

THE TRIUMPHANT

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Father Neofitos Sarigiannis <u>frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com</u> <u>www.saintgeorgegoc.com</u>

Palm Sunday Κυριακή τῶν Βαῒων April 12, 2020

Καλή Ανάσταση!



Our Lord's Triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

How will we greet the Lord? Will we invite him into our hearts? Into our homes? Into our families? Will we make the same confession of the blessed thief and utter the confession "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

Prayer Form

Please fill out a <u>Prayer form</u> and Fr. Neofitos will Light your candles and pray for the names of the individuals submitted.

Light a Candle - Donations

We would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude for your support. It is through such acts of kindness that we can continue to grow our ministry.

Donations can be made for:

- <u>Candles</u>
 - \$1 Small Candle
 - \$5 Red Votive Candle
- <u>Stewardship</u>
- Easter Donation
- General Donation

Recurring payment option available. Easter Flower Donation- We are again accepting flower donations as our vendor has resumed making deliveries. Please email or call the office for any special request.

St. George Parish Survey

We ask that you please fill out the online survey below. We appreciate any information you can provide us with.

Parish Survey

All of these links can be found on our home page. <u>http://www.saintgeorgegoc.com/</u> You may fill out a prayer form, donate, or our parish survey online.



Holy Week and Renewal Week Schedule 2020

- 1. <u>To watch our services online</u>. Faithful are asked to worship from home. <u>https://www.facebook.com/SaintGeorgeNY/</u>
- To follow along with the service texts.
 http://www.agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs/dcs.html
- 3. Our Book Club Will Continue via Conference Call. Dates to be announced. Dial-in number: (605) 313-5963 Access code:572515

April

Wednesday, April 8 * 10am Presanctified Liturgy Friday, April 10 *9am Presanctified Liturgy * 5pm Vespers for St. Lazarus Saturday, April 11 – Saturday of Lazarus * 9am – 11am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Sunday, April 12 – Palm Sunday * 9am Orthros & 10am Divine Liturgy

Holy Week

Sunday, April 12 – Palm Sunday * 6:30pm Bridegroom Service Holy Monday, April 13 * 6:30pm Bridegroom Service Holy Tuesday, April 14 * 6:30pm Bridegroom Service – Hymn of Kassiani Holy Wednesday, April 15 * 6pm Holy Unction Service Holy Thursday, April 16 - The Mystical/ Last Supper * 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy * 6pm The 12 Gospels - The Passion of Christ Holy Friday, April 17 * 9:30am Royal Hours * 3pm Apokathologic

- * 3pm Apokathelosis
- * 6pm Epitaphios/ Lamentations

Holy Saturday, April 18

* 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy – Proti Anastasi

Renewal/ Bright Week

Holy Saturday, April 18
* 11pm Resurrection Service
Sunday, April 19 – Pascha/Easter Sunday
* 10:30am Agape Vespers
Wednesday, April 22 – Feast of St. George the Triumphant begins
* 6:30pm Great Vespers
Thursday, April 23 – Feast of St. George the Triumphant
* 9am – 11am Orthros & Divine Liturgy
Friday, April 24 – Ζωοδόχου Πηγής - Theotokos of the Life-giving Spring
* 9am – 11am Orthros & Divine Liturgy

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.



The Feast of Saint George the Triumphant

Wednesday, April 22 – Feast of St. George the Triumphant begins

* 6:30pm Great Vespers

Thursday, April 23– Feast of St. George the Triumphant

* 9am – 11am Orthros & Divine Liturgy

St. George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chiliarch (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honoured for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia. His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name. (The translation of the Saint's holy relics to the church in Lydda is commemorated on November 3; Saint Alexandra the Queen, on April 21.) If April 23 falls on or before Great and Holy Pascha, the Feast of St. George is translated to Bright Monday.

Γεννήθηκε μεταξύ των ετών 280-285 μ.Χ., πιθανώς στην περιοχή της Αρμενίας, από τον Έλληνα Συγκλητικό, στρατηλάτη στο αξίωμα, κατά τους χρόνους του αυτοκράτορα Διοκλητιανού, Γερόντιο. Εκεί, σε ένα μοναστήρι της περιοχής, ο Άγιος δέχθηκε το Μυστήριο του Βαπτίσματος και έγινε μέλος της Εκκλησίας. Ο πατέρας του Αγίου, Γερόντιος, καταγόταν από πλούσια και επίσημη γενιά της Καππαδοκίας. Η σύζυγός του ονομαζόταν Πολυχρονία, ήταν χριστιανή και



