

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE RESUMES

A reminder: Two weeks from today, **Sunday, September 12**, we resume our regular schedule for **Sunday Divine Services**. Orthros will be at 8:45 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. Please note this coming change.

GREEK IT UP!

Our Fall Festival, "Greek it Up!", will be held on Saturday, October 2 and Sunday, October 3 here at St. George. There will be a wine tasting, a Greek Ouzeri, a Glendi on Saturday night, October 2 from 8 p.m. to midnight, and a raffle where the winner receives a luxury cruise vacation for two to the Greek Isles. Join us for this special community-building and fund-raising event. Mark your calendars!

FEED THE HUNGRY COORDINATOR NEEDED

We are in serious need of a person to coordinate the Feed the Hungry ministry each month. Duties include coordinating a team of volunteers for food purchasing, preparation, and delivery to the local shelters once a month. Please consider this critical need of the Church and call Fr. Dimitrios if you would like to help.



PRAYER TO THE HOLY, VENERABLE PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN

O glorious Forerunner John, greatest prophet among those born of woman, although thou wast sanctified in thy mother's womb and didst lead a most innocent life, nevertheless it was thy will to retire into the wilderness, there to devote thyself to the practice of austerity and penance; obtain for us of thy Lord the grace to be wholly detached, at least in our hearts, from earthly goods, and to practice Christian mortification with interior recollection and with the spirit of holy prayer. O most zealous Apostle, who, without working any miracle on others, but solely by the example of thy life of penance and the power of thy word, didst draw after thee the multitudes, in order to dispose them to receive the Messiah worthily and to listen to His heavenly doctrine; grant that it may be given unto us, by means of thy example of a holy life and the exercise of every good work, to bring many souls to God, but above all those souls that are enveloped in the darkness of error and ignorance and are led astray by vice. O Martyr invincible, who, for the honor of God and the salvation of souls didst with firmness and constancy withstand the impiety of Herod even at the cost of thine own life, and didst rebuke him openly for his wicked and dissolute life; by thy prayers obtain for us a heart, brave and generous, in order that we may overcome all human respect and openly profess our faith in loyal obedience to the teachings of Jesus Christ, our divine Master to Whom be glory unto ages of ages. Amen

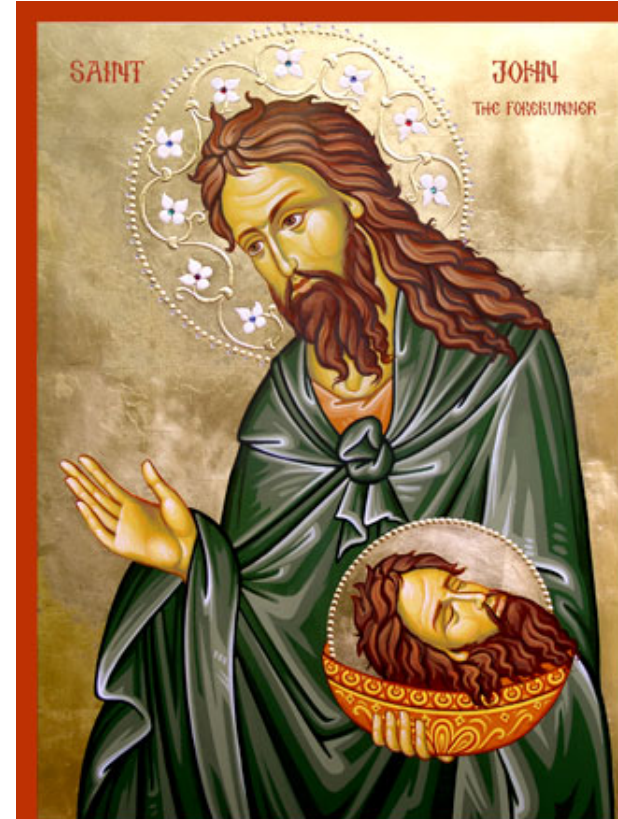
A REMINDER

When you make your stewardship offerings by check, **PLEASE REMEMBER TO WRITE ON THE MEMO LINE "2010 STEWARDSHIP."** Checks are coming in without ANY identification or with "Donation" written on them. Please assist our financial staff by indicating that your offering is **TOWARDS STEWARDSHIP** — otherwise the offerings will be placed in the general fund rather than under your stewardship pledge. Many thanks!

