



**St. George Orthodox Church**  
**2 Nottingham Terrace - Buffalo, NY 14216**  
**(716) 875-4222**  
[www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://www.stgeorgebuffalo.com)

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

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

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**2 Nottingham Terrace Buffalo, NY 14216**

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

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

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

Rev. Peter Irfan, Attached

Mat. Katia Vansuch, Choir Director

Dr. Boris Kuvshinoff, Parish Council President

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

**7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6.** Martyrs Trophimus, Theophilus,  
and 13 others in Lycia (4th c.). Hieromartyr Apollinaris, Bishop of Ravenna (ca.  
75). Icon of the Mother of God, “THE JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW” (with coins)  
in St. Petersburg

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

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

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

**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 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

### Troparion for The Holy Martyr Trophimus — Tone 4

Thy holy martyr Trophimus and his companions, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from Thee, our God. For having Thy strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through their intercession, save our souls!

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

### Kontakion for The Resurrection – Tone 6

When Christ God, the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race. // He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### Steadfast Protectress Tone 6

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator. Despise not the entreating cry of us sinners, but in Your Goodness come speedily to help us who call on You in faith! Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos!! For You always protect those who honor You!

### PROKEMEINON Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!

*v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!*

### ALLELUIA VERSES

*He who dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.*

*He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust."*

### THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

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

### COMMUNION HYMN

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

EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

**Brethren:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

**Let us Attend!**

When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."

And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **SUNDAY JULY 23, 2023**

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

Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy!

### **MONDAY JULY 24, 2023**

Education Class on Holy Icons of The 12 Major Feasts– **6:00 PM**  
[Via Zoom]

Parish Council Meeting via Zoom – **7:00 PM**

### **TUESDAY JULY 25, 2023**

Daily Matins – **9:00 AM**  
Senior/Retiree Day – **10:00 to 12:30 PM**

### **THURSDAY JULY 27, 2023**

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

### **FRIDAY JULY 28, 2023**

St. George Youth Day – **10:30 AM**

- Collection of Backpacks for Salvation Army
- Donation of Food Items to FeedMore of WNY
- Delicious Treat at a local Ice Cream Shoppe

### **SATURDAY JULY 29, 2023**

Great Vespers– **4:00 PM**

### **SUNDAY JULY 30, 2023**

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

Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following Divine Liturgy!  
110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting during Coffee Hour

## **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**

**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!**

- 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



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



*Saint George Orthodox Church*  
2 Nottingham Terrace, Buffalo, NY 14216  
(716) 855-4228

**HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED IN SCHOOL**

**By collecting backpack and school supply items**

**Collection will occur from June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**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](mailto: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.

## **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**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY JULY 24, 2023 (7:00 PM)**

## **ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CENTER**

### **On the 7th Sunday of Matthew**

#### **Matthew 9:27-35**

#### **7th Sunday after Pentecost**

Today's Gospel describes one miracle among many which are included in chapter nine of the Gospel according to St. Mathew. Today's biblical reading is from Matthew 9:27-35.

The passage tells of two miracle healings: the first being the healing of two blind men, and the second, the healing of a dumb demoniac. It should be noted that in chapter nine of St. Matthew there are many accounts of miracles of healing. The chapter begins with the healing of a paralytic who was brought by his friends to the Lord Jesus, followed by the healing of a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years and then the raising from death of the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue. We arrive at today's reading that describes the two healings mentioned earlier.

The theme of faith, mercy and compassion of Jesus is at the centre of all these miracles. The faith of either the patient or their relatives are highlighted clearly in these passages.

With the healing of the paralytic, faith was first displayed by those who brought the paralysed man to the house Christ was visiting and let him down through the roof. The evangelist says: "When Jesus saw their faith, he forgave his sins." Then He healed the paralytic, saying to him: "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Then, we read that in the event of the healing of the bleeding woman, she came and touched Jesus, because she said to herself: "If I only touch the hem of His garment, I shall be made well." This was a clear display of faith without hesitation or doubt.

In the third account of healing, we read that the ruler came to Jesus and worshipped Him, saying: "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." Again, a display of fervent faith without hesitation or doubt.

Christ's compassion, borne of His divine love for mankind, appears in His responses to the requests of those who came to him in faith. God offers His divine love and compassion, and they offer their faith in Him; in this way, they become participators in His miracles.

We see that Christ expresses His mercy and compassion through the sense of touch. The bleeding woman obtained healing by "touching the hem of His garment". In the case of the daughter of the ruler, Jesus came "and took her by the hand", and in the case of the two blind men, Jesus came "and touched their eyes". All these confirm what is mentioned at the end of the chapter in verse 36, when the evangelist concludes by saying: "But when He saw the multitude, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."