καταγόταν από το γνωστό Λύδδα (Διάσπολη) της Παλαιστίνης. Σε νεαρή ηλικία ο Γεώργιος κατατάχθηκε στο ρωμαϊκό στρατό. Διακρίθηκε για την τόλμη και τον ηρωισμό του και έλαβε το αξίωμα του Τριβούνου. Το 303 μ.Χ., όταν άρχισαν οι διωγμοί του Διοκλητιανού, ο Άγιος Γεώργιος δε δίστασε να ομολογήσει τη χριστιανική του πίστη, προκαλώντας το μένος του Διοκλητιανού, ο οποίος τον υπέβαλε σε σειρά βασανιστηρίων. Ο Διοκλητιανός δεν το περίμενε και έφριξε με τη στάση του Γεωργίου. Τότε άρχισε για τον Άγιο μια σειρά φρικτών βασανιστηρίων, αλλά και θαυμάτων, που έφεραν πολλούς ειδωλολάτρες στη χριστιανική πίστη. Ο Άγιος μαρτύρησε προσευχόμενος, απετμήθη την κεφαλήν, την Παρασκευή 23 Απριλίου του έτους 303 μ.Χ. Κατά δε τον υπολογισμό του ιστορικού Ευσεβίου, και σύμφωνα με το μακεδονικό ημερολόγιο, αντιστοιχούσε στην Παρασκευή της Διακαινησίμου του Πάσχα.

Apolytikion of Great Martyr George: Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Ως τών αιχμαλώτων ελευθερωτής, καί τών πτωχών υπερασπιστής, ασθενούντων ιατρός, βασιλέων υπέρμαχος, τροπαιοφόρε μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστώ τώ Θεώ, σωθήναι τάς ψυχάς ημών.

Kontakion: Cultivated by God, you became manifest as an honorable tiller gathering for yourself the sheaves of virtue. For you sowed with tears but reaped with gladness; in the contest you competed with your blood and came away with Christ. By your intercessions, O Holy One, all are granted forgiveness of sins.

Γεωργηθείς υπό Θεού ανεδείχθης, τής ευσεβείας γεωργός Τιμιώτατος, τών αρετών τά δράγματα συλλέξας σεαυτώ, σπείρας γάρ ενδάκρυσιν, ευφροσύνη θερίζεις, αθλήσας δέ δι' αίματος, τόν Χριστόν εκομίσω, καί ταίς πρεσβείαις Άγιε ταίς σαίς, πάσι παρέχεις πταισμάτων συγχώρησιν.



Hymns of the Day

Antiphon

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱἑ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐπὶ πώλου ὄνου καθεσθεἰς, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούïα.

Apolytikion of the Feast

Τὴν κοινὴν Ἀνἀστασιν πρὸ τοῦ σοῦ Πἀθους πιστοὑμενος, ἐκ νεκρῶν ἤγειρας τὸν Λάζαρον, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὀς· ὅθεν καὶ ἡμεῖς ὡς οἱ Παῖδες, τὰ τῆς νἰκης σὑμβολα φἑροντες, σοὶ τῷ Νικητῆ τοῦ θανἀτου βοῶμεν· Ώσαννὰ ἐν τοῖς ὑψἰστοις, εὐλογημἑνος ὁ ἐρχόμενος, ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου.

Entrance Hymn

Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου. Θεὸς Κὑριος καὶ ἐπέφανεν ἡμῖν. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐπὶ πώλου ὄνου καθεσθείς, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλοὑïα.

Apolytikion of the Feast

Συνταφέντες σοι διὰ τοῦ Βαπτίσματος, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, τῆς ἀθανἀτου ζωῆς ἠξιώθημεν τῆ Ἀναστἀσει σου, καὶ ἀνυμνοῦντες κρἀζομεν· Ώσαννὰ ἐν τοῖς ὑψίστοις, εὐλογημἑνος ὁ ἑρχόμενος, ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου.

Kontakion

Τῷ θρόνω ἐν οὐρανῷ, τῷ πώλῳ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἐποχοὑμενος Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὀς, τῶν Ἀγγἑλων τὴν αἴνεσιν, καὶ τῶν Παἰδων ἀνὑμνησιν προσεδἑξω βοώντων σοι· Εὐλογημἑνος εἶ ὁ ἑρχὀμενος, τὸν Ἀδὰμ ἀνακαλἑσασθαι.

Epistle and Gospel Readings

The Epistle According to Philippians 4:4-9

Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, who sat on a donkey's colt. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Apolytikion of the Feast

To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord."

Entrance Hymn

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Save us, O Son of God, who sat on a donkey's colt. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Apolytikion of the Feast

We were buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God, and thus by Your Resurrection we have been granted immortal life, and extolling You we cry aloud, "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One who comes in the name of the Lord."

<u>Kontakion</u>

In heaven upon the throne, on earth upon the colt, * You were carried, O Christ our God; * and the praise of the Angels, and the hymns of the children, You received as they cried to You, * "Blessed are You, the One, who is coming to call Adam back again."

