



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

35th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Afterfeast of the Meeting. Ven. Isidore of Pelusium (ca. 436-440). Rt. Blv. George, Great Prince of Vladimir (1238). Ven. Kirill (Cyril) the Wonderworker, Abbot of Novoezérsk (Novgorod—1532). Ven. Abraham and Coprius, of Pechenga (Vologdá—15th c.). Martyr Jadorus (3rd c.). Hieromartyr Abramius, Bishop of Arbela in Assyria (ca. 344-347). Ven. Nicholas the Confessor, Abbot of Studion

EPISTLE: Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom **GOSPEL:**
Colossians 3:12-16 Matthew 25:14-30

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 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Tropar for The Feast of The Meeting of Our Lord in The Temple, Tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder, thou didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of our souls,// Who grants us the Resurrection!

Kontakion for The Resurrection - Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,// and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

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

Kontakion for The Feast of The Meeting of Our Lord in The Temple - Tone 1

By Nativity Thou didst sanctify the Virgin's womb and didst bless Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians,// O only Lover of Man!

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!

THE PROKEMEINON – TONE 2

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.

V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

ALLELUIA VERSES

May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee!

Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation!

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in thee! In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us the faithful discern a figure: every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God. Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of the Father Who has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

COMMUNION HYMN

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

BRETHREN:

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

LET US ATTEND:

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

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=== Scriptural Readings for the Week ===

PLEASE REFER TO THE OCA WEBSITE...www.oca.org

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THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2024

YOUTH SUNDAY

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

Q&A With Fr. Jay in Parish Fellowship Hall following The Divine Liturgy

Monthly Potluck Luncheon and Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following The Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2024

Paraklesis Service to The Theotokos – **6:00 PM**
Adult Education Class (Via Zoom) – **7:00 to 8:00 PM**

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Akathist to Our Lord Jesus Christ - **9:00 AM**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2024

Education Series Lecture #3 – 2:30 PM
- *In Parish Fellowship Hall with Movie, Discussion and Refreshments*
Great Vespers – 3:30 PM [PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE]

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2024

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY

Matins – **9:00 AM** Divine Liturgy followed by Memorial Litia for Thy Newly-Departed Servant of God Brian Cosen - **10:00 AM**

Church School Class in Parish Fellowship Hall following The Divine Liturgy

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING LUNCHEON and Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall following The Divine Liturgy



Coffee Hour Fellowship is held every Sunday in The Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy. As this is a continuation of The Divine Liturgy itself through Agape and Fellowship, let us come together to enjoy the time as a parish family.

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)

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.

To visit our parish website, please click on the QR Code below:



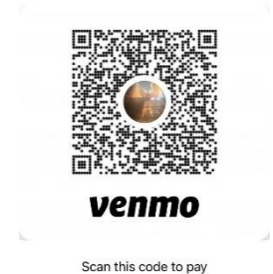
Come and See how we are all called to be Stewards of The Church!

- 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



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

MONTHLY HEALING PRAYER SERVICE The Supplicatory Canon Prayer Service to St. Nektarios TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2024 –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**



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 bringing the joy, the love, and the peace of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ 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 2024, 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 and FeedMore of WNY 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 (2023)

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
 Turtle Rock Road
 Livonia, NY

Mr. Steve Scordalakis
 122 Pennsylvania Ave
 Lockport, NY 14221

Andrew Wityk
 Ellicott Center
 200 Seventh Street
 Buffalo, NY 14201

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 Jake Raphael
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, James, Jeffrey, Dominic,
Douglas, Rachel, Dennis, Edith, Joanna
Brian John, Roberta, Barbara John, Michael John
George Costa Jonathan, Kevin, Lary, Carly, Sherry, Mary Jo, Clara, Karl,
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, David, David Alexander and Bonnie Nadja
Ron, Illiana, Jillian, Joel, Robert, Susan, Arnold, Kyriaki, Danny, Thomas,
Amelia, Emily, Kevin/Juanita Sam Anna

Crissy and the child Luke Raphael born of her
Children of God - Jake, Raphael

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

Jeremy Ayden Edward
Rudy and Karen Judy Raymon/ Gina Raymond and Frankie

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 James
Barbara Gabe Anita Cindy Robert Lynn Francis Thomas James**

***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>.

"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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ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH EDUCATION CENTER

THE FEAST OF THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation's religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, St Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and St Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the

Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32). St Simeon said to the Most Holy Virgin: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

At the Temple was the 84-year-old widow Anna the Prophetess, daughter of Phanuel (February 3), "who did not leave the temple, but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when St Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of

Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was

celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast.