In today's Gospel, Jesus departs the area where he healed the daughter of the ruler and encounters two blind men, who could not see Him but had heard of Him. It is possible words had reached their ears that Christ was a wonderworking healer, so they approached in faith. When He had entered the house, the blind men followed Him crying out and saying: "Son of David, have mercy on us." In Israel, this title was considered the greatest possible honour, for it was well known among the Jews that the "Messiah" would come from the seed of David. By using this title, the blind men show a high level of respect for Jesus.

As we read earlier, the blind men showed faith by approaching Christ, but Christ takes it one step further and instead requires of them steadfast faith, so he asks them to publicly proclaim their faith. Faith then is there, both in the heart and on the tongue, as the Apostle says in Romans: "For if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9).

Christ then asks them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" Their immediate answer was, "Yes, Lord." This is faith without hesitation or doubt. Then He touched their eyes saying: "According to your faith let it

be to you, and their eyes were opened.” In this way, the blind men saw because they believed; they did not believe because they saw.

To impart a lesson of humility, Jesus warns them, saying, “See that no one knows it.” Jesus did not perform miracles in order to gain glory from people, but for the salvation of souls. However, he could not stop their zeal and gratitude towards Him, for when they left the house, they “spread His fame through all that district “. The blind men did not follow his instruction, but immediately became preachers and evangelists of the Lord Jesus as Saviour (Messiah).

This lesson of humility is also repeated elsewhere in the scriptures when Jesus says the words, “Return to your home and declare how much God has done for you.” (Luke 8:39). Our Lord does not speak in an ambivalent way, rather we have a different audience and a different circumstance, and yet His unfathomable wisdom determines each instruction and answer.

We read on that after the blind men went away, the people brought to him a dumb demoniac. In Arabic and in another English translation, the word “dumb” is translated as a “mute”. In 19th century British English “mute” and “dumb” meant “non-speaking” and were not pejorative terms. In the original Greek text, the word is “κωφός -Kophos,” which translates to “deaf” rather than “dumb” or “mute”. The combination of deaf and mute has particular significance in old Jewish law; because it was thought impossible to teach or communicate with them, deaf-mutes were not moral agents.

In the case of the deaf-mute in this gospel reading, the disease was not a natural one, but from the demon, therefore others brought him forward for he himself was not able to call upon Jesus, as the demon had bound his tongue. Therefore, Jesus did not require faith of him, but faith was shown by those who brought him to Christ. For that, Jesus immediately healed him by casting out the demon which had prevented his speech. Jesus cast out the demon first, that is, He healed him spiritually. Then the mute spoke, thus being healed physically.

These miracles divided the multitudes into two groups: the faithful who marvelled at the miracles, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in

Israel.” These believers glorified God and saw in these miracles the hand of God, His power and authority. On the side, the Pharisees blasphemed against Him, saying: “He casts out demons by the prince of demons,” a rather nonsensical statement, how can a demon cast out another demon? How can they work against each other? The Lord answered the Pharisees in a different place by saying: “Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation”. (Mathew 12:25). Casting out the devil is the work of God almighty, a declaration of His power and authority, and a sign of the advent of the kingdom of Heaven.

The passage ends with: “Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity.”

He was teaching for the salvation of souls and healing every pain and malady of the body. He is the true Physician and Saviour of both souls and bodies. Amen.

+ Metropolitan Basilios

[Antiochian Orthodox Church Archdiocese]



**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 Alexi at Saint Sava of Serbia Parish in Zillah, Alaska*

**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](mailto: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  
2 Nottingham Terrace - Buffalo, NY 14216  
(716) 875-4222 ~ stgeorgebuffalo.com ~  
jvansuch@hotmail.com  
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

	Funds Available
<b>Total of Prioritized Projects</b>	<b>\$27,059 *</b>
<b>Additional Projects with Donations/Fundraisers</b>	
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
<b>Total of Additional Projects</b>	<b>\$4,289</b>

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 the Investment and Capital Improvement Accounts for future use. To date we have collected about \$8,000 through generous donations.

Capital Improvement Projects	Estimated Cost	Funds Available
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	
<b>Total of Prioritized Projects</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$27,059 *</b>
<b>Additional Projects with Donations/Fundraisers</b>		
	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Funds Available</b>
Altar Server Robes (Red/Blue/Green)	\$3,800	\$1,789
Video streaming system for Liturgical Services	\$1,500	
Tabernacle and Chalice Set	\$1,000-\$2,000	\$1,500
Tetrapod	\$1,000-\$2,000	\$1,000
Lampada	\$500	\$500
<b>Total of Additional Projects</b>	<b>\$6,800-\$8,800</b>	<b>\$4,289</b>

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!

# 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!