Άδελφοί, χαίρετε ἐν Κυρίφ πἀντοτε· πἀλιν ἐρῶ, χαίρετε. Τὸ ἐπιεικὲς ὑμῶν γνωσθήτω πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις. Ὁ Κὑριος ἐγγὑς. Μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε, ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ δεἡσει μετὰ εὐχαριστίας τὰ αἰτήματα ὑμῶν γνωριζἐσθω πρὸς τὸν Θεόν· καὶ ἡ εἰρἡνη τοῦ Θεοῦ ἡ ὑπερἑχουσα πἀντα νοῦν φρουρἡσει τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν καὶ τὰ νοἡματα ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τὸ λοιπὸν, ἀδελφοἱ, ὅσα ἐστὶν ἀληθῆ, ὅσα σεμνὰ, ὅσα δἰκαια, ὅσα ἁγνὰ, ὅσα προσφιλῆ, ὅσα εὕφημα, εἴ τις ἀρετὴ καὶ εἴ ἔπαινος, ταῦτα λογίζεσθε· Ὁ καὶ ἐμἀθετε καὶ παρελάβετε καὶ ἠκοὑσατε καὶ εἴδετε ἐν ἐμοἱ, ταῦτα πρἀσσετε· καὶ ὁ Θεὸς τῆς εἰρἡνης ἔσται μεθ' ὑμῶν.

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Save us, O Son of God, who sat on a donkey's colt. We sing to You, Alleluia.



The Gospel According to John. 12:1-18

Πρὸ ἕξ ἡμερῶν τοῦ πἀσχα ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς Βηθανίαν, ὅπου ἦν Λάζαρος ὁ τεθνηκώς, ὃν ἤνειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν, ἐποίησαν οὖν αὐτῶ δεῖπνον ἐκεῖ, καὶ ἡ Μἀρθα διηκόνει· ὁ δὲ Λἀζαρος εἶς ἦν ἐκ τῶν ἀνακειμἑνων σὺν αὐτῶ. ἡ οὖν Μαρία, λαβοῦσα λίτραν μύρου νάρδου πιστικής πολυτίμου, ήλειψε τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ καὶ ἐξέμαξε ταῖς θριξὶν αὐτῆς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ· ἡ δὲ οἰκἰα έπληρώθη έκ τῆς ὀσμῆς τοῦ μύρου. λέγει οὖν εἶς ἐκ τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, Ἰοὐδας Σίμωνος Ἰσκαριώτης, ὁ μέλλων αὐτὸν παραδιδόναι Διατί τοῦτο τὸ μύρον οὐκ ἐπράθη τριακοσίων δηναρίων καὶ ἐδόθη πτωχοῖς; εἶπε δὲ τοῦτο οὐχ ὅτι περὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ἔμελεν αὐτῶ, ἀλλ' ὅτι κλἑπτης ἦν, καὶ τὸ γλωσσόκομον εἶχε καὶ τὰ βαλλόμενα ἐβἀσταζεν. εἶπεν οὖν ὁ Ἰησοῦς Ἄφες αὐτήν, εἰς τὴν ἡμέραν τοῦ ἐνταφιασμοῦ μου τετήρηκεν αὐτό. τοὺς πτωχοὺς γὰρ πἀντοτε ἔχετε μεθ' ἑαυτῶν, ἐμὲ δὲ οὐ πάντοτε έχετε. Έγνω οὖν ὄχλος πολὺς ἐκ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ὅτι ἐκεῖ ἐστι, καὶ ἦλθον οὐ διὰ τὸν Ἰησοῦν μόνον, ἀλλ' ἵνα καὶ τὸν Λάζαρον ἴδωσιν ὃν ἤγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν. ἑβουλεύσαντο δὲ οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς ἴνα καὶ τὸν Λάζαρον ἀποκτείνωσιν, ὅτι πολλοὶ δι' αὐτὸν ύπῆγον τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ ἐπίστευον εἰς τὸν Ἰησοῦν. Τῆ ἐπαύριον ὁ ὄχλος πολὺς ὁ ἐλθὼν εἰς τὴν ἑορτήν, ἀκούσαντες ὅτι έρχεται Ίησοῦς εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, ἔλαβον τὰ βαΐα τῶν φοινἰκων καὶ ἐξῆλθον εἰς ὑπἀντησιν αὐτῶ, καὶ ἐκραὑγαζον· Ώσαννἀ· εύλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου, ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραήλ. εὑρὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὀνάριον ἐκἁθισεν ἐπ' αὐτὸ, καθώς έστι γεγραμμένον· Μὴ φοβοῦ, θύγατερ Σιών· ἰδοὺ ὁ βασιλεύς σου ἔρχεται καθήμενος ἐπὶ πῶλον ὄνου. Ταῦτα δὲ οὐκ ἔγνωσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ τὸ πρῶτον, ἀλλ' ὅτε ἐδοξἀσθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς, τότε ἐμνήσθησαν ὅτι ταῦτα ἦν ἐπ' αὐτῷ γεγραμμένα, καὶ ταῦτα έποιησαν αύτῶ. Ἐμαρτύρει οὖν ὁ ὄχλος ὁ ὢν μετ' αὐτοῦ ὅτε τὸν Λάζαρον ἐφώνησεν ἐκ τοῦ μνημείου καὶ ἤγειρεν αὐτὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν. διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ὑπἡντησεν αὐτῶ ὁ ὄχλος, ὅτι ἤκουσαν τοῦτο αὐτὸν πεποιηκέναι τὸ σημεῖον.

