

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will begin on September 15 (this Thursday) at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. This year's study will be the Old Testament *Book of Genesis*. Please join us for this important study of one of the seminal books of the Sacred Scripture.

PARISH RETREAT DAY — SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011

Metropolitan Panteleimon of Antinoes will lead us in a day of reflection on **THE JESUS PRAYER**. It is the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (*Hagia Skepi*). Orthros at 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m., followed by the retreat program ending at approximately 1:30—2:00 p.m. Brunch will be served. A free-will offering is asked to defer the cost of the food and other retreat-related expenses.

ALTAR BOY MEETING

There will be a meeting of **all altar boys** on Sunday, September 18, from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. All acolytes are expected to attend this meeting to start the new Church Year in a prayerful manner.

GREEK SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Greek School for Preschoolers (GSP) has a few openings in each class for the 2011-2012 school year. Please visit the <http://www.stgeorge.org/education/greek-preschool> for applications, forms and more information, or contact paula.spiliotopoulos@verizon.net or dsamiosferat@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS TODAY

Our goal is to grow in God's love and to make God's love known to others. Students must be registered before **CLASSES TODAY**. Registration forms may be found on the table in the Church Hall. Registration forms should be mailed or faxed to the Church. Please register today. The Church fax number is 301-469-5945.

50 PLUS CLUB

Our first meeting is September 14th, which coincides with the Feast-day of **The Exaltation of the Cross**. We encourage everyone to attend the services that morning and come to the meeting immediately afterward. Father George Khitiri will be speaking on **The Meaning of the Cross**. At our September 28th meeting, Fr. William Hessmer IV will be speaking on **Essential Estate Planning**, an issue important to us all. A trip to the Dupont Winterthur Mansion and Longwood Gardens is planned for October 12th. Payment must be received by September 14th.

GREEK SCHOOL

The Greek School's classes started on Friday, Sept. 9th, and Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011. If you have a child that is interested, you can still register. For more information, please contact Lena Petropoulos at (301) 774-4558 or skpetrop@comcast.net or Katerina Papaioannou at (301) 229-4286 or michaelkaterinap@gmail.com. Adult classes start the first week of October. For more information, please contact after September 22nd Lena Petropoulos at (301) 774-4558 or skpetrop@comcast.net.

In response to continued inquiries regarding church financials, the Church is publishing year-to-date operating income and expenses in the Sunday Bulletin. God bless you and thank you for your support.

January 1 through September 6, 2011

Income \$800,612.82*

Expenses \$877,097.32**

*Includes any income (funds received) from Stewardship, Candles, Trays, Donations, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Fall Fund-raiser, Greek School, Pre-School Program, Other Income and Harbor School Rent.

** - Includes expenses incurred (funds disbursed) for Administrative Items, Candles, Facility Rentals, Spring Festival, Fall Fund-raiser, Greek School, Pre-School Program, Bookstore, Archdiocese Stewardship, For Those Who Serve, Furniture,

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011



“See, the mighty protection and restoration of mortals, the invincible weapon of the faith, the saving Cross is set forth and appears. And sanctifying the hearts of all who approach it with faith it enlightens by grace. The great guardian of the Orthodox is set forth in the midst of all, the precious Cross in the midst of the earth, on which you were lifted up, supremely loving Lord, by your own free will. It sanctifies the world by its worship and it routs the regiments of demons. Heaven with all the earth is glad; Champions, Martyrs, Apostles, souls of the Righteous now rejoice exceedingly as they see the life-giving Tree set forth in the midst, which saves all and sanctifies believers by grace.” (Canon to the Cross)

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14: Feast of
the Exaltation of the Pre-
cious and Life-Giving Cross.
Orthros 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.**

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You resurrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

Seasonal Kontakion

In your holy birth, Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; Adam and Eve of the corruption of death. And so your people, free of the guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life."

EPISTLE Galatians 6:11-18

BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and not only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

TODAY'S READER IS MICHAEL KITSOULIS

GOSPEL John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

A PRAYER TO THE HOLY CROSS



Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered; and let those who hate Him flee from His presence. As smoke vanishes, let them vanish; and as wax melts from the presence of fire, so let demons perish from the presence of those who love God and who sign themselves with the sign of the Cross and say in gladness: Hail, most precious and life-giving Cross of the Lord, for Thou

drivest away the demons by the power of our Lord Jesus Christ crucified on thee, Who went down to hades and trampled on the power of the devil, and gave us thee, his venerable Cross, for driving away all enemies. O most precious and life-giving Cross of the Lord, help me, with our Holy Lady, the Virgin Mother of God, and with all the Saints throughout the ages. Amen.

MEMORIALS

Today, being the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, special memorial prayers will be offered for those who perished in the event. May God bring them to the Heavenly mansions where the Just repose!

Memorials will be offered today for **Maritza Michael (15 Years)**, for **Christina Vellios (4 Years)** and for **Costas Vellios (6 Years)** requested by their children and families. May their memory be eternal!

Saturday, September 17, is the CHALLENGE LITURGY and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. Join us to worship and to support our brothers and sisters.

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

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Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides,
Emeritus



SERVICE OF HOLY UNCTION

On this coming Thursday evening,(6:30 p.m.) before Bible Study, we will inaugurate the **Service of Holy Unction once a month on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** In conjunction with this year's theme concerning PRAYER, we will hold this Sacrament for the healing and restoration of the sick, the wounded of heart, those in need of any kind or depth, and for anyone simply seeking the grace of the Sacrament. The anointing is for the *living*, not only offered to those close to death. Its spiritual comfort is part of the work of the Church as the "hospital of the soul." All are welcome to come and be anointed.

AS WE BEGIN THE NEW CHURCH YEAR

Orthodox Christians

Faithful Orthodox fully participate in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy when they receive Holy Communion in response to Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to receive Communion with the proper disposition, communicants should be conscious of personal sin in their life, receive Confession and Absolution, have fasted from the night before receiving Communion, and seek to live in charity with others. Frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all Orthodox.

Non-Orthodox

We welcome to this Divine Liturgy those Christians who are not fully united with us. Because of the sad divisions within Christianity, we cannot extend an invitation to receive Holy Communion — which is a sign of the oneness that

PRAYER LIST: Lee Konjas, Alexander Wadas, Constantina Speris, Joseph Papadakis, Nate Cekay, Chris Calender, Alexander Plotas, Robert Shriver,

PLEASE SUBMIT NAMES OF NEEDY OR ILL PARISHIONERS AND FAMILY MEMBERS BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 301-469-7990

exists among believers. This unity does not yet exist and we all must pray for it.

Those not Receiving Holy Communion

Those not receiving Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for oneness with the Lord Jesus and with each other by receiving a piece of blessed bread following the Dismissal prayers.



SOME REMINDERS

We respectfully ask that you enter the Sanctuary reverently and in silence. We ask that you **do not enter the Sanctuary:** when the Priest is incensing the Church, when the congregation

is standing, during the Little Entrance with the Holy Gospel, during the Scripture readings, during the sermon, during the Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts, and during the Prayers of Consecration. Please follow the ushers' guidance during Communion. **Please do not use cell phones in the Sanctuary or narthex.** Please save your talking and conversation for AFTER the Liturgy at fellowship. ".....the ground upon which you stand is holy."



40-DAY BLESSINGS

A 40-Day Blessing will be given today to **Lucas**, son of Laura and Michael Kemmerer; to **Nikoletta**, daughter of Demetrios and Debora Diavatis; and to **Michael**, son of Maria and Kosta Charalampous. May God grant them many years!