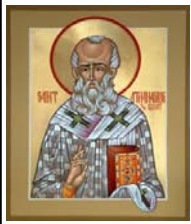


PASTORAL VISITATIONS

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.

BIBLE STUDY has begun again. It meets Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon and from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This semester’s topic is *The Book of Psalms*. It is perhaps the most used book of Sacred Scripture in Orthodox prayer and worship. Come learn about these beautiful songs and make the Psalms a greater part of your everyday prayer.



SERIES ON THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH

The 4-part series on the Fathers of the Church begins this Thursday, November 19. The times are the same as Bible Study (Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to noon and 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) The dates are **Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 10, and 17**. The series will be given by Chrysostomos. Join us to learn more about the Church Fathers who, after the Holy Apostles, are the foundation stones upon which Orthodox theology and spirituality are built.

MINISTRY FAIR TODAY Our annual Ministry Fair will take place TODAY following Divine Liturgy. Stop by the Grand Hall and visit the various ministry tables to see how you can give your time and talents to the St. George community and the wider community beyond St. George. *The ministries are at the heart of our parish life and respond the Lord’s mandate to “Love one another as I have loved you!”*

FIFTY PLUS On Sunday, Nov 22, the pre-thanksgiving bake sale will be held after Divine Liturgy. Let us make your holiday easier — we’ll do the baking! For more information call Maria Kopsidas 30-493-5789

FEED THE HUNGRY is in need of drivers and cooks to deliver and prepare food for the local shelters **THE NEXT FEED THE HUNGRY SUNDAY IS TODAY**. Contact is Peggy Hackman * 301-340-6027 * or email her at hackmans@comcast.net

GOYA GOYA is holding a pizza sale **TODAY** after Divine Liturgy during the ministry fair! All proceeds go to the GOYA and the sale is a great way to get a quick, affordable lunch for yourself or the family! **The Parathosi Dance Troupe will be selling tiropita at their table at the ministry fair. Please help support them as well.**

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY Please stop by the Philoptochos booth during the Ministry Fair today! Come find out more about exciting projects we have coming up, including the first Quilt-a-Thon, which will take place early this coming year. Our membership drive continues as well. We welcome all women of the Greek Orthodox Christian Faith to join and become active participants in our Philanthropic ministry. In addition, our Christmas Ornament and tickets for Lunch with Santa can be purchased at this time. We hope that you will stop by and say hello!

JOY/HOPE We are collecting cash donations and specific food items for a "Thanksgiving basket" for needy families through Friends in Action, and Interfaith organization that serves the underprivileged in our community. Donations must be received by Friday November 20th. If you are interested in donating, please contact Connie Karageorgis at 301-610-5640 or by email (reachconnie@verizon.net).

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

BEGINNING OF THE NATIVITY FAST

NOVEMBER 15, 2009



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

“What return shall I make unto the Lord for all that He has given to me?”

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE

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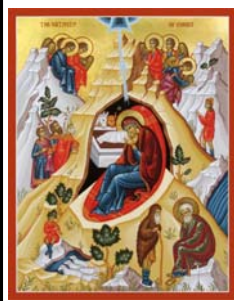
Proistamenos: Rev. Fr. Dimitrios J. Antokas