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Info:

Office: (518) 393-0742 Fax: (518) 393-4093 website: www.saintgeorgegoc.com email: office@saintgeorgegoc.com Reverand Father Neofitos Sarigiannis <u>frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com</u> 107 Clinton Street Schenectady, NY 12305 Sundays Services- Orthros: 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 AM – 2 PM Parish Office closed on Friday

https://www.facebook.com/SaintGeorgeNY/

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: St. George Greek Orthodox Church JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Call or email us to join our Email list to receive all our Bulletins, Schedules, and Community Updates.

For updates for the Bulletin, please call or email the office by Wednesdays at 2pm.



From the desk of Fr. Neofitos

"Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom"

The Beatitudes Οί Μακαρισμοί - Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels on Thursday Evening

In Your kingdom. Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.Ἐν τῆ Βασιλεία σου μνήσθητι ἡμῶν Κύριε, ὅταν ἕλθῃς ἐν τῆ Βασιλεία σου. Μακάριοι οἱ πτωχοἱ τῷ πνεύματι, ὅτι αὐτῶν ἐστιν ἡ Βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

Our beautiful church hymnography always, again and again, paints a vivid picture. The above is chanted in monasteries all year round, but all chant these hymns on Holy Thursday night, during the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, Palm Sunday, we hear the children and people of Jerusalem shout in praise "Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel". In this same way, we have hope and we fill our hearts with joy. Our Master's saving plan is delivering us, continually, to our ultimate salvation. Let us keep our focus on Him who granted the thief on the Cross saying "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise".

Sadly, the moment of ecstasy ended for some of those same individuals shouting the aforementioned triumphal him of Hosanna. It is the same individuals that followed the mob mentality. Followed the loud voice of society and shouted "Let him be crucified! $\Sigma \tau \alpha u \rho \omega \theta \eta \tau \omega$ "!

Our moods also, and our actions get affected by what is happening around us. Certainly these last few weeks have been a trial of our patience, our health, and in some cases our sanity and even our lives. It is hard to believe the lockdown was only enacted about three weeks ago. Yet, one can't help but think of when will it end and how will things be in the coming months. Many are suffering. Many are missing out on crucial events. Students are missing out on the learning experience. Prom, graduation, homecoming games and other school activities, that bring so much life to a community, have been halted. Many businesses are suffering. Jobs have been affected. Churches remain closed to the faithful during services.

Yet, as we enter the end of lent, the beginning of Holy Week, our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, passion and death on the cross, Resurrection and destruction of death, we are reminded that **all hardships come to an end**.

After winter comes spring.

After labor in childbirth, a beautiful soul is born.

Man, after suffering the consequences of death through Adam's fall and sinfulness, arrives at rest and salvation. After pain and death comes Resurrection.

One just need reference the Catechetical Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom, preached on Pascha night.

Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen and you are overthrown. Ποῦ σου θἀνατε τὸ κἐντρον; ποῦ σου Ἄδη τὸ νῖκος; Ἀνἑστη Χριστὀς, καὶ σὺ καταβἑβλησαι.

Remember how death is embittered. It is powerless before the presence and light of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. It is a predator with no teeth beacause "Ἀνἐστη Χριστός?! Ἀνἑστη! Christ is risen?! Truly He is risen"!

Many Clergy have been comparing the virus, this unseen enemy, to the virus of sinfulness. Sinfulness is in our fallen nature. It is deep within us. Jesus Christ has already shed his sacred blood for our ransom. He has uprooted the power of death and sin. He is the antidote. He is the metaphisycal reality that connects the physical and spiritual world. Yes my brothers and sisters. It is against this virus that we will continuously ask God to blot out in our daily lives. Only with Him lies true salvation. Covid-19 will be gone very soon but the battle inside our hearts and souls wages on. The evil one wants to drag our focus everywhere else, but we will stand with our Savior.

So let us all focus, now more than ever. Let us praise the Lord in hope and joy and song in our hearts. Let us ask him to remove sinfulness, which pushes the nails deeper into his hands and feet. Finally, let us repent And confess with all our hearts as the thief "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom".

Kaλή Ανάσταση to you and your families. We await your spiritual connection through virtual means and finally await your return.

In Christ, Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis



Updates from the Archdiocese

A video update from his Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros - A Different Communion in 2020 https://www.goarch.org/-/archbishop-elpidophoros-communion-2020



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros Homily on the Fifth Sunday of Lent - April 5, 2020 Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral - Brooklyn, New York

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, on this Fifth Sunday of the Holy Fast, we broadcast from the Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York, an historic parish that once served as the Cathedral of our Holy Archdiocese, and as such, is still honored with the name, "Cathedral."

Here we are at the end of Lent, and yet we are still in the middle of this unprecedented global pandemic, which continues to require that we employ the utmost caution—even for only the clergy to perform the Divine Services. We all know at this point that the coming Holy Week and Pascha will be unlike anything we have ever experienced in our lives.