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN

THE BEHEADING OF THE VENERABLE PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN

AUGUST 29, 2010



**O HOLY PROPHET AND FORERUNNER
JOHN, PRAY TO GOD THAT OUR
SOULS MAY BE SAVED!**

APOLYTIKION OF THE FORERUNNER

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since thou was granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

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EPISTLE Acts of the Apostles 13:25-33

In those days, as John was finishing his course, he said, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie." Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets which are read every sabbath, fulfilled these by condemning him. Though they could charge him with nothing deserving death, yet they asked Pilate to have him killed. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.

GOSPEL Mark 6:14-30

At that time, King Herod heard that Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod had sent and seized John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; because he had married her. For John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias' daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." And she went out, and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the baptizer." And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

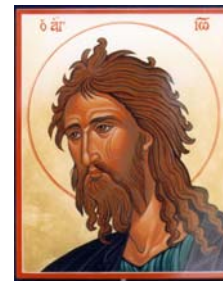
REMINDER: TODAY IS A STRICT FAST DAY. NO MEAT, DAIRY, WINE/OIL, OR FISH IS PERMITTED.

MEMORIAL

A Memorial Services will be offered today for **William Siskos (40 Days)**, requested by his wife, Xanthippi, and his daughters Olivia, Elizabeth and Catherine. May his memories be eternal!

THE INDICATION

This **Wednesday, September 1**, is the observance of **The Indiction** (The Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year) Orthros at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.



THE SECRET OF ST. JOHN

Today's commemoration in the Holy Orthodox Church may shock Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike. We remember a beheading. Our icons today depict the severed head either on a platter in the hands of the dancing Salome, or next to the body of its victim. To eyes not looking in faith, the entire thing seems ghoul-ish. To those of us who believe, it is the commemoration of one who gave his all, who held nothing back, who went the distance and beyond out of love for His Lord and Master. The beheading of St. John the Forerunner is the first "martyrdom". He died because his witness was so compelling. He died because he was not afraid to speak out in Christ's Name. He died because the authorities and powers of his day perceived his message and his life as a threat. His was a prophetic voice that was designed to shake people from their complacency and make ready for "the One who would come after — the One whose sandal he was not fit to fasten." John was the final witness of the Old Dispensation and the first witness of the New. His secret: he never let his ego stand in the way of his witness. **"He must become greater, and I must become less."** Long before the Holy Fathers would write about the passions, John knew that an unbridled ego was a stumbling block to true discipleship. It was a substitute for humility and obedience. It was an echo of Adam's fateful choice to replace God's will with his own. He instinctively knew that left uncontrolled, the prideful ego would consider the

opinion of others and shrink from its call to witness boldly in the public square. Left to its own devices, the ego would cease being that prophetic and critical voice, and simply become one voice among many in a society that failed to look deep within. Indeed, the beheading of St. John is a precursor to the death of the Lord Jesus Himself, whose prophetic voice and anti-social preaching of the Gospel of love caused Him too, to lose His life. John died as Christ would — at the hands of men for whom ego was everything and the creation of ego-values shaped the social order. What of us? If Orthodox discipleship is all about the submission and control of EGO — how do I fare? Do I have the courage to witness, speak out, and go against the social order when Orthodox values are at stake? Do I make excuses for hiding my faith or lack the courage to live its demands? Exactly how much am I will to give the Lord by way of obedience, submission of my own desires and ego-cravings? Do I take St. John's words **"He must become greater and I must become less."** as the rule for my own life? Do I even *believe* it in my heart? Yes, the beheading of St. John is about martyrdom and martyrdom is all about how much one is willing to give, how far one is willing to go in following the Crucified Lord. The questions above are at the heart of Orthodox Christian discipleship. Are they merely poetic niceties for you, or are their answers the wisdom by which you shape your life?

"HE MUST BECOME GREATER AND I MUST BECOME LESS."

PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, William Coulopoulos, Milton Kayafas, Mary Agis, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios and PFC Brett Hughes.