



In today's Gospel passage, Jesus reminds us that God could call us to Himself at any unexpected moment, so we need not work to store up our treasure in this life but prepare spiritually for the life to come. He calls us to become "rich for God" rather than rich in the world's terms. We observe today the 10th anniversary of the passing into eternal life of +Bishop George of New Jersey, the former Proistamenos of St. George. The Lord called this good hierarch to Himself unexpectedly as the Gospel says. The suddenness of his passing and the brevity of his episcopacy brought sadness to all. But we have the consolation of knowing that Bishop George worked tirelessly on behalf of Christ the

High Priest. He was a builder of churches and of faith communities. He was a theologian who lived what he studied. He was a pastoral healer who touched the hearts and minds of everyone with the understanding and gentleness of His Master. Truly, Bishop George knew that it was eternal life to which he was bound one day, that his true treasure was not of this world, and that his was the call to preach the good news of today's Epistle reading to others and, indeed, to himself: "...you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." We also commend to the loving care of the Father, Presvytera Maria (16 Years) who preceded Bishop George in death. May the Lord grant His Priest and Hierarch George and Presvytera Maria a place where the saints behold the face of God and may their memory be eternal!



EPISTLE Ephesians 2:14-22

BRETHREN, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

TODAY'S READER: ROBYN ANDRIS

GOSPEL Luke 12:16-21

THE LORD SAID this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for +Bishop George of New Jersey and Presvytera Maria requested by his family: Alexandra, John, Stella and George Mosko; Eleni, George, Arthur and Stratton Spirou; and Vasiliki, Charles, Maria and Joseph Szczesny. ; and for Peter Sylvester (6 Years), requested by his wife Carol Kostalas-Sylvester and his son, Anthony Sylvester. May their memory be eternal!

40 DAY BLESSING

A 40 Day Blessing will be given today to Demetrios Antonios, son of Stephanie and Vasilios Stavrakas. May the Lord God grant his child many years!



REMEMBERING THE CHRIST CHILD AND THE LORD OF GLORY

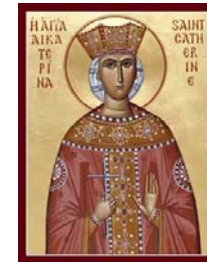
The pre-Christmas period in the Orthodox Church reminds us of two important truths: 1) the Lord Jesus, the Word of God, became a human person for us and for our salvation; and 2) that same Lord Jesus will come one day in glory to usher in the Heavenly Kingdom. The Nativity Fast, if kept faithfully, prepares us for the memory of Christ's birth as man. He became the ultimate gift from a Loving God to us to restore His image within us and to free us from captivity to sin and evil. This is the heart of the Christmas message and should far surpass in importance all the trappings and outward signs of the season. Yet the pre-Christmas period also reminds us that Christ *will come again in glory*, not as a child born in Bethlehem, but as the Lord of Glory who will end human history and usher in the Heavenly Kingdom and the final judgment. It is this aspect that we often forget — we become so attached to this world, so busy, so focused on the external elements of time, that we lose sight of the fact that we are not "home" here, that Christ will come to bring us back into the bosom of the Father and human time and space will pass away. We enjoy reading the Gospel passages of St. Luke about the birth of the Christ child, but we often forget to read the Book of Revelation that completes the New Testament. We are people of BOTH books. Christ has come already but not yet! We are in the world but not OF the world! All the decorations and carols and gift-giving are but shadows of the joy of the City of God towards which we move closer and closer every day. We fast to remind ourselves that Christ has come and will come again — at an hour we least expect. The pre-Christmas period is a time for remembering that truth, for spiritually preparing our souls for His coming, for focusing on the true meaning of this season. To the extent that we take the fasting and prayer and works of asceticism seriously during the pre-Christmas time, to that extent our hearts

PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaiois, 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.

and souls will be ready to remember the child of Bethlehem AND the Lord of Glory when He comes again. As the first Christians prayed: **MARANA-THA! Come Lord Jesus!**

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour is being hosted today by the children and grandchildren of +Bishop George and Presvytera Maria. We thanks them for their kindness!



SPECIAL DIVINE SERVICES

Wednesday, **November 25**, is the **FEAST OF ST. KATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR**. We will celebrate the feast at St. Katherine's in Fall Church. Orthros is at 9:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

That evening, we will celebrate a **Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m.** here at St. George. Let us join together to give thanks for our Orthodox faith and for the many blessings God has given to us! On Monday, **November 30**, we celebrate the **FEAST OF ST. ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED**. Orthros will be at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

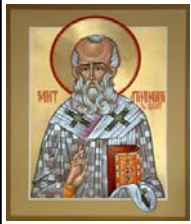
PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR THE NATIVITY

Holy God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sin that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow. May we rediscover Your image within our hearts and live in its peace for all days. Unto You be all honor and glory now and unto the ages of ages. Amen



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.



SERIES ON THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH

The 4-part series on the Fathers of the Church HAS BEGUN. 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 next three parts are on Dec. 3, 10, and 17. The series is being 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.

FIFTY PLUS TODAY is the annual pre-Thanksgiving bake sale after Divine Liturgy. Make your holiday easier and purchase home-baked desserts for your table, or if you are invited to a Thanksgiving dinner, take some Greek sweets to your hostess!

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

JOY/HOPE Our next meeting will be on Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Founder’s Hall. We hope that you can make it.

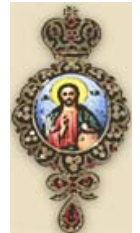
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY The next general meeting of the Ladies Philoptochos will be held this coming Tuesday, November 24, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m. Please join us! We will have fellowship time afterwards while decorating the church halls for Christmas. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Lia Kent, kent_amalia@yahoo.com or 301-814-8086.

PARATHOSI DANCE TROUPE The tiropita sold last week by the Parathosi Dance Troupe will be available for pick-up following Divine Liturgy today in the Founder’s Hall.



NINTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

NOVEMBER 22, 2009



**10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPOSE OF HIS GRACE
+BISHOP GEORGE OF NEW JERSEY**

ETERNAL MEMORY!

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