Just two days ago, the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Bishops convened—that includes all canonical Orthodox Hierarchs in the United States. Working with our brother Hierarchs, and after thorough consultation with public health and insurance officials, law enforcement, theologians, legal counsel, and pastoral care professionals, we had to come to the conclusion that this year, the services of Holy Week and Pascha will unfortunately have to remain as we are doing the services now, without the assembly of the Faithful. This is very painful for all of us, but the safety and health of our communities must be the most important consideration, as well as the directives from our civil authorities.

So, as I celebrate here with Fr. Evagoras, the Deacon and the chanter, I ask myself, what is it that you, the Faithful, can receive from our continued yet highly restricted worship? You are deprived of the Eucharist in our current conditions. How do you partake of the experience of God, even as we, the clergy, continue to offer the Divine Liturgy for the health and salvation of the world?

It so happens that today we celebrate Saint Mary of Egypt, who spent forty years in the desert, deprived of receiving Holy Communion, and she waited patiently until the night she passed from this world to receive the Eucharist one last time. She is a great Saint – we dedicate to her memory one of only fifty-two Sundays in the year – but she was called "an angel in the flesh" and we are all not such angels.

Then I thought of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ to His Disciples, on the night He gave Himself for the life of the world: Ἐv τῇ oἰκἰạ τοῦ πατρός μου μοναὶ πολλαἰ εἰσιν.... In My Father's house are many mansions....[1]

With these encouraging words, our Lord and Savior assured His Disciples and all of us of His presence at every time and in every place. In this hour of global pandemic, which isolates us from one another – a precaution for our health and the common good, I wanted to bring these words of our Lord and this message of comfort to you all, as a special exhortation not to despair, when a judicious confinement of our activities divides us from our communal worship and experience.

You see, the secret of the Christian life is that even when you are deprived of everything you recognize as your religion, the entirety of God is always within you. As the Lord said to His Disciples on the night in which He was betrayed, when all hope had disappeared: Ἐἀν τις ἀγαπῷ με, τὸν λόγον μου τηρήσει, καὶ ὁ πατήρ μου ἀγαπήσει αὐτὸν, καὶ πρὸς αὐτὸν ἐλευσὀμεθα καὶ μονὴν παρ ʾ αὐτῷ ποιήσομεν. If you love Me, you will keep My word, and My Father will love you, and we will come to you and make a cloister – a monastery – a μονἡ within you.[2]

This word, μovn , is the origin of the word "monastery" – the place where one dwells alone with God. It is our blessed assurance that God is always with us, and that we can always keep His word and be an entire monastery with the Holy Trinity residing in our hearts. Indeed, being that cloister of God –even in isolation from all others, is in fact the basis for our extension in and through the Spirit to every other person of faith.

My beloved Christians, be of good courage! We are never deprived of God! The only deprivation we can ever know is if we deprive ourselves of the experience of His abiding love, compassion, forgiveness and mercy. And we do this by depriving others of these very same virtues through selfishness and egocentrism.

During this time when we must refrain from community and even Holy Communion, let us reach down into our hearts for the sake of our souls. Let us enter inside one of those "many mansions" that our Lord Jesus Christ prepared for us. Deep within, we will find the communion that knows no physical form, but that endures forever, because God has truly come unto us – $M\epsilon\theta'\dot{\eta}\mu\omegav\dot{o}\Theta\epsilon\dot{o}c$. Deep within, God is making each of our hearts into a monastery for Himself, mystically uniting us together in the one spiritual community of the Most Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Who is praised and glorified forever.

Amen.



Update from the Parish Council

Hello fellow parishioners of St. George:

Greetings from the Parish Council. During this challenging time, we hope and pray that you and your family are healthy. All glory to God! If there is anything you need, please don't hesitate to contact any one of us.

Do we know how blessed we are? The Council wants to thank Father Neofitos and Presvytera Catherine for their dedication and love for St. George. During this dark time across our country and the world, their tireless work, dedication and leadership is inspiring and motivating for all of us in the St. George community. Together, they are shining light on new opportunities for spiritual growth and the Church's future. We invite you to join one of their beautiful online services through Facebook Live. The link and service schedule can be found in this bulletin as well as on our website (SaintGeorgeGOC.com).

While the Church is closed for services and other activities, the Council continues to meet (virtually) and do its work. Please know that the business of the Church continues, and the bills continue to come in. We need your financial help now more than ever. Your stewardship payments and donations are essential in helping us to maintain current programs, facilities and staff, but also supports vital implementation of growth in ministries. Please do what you can to help by mailing in your payments or by utilizing our online payment system. Go to our website and click on the "Donate" button.

The Council continues to prioritize the improvement and maintenance of our aging facilities. Our highest priority is to upgrade the electrical system in the Church. Much of the wiring is old and no longer meets code. This is a very important project and unfortunately, will be an expensive one as well. After weather delays last fall, the roof project for the Hellenic Center is scheduled to begin in a few weeks. We are also looking into repairs in the parking lot, doing exterior painting projects for the Hellenic Center, and fixing and painting the shed.