Church hymnographers have adorned this Feast with their hymns: St Andrew of Crete in the seventh century; St Cosmas Bishop of Maium, St John of Damascus, and St Germanus Patriarch of Constantinople in the eighth century; and St Joseph, Archbishop of Thessalonica in the ninth century.

On this day we also commemorate the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "the Softening of Evil Hearts" or "Simeon's Prophecy." The Mother of God is depicted without Her Child, with seven swords piercing her breast: three from the left side, three from the right, and one from below.

A similar icon, "Of the Seven Swords" (August 13) shows three swords on the left side and four from the right.

The icon "Simeon's Prophecy" symbolizes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the righteous Elder Simeon: "a sword shall pierce through your own soul" (Luke 2:35).

St Symeon the New Theologian (+1022) writes:

‘The candles which you light reveal to you the intelligible light. Just as the church, that house of great beauty, is full of light from many candles, so the house of your soul, which is more precious than that church, should be illumined and full of light in a noetic sense – that is to say, that within you all the spiritual virtues should burn with divine fire... The multitude of burning lamps signify the illumined thoughts which should shine within you like lamps, so that there should be no dark thought in the house of your soul, but that all should be aflame and shining with the light of the Holy spirit.’”

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**On the Sixth Sunday of Matthew
The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)**

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much.” (Matt. 25:21)

Our Lord, in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), teaches us that God gives men gifts that differ in number and kind. What is vitally important is not the number, but the use we make of those gifts. In the parable, one man received five talents, another two, and another one. It is not a man's talent that matters; what matters is how he uses it. God never demands from a man abilities, which he doesn't have. But God does demand from a man that he should use to the fullest the abilities, which he does possess. Men are not equal in talent; but men can be equal in effort. The parable tells us that whatever talent we have, be it great or little, we must use it in the service of God.

In the parable, their master calls the servants, who exercised the use of the talents given them in a fruitful manner, good and faithful. In contrast, the servant, who hid the talent given him, rather than use and develop it, is called wicked and slothful. What does this parable say to us about our relationship to God and what we are doing with the talents (gifts) He has given us to use to His glory and the benefit of others? Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, in A Year of the Lord, Liturgical Bible Studies, writes the following: "In the Gospel of Matthew the above

parable is trying to tell us about the relationship between the Master and His servants. The Master Who leaves for a time and then returns, is Christ. His servants are none other than His followers, the Christians. Thus the basic point is clear: while the risen Christ reigns in heaven and the servant Christians are waiting for His return, they are not to be inactive, complacent, and stagnant, but rather eager to exercise the gifts, responsibilities, and demands the Master has placed upon them. According to the Gospel of Matthew the best way to wait for the glorious coming of Christ is by living according to the teachings of Jesus."

We are responsible for the gifts, talents, and opportunities for good that God has made possible. The gifts given vary, but the grace offered is the same. St. Paul reminds us that "...there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (I Cor. 12:4-7) We cannot evade responsibility for ignoring our talents. We are fellow workers with God, we are stewards of every gift He has granted, called to use those gifts for our own and our neighbor's salvation. The servant with the one talent was not condemned because he had only one talent. He was condemned because he failed to use the talent given him, and, in addition, he blamed his sloth on his master.

