Church will enter into ‘The Kingdom of Heaven here on earth’ and be filled with the warmth of The Holy Spirit and come to know Christ, love Christ, and live Christ and a spiritual home where they are able to grow in their faith and love of Our Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you for making our beloved parish of St. George a loving and caring Body of Christ!

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we must keep in mind that we are “One Body in Christ, and each of us a member of one another.” {Romans 12:5}

We are all here working together as a family, as a Body of Christ, as a Body in Christ!

With that in mind, as we continue working on and fulfilling these projects, let us call upon The Holy Spirit to come upon us and to enlighten us and guide us towards salvation.

We kindly ask that all of us please review the below items and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either myself, Dr. Boris or any member of the parish council.

May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you and your families and our entire parish family as we continue the good work of building up the Body of Christ here at St. George.

HOLY GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE, PRAY UNTO GOD FOR US!

I remain, with Love in Christ,

Your Humble Servant
Fr. Jason

"St. George Capital Improvement and Maintenance Campaign Drive"



As our parish has taken upon itself a "St. George Capital Improvement and Maintenance Campaign Drive" for the many upcoming maintenance projects and undertakings that we will be addressing between this year (2023) and next year (2024), we are asking our beloved parishioners, families, and friends to look into our hearts and to make a donation to The Capital Campaign Project in grateful thanksgiving to God for all of His blessings we have received from Him.

Funds Available for Capital Improvement 2023 with Parish Assembly Approval:

- \$9,291 Investment Account allows use of up to 25% of current value (\$37,165) annually
- +\$8,929 Capital Improvement Account allows up to 33% of current value (\$27,057) of un-restricted funds annually (requires matching donations per project or annual spending)
- + \$8,929 Amount needed by directed donation or fundraisers to access maximum Capital Improvement Funds for upcoming Budget Year (2023) *
- \$27,059** Funds available for Capital Improvement projects contingent on matching donations
- + Additional \$ No limit to additional directed project donations from Parishioners or fundraisers

Capital Improvement Projects	Estimated Cost
Complete downstairs rectory window replacement	\$20,000
Half-fence for back of rectory property	\$3,000
Security Cameras	\$1,000
Shed for Rectory	\$4,000
Total of Prioritized Projects	\$28,000
Additional Projects with Donations/Fundraisers	Estimated Cost
Altar Server Robes (Red/Blue/Green)	\$3,800
Video streaming system for Liturgical Services	\$1,500
Tabernacle and Chalice Set	\$1,000-\$2,000
Tetrapod	\$1,000-\$2,000
Lampada	\$500
Total of Additional Projects	\$6,800-\$8,800

	Funds Available	A Note on Christian Stewardship
Total of Prioritized Projects	\$27,059 *	<p>Life is given to us through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Our commitment to expressing gratitude for this great blessing is seen through our participation in Christian Stewardship by being faithful stewards of The Gospel. Our commitment reveals how we live our faith in the Resurrected Lord. It is in The Resurrection of Our Lord that we receive eternal life and we express our hope in the life to come by our response as Orthodox Christian stewards.</p>
Additional Projects with Donations/Fundraisers		
Altar Server Robes (Red/Blue/Green)	\$1,789	
Video streaming system for Liturgical Services		
Tabernacle and Chalice Set	\$1,500	
Tetrapod	\$1,000	
Lampada	\$500	
Total of Additional Projects	\$4,289	

To successfully accomplish all the Capital Improvement projects on the list for the upcoming year (2023) it is estimated that we would need to raise \$13,381 through individual directed donations, fundraisers, and excess operational revenue. Additional donations would allow us to preserve funds in the Investment and Capital Improvement Accounts for future use. To date we have collected about \$8,000 through generous donations.

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

Please take a moment to reflect upon what God has given us, and to discern how we might be able to return to God a portion of the blessings we have received.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.
May God continue to bless and guide you and keep you always in
His Loving Care!

St George Orthodox Church

FOOD DRIVE

July 16-28, 2023

During the next two weeks, our parish will be holding a Food Drive and Non-Perishable Items Drive for our brothers and sisters in need within and around WNY.

We are asking everyone to bring at least one bag of donated canned goods/non-perishable food items or toiletries (combs, hairbrushes, deodorants, soaps, hand sanitizers, toothpaste, toothbrush, diapers, etc.) or whatever we are able to donate and place them on the table in The Parish Fellowship Hall marked: "FOOD DRIVE FOR FEED MORE of WNY" !!

Let us come together as a Parish Family and as "A City of Good Neighbors" and help show our love, prayers, and support for our brothers and sisters here in our community by bringing The Love of Our Lord to All!!

On behalf of our parish family, we express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your love, generosity, support, stewardship, and donations for our Food Drive for Feed More of WNY!

May God continue to bless and guide you, your loved ones, and all of our brothers and sisters here and throughout our City, our Nation, and throughout the world, and keep all of us in His loving care today and always!

****We will take All Items down to Feed More of WNY on Friday July 28!****

FeedMore WNY