We are also excited to announce that we have renegotiated two existing service contracts which will amount to significantly improved service along with saving approximately \$3,000 per year. First, we are ending the contract with our current phone and internet provider, replacing it with Spectrum. Internet service in the Church and Hellenic Center has been a problem for a long time, and Spectrum will be providing a significant upgrade. Also, we renegotiated a new contract for our copier machine and related service in the Church office. We have a brand new machine and a much lower monthly bill.

Even though times are challenging in society, through faith and perseverance, we will emerge as an even stronger community. Please stay safe and healthy during this blessed Paschal season.

Yours faithfully, the Parish Council.

Brian Goodale, President Maria Dostis, Vice President Alexandra Casey, Treasurer Scott Morlock, Secretary Father Neofitos Sarigiannis Lucy Brady Dimitri Koutsopoulos Roubina Morgan







Philoptochos News

Prayer for Protection Against A Pandemic

Lord Jesus Christ our God, You Who created human beings with utter goodness, the healer of our souls and bodies, heed now the supplication of Your children, and save us from the impeding threat against the world. For this affliction has spread ferociously and the fear of death has surrounded us. Many have suffered and many have passed on to repose, and there is none to save us, except you, O Lord.

We know, Merciful Lord, that all this will cultivate our faith, as we implore you, crying out in utter repentance. Undo, O Lord, the dangerous effects of the virus and heal all people, as a most Gracious Lord. For those, who repose in peace, give rest in Your heavenly abode. Grant peace to the world, so that all people know that You are the Only God, and your faithful are not bound by death, but live forever.

For You are our hope and our whole life is in Your benevolent hands, and to You we give glory, as well as to the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The COVID-19 pandemic has touched each and every one of us in a profound way. The impact, both emotionally and financially, will be great on our families, our church, our community and our world. While prayer should always be a priority in our lives, it is needed now more than ever. As many of you have been doing, continue to reach out to members of our St. George community. A phone call from a caring, friendly voice will help us feel less isolated. We are blessed to have Father Neofitos and Presvytera Catherine in our St. George family. The ability to watch services in our church brings peace and comfort to us all. We pray for them and all the clergy who are faced with such challenges during this unprecedented time.

The charitable giving of our St. George Philoptochos continues. Although we cannot meet in person, we will communicate by email and telephone until such time that we are able to meet in the Hellenic Center once again. To that end, our chapter will make the following donations for the month of March: National Philoptochos COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, Orthodox Christian Mission Center, Support A Mission Priest, Hellenic College/Holy Cross Lenten Event, Hellenic

Cultural Center, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, Family Promise of the Capital Region, City Mission of Schenectady and St. George Greek Orthodox Church.Finally, a reminder if you have not already done so, please pay your 2020 member dues by sending a check to the church office for \$30.00 (minimum) payable to: Ladies Philoptochos Society.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Due to the Corona Virus COVID-19 quarantine, the Fellowship meeting and luncheon previously scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2020 was cancelled. We encourage all our members to participate in the live streaming of the Presanctified Liturgy this Wednesday morning, April 8th at 10:00 am with Fr. Neofitos officiating and Presvytera Catherine chanting. All other services during the remaining period of Lent and into Holy Week, culminating with Great and Holy Pascha on Sunday, April 19th, will be live streamed on our website as well. Although we have been unable to attend Lenten services in our beloved church of Saint George and must worship from home, we have been blessed to have these services available to many of us via live streaming. Those who have been unable to access the live services for whatever reason can at least watch all previous services on our website. In this way we can see the interior of our church with the holy icons and red candles, while watching Father Neofitos officiate at the various sacred services and hearing the beautiful chanting of Presvytera Catherine.

Fellowship members have been keeping in touch with one another through emails, texts and telephone calls and we thank God that we are all well. We pray for the complete recovery of all those who have contracted the virus and for those whose lives have been so negatively impacted by job losses and the closing of businesses. May we all pass through this pandemic with greater strength and resiliency.

Fellowship members will be contacted regarding future meetings as soon as we are able to do so. As difficult as it has been these past several weeks with the isolation we have been forced to undergo, it is easy to slip into feelings of despondency. But as Father Neofitos has often reminded us, Lent is a time not only of repentance, but also of joyfulness. So let us try to focus more on prayer and on our blessings rather than on our struggles. Let us thank God for the good things that we do have and pray that He will soon grant an end to this pandemic, keeping us all safe as we prepare to celebrate Christ's Resurrection.



Καλό Πάσχα

Καλό Πάσχα!



