



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

www.stgeorgebuffalo.com

NO. 517 JULY 9, 2023 _____ JULY 9, 2023 NO. 517

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

5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily (1st c.). Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna in Crete (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Paternuthius, Coprius, and Alexander the Soldier, in Egypt (4th c.). St. Theodore, Bishop of Edessa (9th c.). St. Dionysios the Rhetorician and his disciple Saint Mētrophánēs

EPISTLE: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom **GOSPEL:**
Romans 10:1-10 Matthew 8:28-9:1

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 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Troparion for The Hieromartyr Pancratius — Tone 4

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. // O Hieromartyr Pancratius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

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

Kontakion for The Resurrection – Tone 4

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

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 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

v. Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

ALLELUIA VERSES

Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity.

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

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

COMMUNION HYMN

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

EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

Brethren:

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

Let us Attend!

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding.

So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine."

And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

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=== Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

Monday	Romans 16:17-24	Matt. 13:1-23
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Matt. 13:24-30
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 2:9-3:8	Matt. 13:31-36
Thursday	1 Corinthians 3:18-23	Matt. 13:36-43
Friday	1 Corinthians 4:5-8	Matt. 13:44-54
Saturday	Romans 9:1-5	Matt. 9:18-26
Sunday	Hebrews 13:7-16	John 17:1-13
	Romans 12:6-14	Matt. 9:1-8



Saint George Orthodox Church

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(716) 875 4222

**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!!**
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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****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 9, 2023

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

PARISH OPEN HOUSE on Church Property following Divine Liturgy!

Maintenance Committee Meeting

MONDAY JULY 10, 2023

Education Class on The Holy Icons of the 12 Major Feast Days – **6:00 to 7:00 PM (Via Zoom)**

Investment Committee Meeting - **7:00 PM (Via Zoom)**

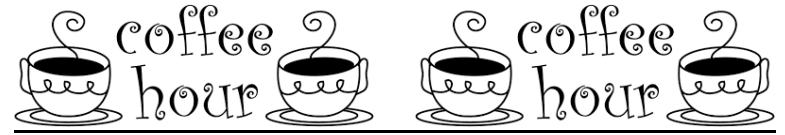
SATURDAY JULY 15, 2023

Great Vespers – **4:00 PM**

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!



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,
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 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 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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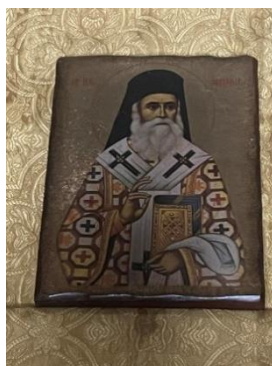
WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL

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 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 10 (Presentation of The Theotokos in The Temple - November 21 and The Nativity of Our Lord - December 25)

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

WEDNESDAY JULY 26

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!!

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**

The Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina in Sicily July 9



The Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina, was born when our Lord Jesus Christ yet lived upon the earth.

The parents of Pancratius were natives of Antioch. Hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, Pancratius' father took his young son with him and went to Jerusalem in order to see the great Teacher for himself. The miracles astonished him, and when he heard the divine teaching, he then believed in Christ as the Son of God. He became close with the disciples of the Lord, especially with the holy Apostle Peter. It was during this period that young Pancratius got to know the holy Apostle Peter.

After the Ascension of the Savior, one of the Apostles came to Antioch and baptized the parents of Pancratius together with all their household. When the parents of Pancratius died, he left behind his inherited possessions and went to Pontus and began to live in a cave, spending his days in prayer and deep spiritual contemplation. The holy Apostle Peter, while passing through those parts, visited Pancratius at Pontus. He took

him along to Antioch, and then to Sicily, where the holy Apostle Paul then was. There the holy Apostles Peter and Paul made Saint Pancratius Bishop of Taormina in Sicily.

Saint Pancratius toiled zealously for the Christian enlightenment of the people. In a single month he built a church where he celebrated divine services. The number of believers quickly grew, and soon almost all the people of Taormina and the surrounding cities accepted the Christian Faith.

Saint Pancratius governed his flock peacefully for many years. However, pagans plotted against the saint, and seizing an appropriate moment, they fell upon him and stoned him. Thus, Saint Pancratius ended his life as a martyr.

The saint's relics are in the church named for him in Rome. He is also commemorated on February 9.

COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY MATTHEW 8:28-9:1

And when Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If You cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to His own city. Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1 (Fifth Sunday of Matthew)

Today's Gospel reading is about the healing of two men possessed by demons. There are two things that stand out from the story. First, the demons recognized Jesus as the Son of God. They recognized His power, His ability to torment them before the Last Judgment. Jesus proceeded to heal the two men by casting the demons into a herd of swine, who promptly ran down a steep bank into the sea and drowned.

Second, the herdsmen, now deprived of their means of subsistence, went into the city and told everyone what had happened to the demoniacs. The whole city came out to meet Jesus. Instead of rejoicing that two men were freed from demons, the people begged Jesus to leave their neighborhood.

We know that the Lord works miracles, large and small, in every human life. We know that sometimes even miracles come with costs. In this case, the miracle of healing two demoniacs came at the cost of a herd of swine. In our lives, the birth of a child is a miracle but comes with a cost of raising of child – both financial and emotional. Miracles occur in careers which also require challenging relocations.

The question we are left to ponder from today's Gospel is, what is OUR reaction to God's miracles in our lives? Do we invite Him to stay with us, or do we demand that He leave, as did the Gadarenes?

It seems surprising that the people asked Jesus to leave their neighborhood. One would think that a man who wielded the power of demons would be someone you'd invite to stick around for a while. It seems that there were materialistic reasons that they asked Jesus to leave their city – He had left herdsmen without a herd.

Jesus wants to make His home in each of us. He wants us to invite Him in. And yet, just like that Gadarenes, many reject Jesus, believing that to follow Him consigns one to not be materially rich, or behaviorally free. There are many reasons why we reject Jesus – some of us reject Him all the time, while everyone, even those who are devout followers, reject Him at times.

Accepting Jesus is not a one-time event. While there are some churches that believe in a once-saved, always saved theology, our church views

salvation as a process. We were saved by the Resurrection of Christ. We are in the process of being saved today. We will eventually be saved only by the Grace of God. We are supposed to invite Him to be part of our lives, our jobs, our families, and all that we do, on a regular basis.

Jesus stands at the door of our hearts, already working miracles large and small for us. The question for today is this: Do we regularly invite Him in to take up His abode in us? Do we invite Him in only when it is convenient? Or do we send Him away, based our actions.

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 Scaiphon of Seward 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@odoso.org

Website: <https://odoso.org>

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!

****We will be holding a special collection for The Diocese of Alaska – NEXT SUNDAY JULY 9 at The Parish Open House 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