St. John Chrysostom, in his commentary on the Gospel of St. Matthew, writes: "Let us contribute alike money, eagerness in helping, care for others, and all things for our neighbor's benefit. For the talents in this parable are each person's ability and power, whether by caring for others, or by giving money, or by teaching, or by any other such means. Let no one say, 'I have but one talent, and I can do nothing.' For you can bring about fruit even with one talent. You are not poorer than the widow of the Gospels. You are not more unlearned than Peter and John who 'were uneducated, common men' (Acts 4:13); but nevertheless, because they showed zeal and did all things for the common good, they attained to heaven. For nothing is so pleasing to God, and makes one His friend, as to live for the common benefit."

Since we are managers, or stewards, of God's gifts, each of us will give account of how we used the abundance of gifts given to us. God the Father, through the manifestation of His Son, has shown Himself to be a loving Father, Who loves His children, and Who sent His Son "into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:17) On the awesome Day of Judgment, we will have to give an account of how we lived our lives in relation to others. God, however, is also asking us how we are presently living our lives in relation to others and using the gifts He has given. How important this is for us individually and collectively. A society that permits or condones an attitude of unaccountability is condemned to suffer corruption, abuse, and irresponsible behavior. How important for us as Orthodox Christians, and for the strength of our families and churches, to use God's gifts to us in a responsible manner which manifests our own personal sense of accountability to Him and, above all, our gratitude toward Him. The first two servants showed gratitude. They accepted their gifts in a positive manner and worked diligently to increase the portion of grace given them. They didn't compare, the one having two talents looking to the one who had five, and asking why or complaining that he too should have as many.

The parable ends on a sobering note. It lays down a rule of life, which is universally true. It tells us that to him who has indeed been faithful more shall be given, and that he who has not been faithful, the little he does have will be taken away. "For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away." (Matt. 25:29) William Barclay writes: "If a man has a talent and exercises it, he is progressively able to do more with it. But, if he has a talent and fails to exercise it, he will inevitably lose it. That is equally true of playing golf or playing the piano, of singing songs or writing sermons, of carving wood or thinking out ideas. It is the lesson of life that the only way to keep a gift is to use it in the service of God and in the service of our fellowmen."

What kind of stewards are we, slothful or grateful? May our gracious Lord grant that we strive always to be good and faithful in the use of the many gifts he grants us, for His glory, in service to our fellow man and the building up and strengthening of His Church and her ministries, so

that all might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. (I Timothy 2:4)



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!

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship means making a regular commitment of one's time, talent, and treasure to Christ and His Church

Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God.

Stewardship recognizes that we believe that "every good and perfect gift we receive in our lives comes from above."

Stewardship is a spiritual practice, much like prayer and fasting. And just as prayer and fasting are ways we seek to deepen our relationship with God, so we use Stewardship to turn everything in our lives into an opportunity to grow in our relationship with God.

Stewardship, like prayer and fasting, should be undertaken purposefully and with intention - while giving of time, talent, and treasure when we feel so moved is a good beginning, it can only bear limited fruit. We should set aside portions of our time, talent, and treasure to give to God before we give them to anything else, in the same way that we should plan our prayer and fasting. There will always be times for spontaneous giving, as with spontaneous prayer - but intention is also necessary.

Why be a Steward?

To be a Steward of the Church means being an active participant in the life of the Church - growing in Faith and communion with God and proclaiming that same Faith with every word, every action, and every moment of our lives.

What is Orthodox Christian Stewardship

"It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today." - Fr. Anthony Coniaris

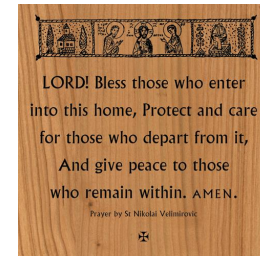
Stewardship reminds us that everything we have has been given to us by God - not for us to have, but for us to care for as stewards, or caretakers. This is why we call those who are actively living the Orthodox Christian life "stewards," because to live the Orthodox Christian life fully means to recognize that we have received everything from God, and therefore we offer some of what we have received back in thanksgiving.