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

2020 Stewardship Pledges: We are grateful for those members listed below who have submitted their 2020 stewardship pledge as of April 1, 2020. Thank all for your contributions to our church especially during this time.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Antonovich & Family Mr. John Behiri Ms. Susan Birbilis Mrs. Lucy Brady & Family Mr. & Mrs. Sam Bratsos Mrs. Ifigenia Brown Ms. Arji Cakouros Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Casey Mr. & Mrs. Peter Chamberas Mr. Andreas Christou & Ms. Sophia Shakolas Ms. Ariana Christou Mr. & Mrs. Euripides Christou Mrs. Catherine Contompasis Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Contompasis & Family Ms. Demetra Corsones Mr. & Mrs. George Cotzas Mrs. Rena Counavelis Mrs. Marianne Crarv Mr. & Mrs. Chris Dafniotis Ms. Olga Delorey Miss Joanne Diamantis Mrs. J. Maria Dostis-Koliatsis Mrs. Marguerite Doulides

Mr. & Mrs. Brad Engwer Mr. & Mrs. Michael Euripidou & Family Ms. Renee Euripidou Mr. Arthur Georgelas Mrs. Helena Georgelas Mr. Nicholas Georgelas Mrs. Eliana Georgelos Mr. & Mrs. Brian Goodale & Family Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Grivas Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Holdsworth Mrs. Frusina Ica Iancu Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Jones & Family Mrs. Catherine Julius Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kalil Ms. Antonia Kananis Mrs. Fanny Karamanos Mr. & Mrs. Hari Kingra & Family Mr. Charles Koines Ms. Kaliopi Kounoupis Mrs. Voula Kounoupis Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kourav Ms. Barbara Koutsakis Mr. & Mrs. David Lambert Mr. & Mrs. Trifon Laskaris Mr. & Mrs. Paul LaViolette

Mr. William Manikas Mrs. Cathy Marco Mr. & Mrs. William McDonald & Family Mr. & Mrs. Phil McGowen Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Menagias Mrs. Anna Menagias Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Menagias Ms. Maria Menagias Mr. & Mrs. Scott Morlock & Family Mr. Simeon Nikolaidis Mrs. Katherine Orfan Mr. & Mrs. Nick Paravalos Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rossetti Fr. Neofitos & Pres. Sarigiannis Mr. & Mrs. Gerasimos Sokaris Mrs. Roubina Spyros-Morgan Mrs. Stavroula Stamoulis Mr. & Mrs. Van Stathis Mrs. Themetria Svolos Ms. Angela Theodore Ms. Melissa Verrigni Mr. & Mrs. Brian Whipple & Family Mrs. Mary Wilson Mrs. Mary Zoulas

Why is church, why is stewardship important to me?

"Church is important to me because it is a place where I can be with family and friends to pray to the Lord for forgiveness and say a prayer for good health and piece on earth. Most important to me, it is a place where I can pray for departed love ones.

Stewardship is important to me because it supports the Church and the many ministries and charities in the local area."

Charlie Koines

Lenten Ornamentation

Flower Donations - We are grateful for all who donated toward the flowers for the services. We are again accepting flower donations as our vendor has resumed making deliveries. Please email or call the office for any special requests or to fulfil a pledge

Wednesday, April 15th (a.m.) Thursday, April 16th Holy Thursday (p.m.) Saturday, April 18th Holy Saturday (p.m.) Flower Frame for Last Supper Icon\$5012 Candles for Gospel Readings\$60Potted Lilies (10)\$15 each

Please contact the church office during office hours to donate a item (s). General donations are still being collected for items that might be needed throughout the 40-day Resurrection period.



Introducing our NEW Bible Study/Book Club

We just completed our reading of Great Lent by Alexander Shmemann. We "meet" via conference call on Monday nights and will continue shortly after Easter and the feast of St. George.

Soon we will be deciding which new book to read. You can vote by filling out our <u>Parish Survey</u> in the next couple of weeks. The link is on our home page: <u>http://www.saintgeorgegoc.com/</u>

COMING SOON – St. George Bookstore











Liturgical Offerings: Koliva, Artoklasia, and other offerings

Dear Friends,

The Church of Saint George has several ecclesiastical needs for the upkeep of the liturgical practices of the year. You may make and bring these offerings on your own or order them through our office. Please contact our office if you wish to donate towards any of these items for the week or if you have any questions. All proceeds for offerings go to the church. A corresponding write up will be offered in the bulletin, if the donor wishes.

Divine Liturgy - for the Health of the Living and the Repose of the Departed

During the Divine Liturgy the names of our loved ones are commemorated for their health and salvation and for the repose of the departed. Names for the living and the departed can be submitted to be commemorated during the Proskomidi at any time. In addition to names, you may also offer the Prosforo, Communion Wine and Altar Candles as a prayer for your loved ones. These are vital ingredients for every service during the liturgical year. You can bring these items yourself or we can provide them for you.

- Communion Wine \$20 Donation
- Altar Candles for a week (ακοίμητον) \$20 Donation
- **Prosforo** \$20 Donation

Koliva - Memorial for the Departed

Koliva is offered in memory of our loved ones as a prayer for the repose and salvation of their souls on the following days:

- 40 Day Memorial
- 1 Year Memorial
- Annual Memorial
- Soul Saturday's for all our family members and friends who have departed. The Church has established 3 Soul Saturdays at the beginning of the Triodion and 1 on the Saturday before Pentecost

We can make Koliva for you if you place an order with the office. A large tray is \$100.