Email: FrAntokas@stgeorge.org

Rev. Fr. George Khitiri

Email: FrGeorge@stgeorge.org

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides, Emeritus



The six weeks prior to Christmas (the Nativity of our Lord in the Flesh) is a fasting period that many call Advent. Advent means "coming." It is that period of time when we find ourselves waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ. (All three terms mean the same thing.) For this reason, it has a different character than other fasting periods. Although there is an element of preparation involved, it is not the same as the Great Fast that precedes Holy Week and Pascha. The liturgical preparation is limited to the two Sundays before the Nativity and the five days leading up to the feast. Those two Sundays we are reminded of the Holy Ancestors of God and the Holy Fathers, Patriarchs, and Prophets who played a role in the coming of the Messiah. In the hymns of the Sunday cycle of services, we hear of their great faith and are called to build our own. For most of us, we are anxious to get to the feast — we want the days to rush by. Our preparation usually consists of shopping and decorating, not to speak of the endless parties that we are invited to attend. Here is where the notion of waiting comes into play. We must discipline ourselves through self control and patience. We are to read the Scriptures, specifically the prophecies that speak of the coming of the Messiah. We are to turn our focus to a Godly way of life that calls for sacrificing and almsgiving (acts of mercy). Let us think of charity and the giving of our time, talents, and resources to others that may be in need. There is no better way to imitate Christ than to be loving and charitable towards others. A word to the wise — put Christ back into Christmas. Find the meaning of the feast by understanding the importance of the Son of God taking on human flesh. Remember the real reason for the season is that Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, came into the world and dwelt among men, taking on Himself the sins of the world so that we might have life in Him. "God is with us! Understand O nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!" (*Isaiah 8:9*)

EPISTLE Ephesians 2:4-10

BRETHREN, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

TODAY'S READER: MARIA MATHIOS

GOSPEL Luke 10:25-37

AT THAT TIME, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."



MEMORIAL

A Memorial Service will be offered for Andreas Constantinides (24 Years), requested by his son, Socrates (Anita). May his memory be eternal!



WHY WE FAST BEFORE THE NATIVITY

We fast before the Great Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Our Lord's birth. As in the case of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of the Savior by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. By fasting, we "shift our focus" from ourselves to others, spending less time worrying about what to eat, when to eat, how much to eat, and so on in order to use our time in increased prayer and caring for the poor. We learn through fasting that we can gain control over things which we sometimes allow to control us -- and for many people, food is a controlling factor. [We live in the only society in which an entire TV network is devoted to food!] While fasting from food, however, we are also challenged to fast from sin, from gossip, from jealousy, from anger, and from those other things which, while well within our control, we all too often allow to control us. We fast before the Nativity in order to more fully feast and celebrate on the Nativity itself. During the Nativity Fast, we are called upon to refrain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil. At the same time, we are challenged, within this framework, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently. In every instance our fasting should be consistent and regular, for Christ does not see fasting as an option, but as a "must." Finally, it seems quite odd that in our society -- a society in which people gladly and freely spend huge sums of money for diets, most of which recommend that one refrain from red meats and dairy products -- fasting is not more widely embraced. How odd that a Jenny Craig consultant or diet guru or physician will tell us to refrain from eating meat or cheese or butter and we will gladly embrace -- and pay large sums of money for -- his or her advice, while when the Church offers the same advice [at "no cost"] we tend to balk, as if we were being asked to do the impossible. Imagine!

PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Margaret Karas Campbell, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Joseph Saxton, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Georgia Loukas, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Thomas Jenkins, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Artie Constantinides, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Lt. Mikael Johnson, Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy.

40-DAY BLESSING

A 40-Day blessing will be given today to the child of God, Nicholas, son of Stavroula and George Kostolampros. May God grnat him many years!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Today is **Stewardship Sunday** — the day when we make our pledge to support St. George for the coming year 2010. "What return shall I make to the Lord for all that He has given me?"

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou art the good steward, who redeemed Adam and Eve of their failed stewardship by offering Thyself for the life of the world. Thou didst teach us in the feeding of the multitudes that whatever we give to God is returned to us multiplied. Thou didst praise those good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents who returned to the Master their gifts. So help us to learn the joy of stewardship, remembering that everything we have comes from Thee and belongs to Thee. We know, Lord, that we often live in fear of the future and insecurity. Help us to remember the lilies of the field and so to trust in Thy providence. Grant to us a cheerful and generous spirit. Enkindle in the hearts of all Thy people a zealous love for Thee. For Thou art the Good Steward, and to Thee we give thanks, praise and glory, together with Thy Father who is from everlasting and Thine all holy good and life-giving Spirit now and ever and onto the ages of ages. Amen



Saturday, November 21, is the **FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE.** It is also the monthly Challenge Liturgy for physically and intellectually challenged persons.

Orthros will be at 8:30 a.m. And Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship will follow.