Financial stewardship is an offering, and it is part of how we participate in the saving work of Christ and His Church. By offering back some of what has been given to us, we allow God to work through that offering "for the life of the world." Just as we offer bread and wine for the Liturgy which God transforms into the Body and Blood of Christ to transform us into the living Body of Christ, so do we offer our time, treasure, and talents to Christ and His Church so that God might receive them and transform them into the means not only of our salvation, but for all Creation.



BE SURE TO CONTACT MAT. FRAN REGARDING THE NEW 2024 COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE AS WELL AS SEE IT LOCATED IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL!!

BEGINNING IN 2024 – THE 1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH WILL BE POT-LUCK SUNDAY! BRING A FAVORITE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE WITH YOUR PARISH FAMILY AS WE COME TOGETHER TO ENJOY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP!



HOME BLESSING

HOME BLESSING

BE SURE TO CONTACT FR. JASON TO SCHEDULE A TIME AND DAY FOR HIM TO COME AND BLESS YOUR HOME DURING THE THEOPHANY SEASON!! HOMES WILL BE BLESSED DURING THE THEOPHANY SEASON ALL THE WAY UP TO THE BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT. AS A REMAINDR, WE CAN HAVE OUR HOMES BLESSED ANYTIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 😊



BE SURE TO SEE THE 2024 READER SCHEDULE (Hours and Epistle) SIGN UP SHEET
LOCATED IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL AS WELL AS ON THE PARISH
WEBSITE!! PLEASE SEE OR CONTACT FR. JASON, . MAT. KATIA, OR SUBDEACON
SHAWN IF WE ARE INTERESTED IN READING DURING THE DIVINE SERVICES.



MONTHLY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF OUR PARISHIONERS,
FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS WILL BE HELD ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.
IF ANYONE HAS A BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY OF MILESTONE THAT WE CAN
CELEBRATE WITH YOU, PLEASE SEE OR CONTACT FR. JASON SO THAT WE CAN
RECOGNIZE YOU AND CELEBRATE YOU AND HONOR YOU ASKING GOD'S BLESSINGS
UPON YOU FOR MANY YEARS OF GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.



THE ORTHODOX FAITH

PARISH EDUCATION SERIES WILL BE HELD IN
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023 ON 3 CONSECUTIVE SATURDAYS
WITH THE FOLLOWING SERIES

Saturday January 27, 2024

The Showing of The History of the Orthodox Church Part I: The
Beginnings

Saturday February 3, 2024

The Showing of The History of the Orthodox Church Part II:
Byzantium

Saturday February 10, 2024

The Showing of The History of the Orthodox Church Part III: The
Hidden Treasure

Great Vespers – 4:00 PM Education Class and Refreshments and
Discussion – 5:00 PM

COME PRAY WITH US!

COME GROW WITH US!

COME LEARN ABOUT THE ANCIENT FAITH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES!

For any questions or more information, please contact Fr. Jason –
716.875.4222/jvansuch@hotmail.com

UPDATE ON FR. HERMAN SCHICK

Fr Herman Schick, the retired long time Pastor here at St George Orthodox Church in Buffalo, has been moved from Strong Hospital here in Rochester to Loretto Nursing Facility in Syracuse on Brighton Avenue.

Fr Herman was transported on Monday afternoon where the focus of care is at this point either rehabilitation or palliative.

Fr Herman and Matushka Cindy do have a family connection to Daria York (Syracuse) and Matushka and their son George are planning on making visits as well. Father Herman and Matushka Cindy also have an older Daughter who lives in Japon as well however as you can imagine she doesn't have the opportunity to visit much.

Contact info for the facility is as follows:

Loretto Skilled Nursing Facility
700 East Brighton Avenue
Syracuse New York 13205
(313) 469-5570

Please continue to keep Fr. Herman Matushka Cynthia George and Elizabeth in our daily thoughts and prayers.

We will be sending a card to Fr. Herman next weekend if anyone would like to send a message, we will have the card available for everyone to sign during coffee hour next Sunday.



