

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

Please inform the Church Office 301-469-7990 (ext 300) of any loved ones who are hospitalized or “shut-ins,” so they may be visited and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

PLEASE NOTE: The 2010 calendars will NOT be mailed this year. St. George members may pick up your calendar FREE OF CHARGE during coffee hour on Sunday or on weekdays in the Church Office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FAMILY LUNCHEON Sunday, February 7 The 8th Annual Family Luncheon honoring all Godparents and benefitting Be-diani Orphanage will be held Sunday, Feb. 7, after Divine Liturgy in the Grand hall. Reservations are required by Sunday, January 31. The Herald has reservation forms, or you may contact Eva Borsas at 301-515-2765 or at ilias_borsas@msn.com Adults are \$12 and children under 12 are \$6. Children under three, no charge. Make your reservations today after Divine Liturgy or email akranias@hotmail.com

FIFTY PLUS On February 10th at 11:30 am meeting: A Valentine’s lunch at Normandy Farms Restaurant in Potomac Md. Cost per person is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to St. George Fifty Plus Club and mail to St George Church. For any questions or more information, please call Maria Kopsidas (301-493-5789).

GOYA February 10, Goya will have a fundraising restaurant night at The Parthenon at 5510 Connecticut Avenue NW Washington, DC. From 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Twenty percent of dinner sales from the day will be donated to the ministry of St. George Goya for its outreach programs. Save the date! If you have any questions, please contact Demetri Tzamaras at dtzamaras@comcast.net.

APOKRIATIKO GLENDI February 12, 4 p.m. — The St. George Greek School, in association with other youth organizations of the Parish, invites you to the Annual Apokriatiko Glendi to be held in the Grand Hall on February 12, 7pm to 11pm. Ticket sales will be every Sunday after services starting Sunday Jan 17. Ticket prices are \$12 (ages 7 and over) and \$8 (ages 6 and under). For information please contact Philios Angelides (703-450-7963). Tickets will not be sold at the door. Deadline for ticket sales is Feb. 7

LITERARY LUNCHEON Feb. 20, 2010, Tickets for the Literary Luncheon are quickly selling out. We urge you to send in your reservation ASAP. Sponsorships and raffle tickets are still available. Prizes for the raffle tickets include and elegant ladies’ Evening Watch; dinner for two each month for a year; a sporting events tickets and memorabilia package; an HP Mini Laptop, and a 6” Kindle reading device. Tickets will be sold after Liturgy during Fellowship Hour. **Volunteers are also needed.** If you are planning to attend the luncheon and would be willing to donate an hour or so of your time prior to it, please call Catherine Sarlis at 301-469-7990.

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS The Ladies Philoptochos Society wants you to become a member if you have not already joined us! Volunteer Circles are now forming to support the following ministries: Outreach, Spiritual Enrichment, Liturgical, Hospitality, & Special Projects. We could use your time and talents in the area of your choosing. Please contact Lia Kent for more information, kent_amalia@yahoo.com or 301-762-8976.

QUILT-A-THON On Saturday, February 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., St. George will have a Quilt-A-Thon—a Lenten project that creates quilts for at-risk babies and small children in Washington, DC metropolitan area hospitals. You don’t need to know how to sew!! Fabric and supplies will be provided by the Ladies Philoptochos Society. For more information contact Adrienne Barris at 703-827-5757 or Stephanie Wilde at 301-983-0879. JOIN US, PLEASE!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NOTE ON YOUR STEWARDSHIP CHECKS “STEWARDSHIP 2010”. If you have not submitted a 2010 pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. You need not give a check when submitting a pledge card.

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

JANUARY 31, 2010



THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

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EPISTLE Corinthians 6:12-20

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

TODAY'S READER: STELLA COMINOS

GOSPEL Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS

TO SPEAK ON

"THE TRINITY: HEART OF OUR LIFE"

His Eminence Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia will preside at our first Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, after which he will give a special spiritual presentation on The Trinity. It will take place on **Wednesday, Feb. 17** with Presanctified Liturgy at 6 p.m., Lenten Supper at 7 p.m. and His Eminence's presentation at 8 p.m.



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Tuesday, February 2, is the FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE. Orthros will be at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.



HE RUNS TO MEET US...

Today's Gospel passage recalls the most profound truth of our Orthodox faith: our God is a God of mercy and compassion. It recalls the words of the Psalmist "Gracious and merciful is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. The Lord is good to all and his mercy is over all His works." (Psalm 145) In the parable of the Prodigal Son, we notice three important elements: 1) the deliberate choice of the prodigal to squander the life and riches given to him; 2) his eventual admission that he had done wrong, made a mistake, and had rejected his father's love; and 3) the overwhelming love and forgiveness of the father who does not wait for the prodigal to come home but runs out to meet him. Such is true of our own lives. Daily, in so many ways, we squander the grace and love of God through sin. We live as though He doesn't. We CHOOSE to wander away from Him. Eventually, we are faced with the results of our choice: unhappiness, anxiety, emptiness, and a sense of self-alienation that may even manifest itself in physical sickness and discomfort. **We are confronted with the fact that life without God is no life at all.** We are haunted by the fact that we have fooled ourselves into believing that our lives are in balance – when in fact they are not. There is good news! Our God looks for us. Our God longs for our return. Our God sees us from afar and runs out to meet us with His forgiveness and love – NO QUESTIONS ASKED! **All we have to do is move towards him** – even slightly. We just have to begin to make the move in our hearts, to see our sin, to admit our sickness, and to begin to return. That is all we have to do. **God will do the rest.** As we approach Great Lent we have the chance to make our move, to admit our spiritual sickness, to see our sin and own it, and to make that first turn towards the Father. That is all it will take to start the Father running to us and for us to feel His loving arms enfold us. Trust Him. **That is all it takes.**

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, Saxton, 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, Thomas Jenkins, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Artie Constantinides, Stephanie Skanderis, Michael Giatzis, John Morris, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Maj. Sydney Pennix, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy.

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Demetrios Chatos (5 Years)** and **Robert Warfield (5 Years)** requested by their family Sophia Chatos and Kyle Warfield; for **George Petrakes (10 Years)** requested by his wife Jeannette, son Gary and daughter Julie; and for **Vasilios (6 Years)** and **Katrina (5 Years) Dimitriou, Anastasia Strigli (4 Years), Amalia Cassell (2 Years), and John Dimitriou (10 Years)** requested by Mahy Polymeropoulos; for **Achilles Pulakos (10 Years)**, requested by Helen and Dino Pappas; and for **Sophia (10 Years) and Gus (12 Years) Loukas and Marina (4 Years) and Yianni (6 Years) Patronas**, requested by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. May their memories be eternal!



FIRST SATURDAY OF SOULS

This **Saturday, February 6**, is the **first Saturday of Souls**. February 13 and 20 are the second and third Saturday of Souls. **Orthros will be at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.** Commemoration sheets are available at the candle stand.

40 DAY BLESSINGS

40 Day Blessings will be given today to **Alexander**, son of Peter and Melanie Liacouras; and **Eleni**, daughter of Nick and Yianna Marinos. May God grant them many years!



APOLYTIKION OF THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Hail Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for Christ our God, the Son of Righteousness, has dawned from you, granting light to those in darkness. And you, O Righteous Elder, rejoice, taking in your arms the Deliverance of our souls, who grants us Resurrection.