SUNDAY MARCH 10 - 1:30 to 3:30 PM
Kenmore Lanes - 1691 Kenmore Ave, Buffalo, NY 14217

\$9/per person (includes 2 games of bowling and shoe rental)

Please contact Fr. Jason (jvansuch@hotmail.com/609.851.3811) or Mat. Katia (katia.vansuch@gmail.com/609.851.3034 by Wednesday February 21 to make a reservation.

We will also be ordering pizza and soda/water from the restaurant at the bowling alley.

The cost is \$9 per bowler which includes 2 games and shoe rental. We will also be ordering pizza and soda from the restaurant at the bowling alley. If anyone needs assistance, please see or contact Fr. Jason.

At your earliest convenience, if you would please let Fr. Jason or Mat. Katia or Andrea know if you are able to make it and also how many from your family will be able to come. This way we can have an approximate count and plan accordingly.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2024

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2024

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING LUNCHEON

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11, 2024, Orthodox Christian churches across the country will join a nationwide, ecumenical effort: "Souper Bowl of Caring" to help organizations such as International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). The children of our church school will be going around the Parish Fellowship Hall holding large soup pots to receive the financial donations. 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. The donations that are collected will then be sent into International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).

Also, we are asking for donations of canned goods and non-perishable food items which will be collected and then donated to Feed More of WNY. Come and enjoy a delicious lunch where we will be offering a variety of homemade soups, Chilis, etc!!

If anyone would like to bring a soup, chili, salad, bread, dessert, please see or contact Andrea Chmiel who is organizing the Luncheon for us!!

Let us come together as a parish family and support the church school children and IOCC project of feeding the hungry by ministering to those in need!

"Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it unto Me." (Matthew 25:40)

The "Souper Bowl of Caring" began at a Presbyterian church in Columbia, S.C., in 1990 and has grown into a grassroots movement linked with the national pastime of Super Bowl Sunday. Over the past

several years, over 15, 000 parishes and congregations, including many Orthodox parishes, participated and generated millions in donations for various charities.

THE INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (IOCC) is an agency of The Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) which represents Orthodox Christians in North America and understands its work to include developing in Orthodox Christians a commitment to philanthropy and global cooperative involvement within the Orthodox Church. IOCC was established in March 1992 as the Official Humanitarian Organization of SCOBA.

Consonant with the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20 and Matthew 25:35-46), the vision of IOCC is to provide programs and services such as: providing emergency relief and establishing developmental programs as well as ministering to those who are in need worldwide.

For more information about IOCC please visit their website at: <http://www.iocc.org>.

Schedule of The 2024 COCCNF Great Lenten Sunday Vespers Service

The 2024 Schedule of COCCNF Great Lenten Sunday Vespers Services which will be served on the 5 Sundays of Great Lent along with the 2023 Schedule of Services for our parish will be emailed out to everyone within the next few weeks.

MEATFARE SUNDAY LUNCHEON

SUNDAY March 10, 2024

Please join us on Sunday March 10 in The Parish Fellowship Hall immediately following The Divine Liturgy for a special Meatfare Sunday Luncheon!

Please see or contact Fr. Jason, Mat. Katia or Mat. Fran if you would like to help out or bring a covered dish to share with everyone!!

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ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH MEET n GREET

SUNDAY MARCH 17, 2024

FORGIVENESS SUNDAY

IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING FORGIVENESS SUNDAY VESPERS

Please join us on Sunday March 17 for a Special Lenten Luncheon during which we will get to know our parish family a little better as we begin The Great Lenten Season!

Great Food ~~~~ Great Fellowship ~~~~ Great Fun for All

Let us come together as a parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ and enjoy Christian Fellowship as begin The Great Lenten Season!

Please see or contact Fr. Jason, or Mat. Katia, Mat. Fran if you would like to help out or bring a Lenten (**dairy but no meat**) covered dish to share with everyone!!

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 25th	 Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	TRIDION WEEKS Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week MARCH 3rd	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 10th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 17th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 24th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 31st	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bowl!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 21st	 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 28th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MAY 3rd	 HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 5th NO FASTING!		Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!