Artoklasia - Prayers for the Health of the Living

Artoklasia (the breaking of the five loaves) is a festive celebration of a Saint's Feast Day and is offered for the health and salvation of the living on the following days:

- On the name day of an individual
- In honor of a saint that we especially revere
- On the feast day of our church

We can make Artoklasia for you if you place an order with the office. The cost will be determined.



St. George Youth Corner

Welcome to St. George's Youth corner!

We are excited to be sharing minilessons, videos, puzzles, and crosswords with you each week. Join us on zoom for a youth video conference on Wednesdays. Ages 4-12 meet at 5:30pm and ages 13+ meet at 6pm. To join our list please email Lucy Goodale at <u>lgoodale7@gmail.com</u>. We will need your cell phone # and email.

Palm Sunday

They didn't understand!

Have you ever not understood something at first, but then you did later? Maybe you heard somebody say something, but it didn't mean anything to you...but then later, you really got it. Today, on this wonderful feast of Palm Sunday, the Gospel reading tells us how our Lord entered Jerusalem. When the crowds heard that Jesus was coming, they waved palm branches and cheered Him on! "And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written, 'Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

Those words were written many, many years before Jesus Christ lived on earth. In fact, Jesus's disciples had probably heard them when they had heard the scripture! But it didn't mean anything to them. The Gospel reading today tells us, "His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him." Later on, they really got it!

We don't always understand the Bible at first either! Let's keep reading it, again and again, so we can make connections, and we can understand more and more of God's message to us!

The Children's Word- <u>https://myocn.net/</u> - Orthodox Christian Network

Be the Bee

Palm Sunday is ONLY ONE WEEK FROM EASTER!!!! Please enjoy this episode about singing and Praising our Lord.

Be the Bee #123 | Why Do We Sing in Church? (with Dr. Grammenos Karanos) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_ZBVx71VCs

Orthodox Churches have a distinctive look but, they also have a distinctive sound. Why do we sing in our Church services?

Be the Bee focuses on the beauty that God has put in everyone and everything. Watch Be the Bee on youtube.

Go to the official YouTube channel of Y2AM (Orthodox Christian Youth & Young Adult Ministries). https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbyQMR-_r8bJTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZJsq_zG



г		
	Today, the Church remembers Joseph, from the Old Testament who was so beloved by his father that his own brothers betrayed him out of jealousy. But he was led forth again with great glory and was honored as a king. He became lord over all Egypt and a provider of wheat for all the people. His life symbolizes the betrayal, Passion, death, and glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ.	HOLY MONDAY
	Today remember the parable of the 10 virgins, which Jesus told as He was coming close to His Passion. This story teaches us that we should not be careless in our lives, but should know Him, and be prepared for the end at every moment, like the wise virgins, so that we may meet our Bridegroom, lest He come suddenly and the doors of heaven be shut to us.	HOLY TUESDAY
	Today, the Church services retell the act of the woman who anointed Jesus' head and feet with very precious myrrh, and wiped them with her hair to prepare Him for burial. We also remember the betrayal of Judas who was greedy for the cost of the myrrh and sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. This is why we fast on Wednesdays.	WEDNESDAY
	Today, Christ blessed the bread and the wine, and gave us the Mystery of Holy Communion. He washed the feet of the disciples as an example of humility. After, Christ went to the Mount of Olives, in anguish to pray alone and was arrested by soldiers, spit upon, mocked and judged to death on the Cross. The disciples all scattered, and Peter denied Him three times.	HOLY THURSDAY
	Jesus, wearing a crown of thoms carried His cross to Golgotha, where at the third hour, He was crucified with two thieves. One cried out, "Remember me, O Lord, when Thou comes in Thy Kingdom." Christ was pierced in the side and water and blood poured forth. A great earthquake shook and darkness covered the Earth. He was laid in tomb.	
	Although the Jews had the tomb sealed, early in the morning, the women bearing spices went to anoint Christ. They found the tomb empty and an Angel cried out "He is not here. He is Risen! Go proclaim it to the disciples!" In His death He destroys the gates and bars of Hades, and made His light to shine where only darkness reigned!	SATURDAY
	After Christ passed all of Saturday in the grave; He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, according to the Hebrew calculation, began after sunset on Saturday. We begin to celebrate at midnight that "Christ is Risen!" Every Sunday during the year is celebrated as the day of Resurrection For Orthodox Christians!	PASCHA



APRIL 2020									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
29	30	31	1	2	3 6:30 PM Akathyst Hymn	4			
5 Sunday of St. Mary of Eqypt 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	6 6:30 PM Bible Study/ Book Club	7	8 10:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy	9	10 9:00 AM Presanctified Liturgy 5:00 PM Vespers for St. Lazarus	11 Saturday of Lazarus 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy			
12 Palm Sunday 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 6:30 PM Bridegroom Service	13 Holy Monday 6:30 PM Bridegroom Service	14 Holy Tuesday 6:30 Bridegroom Service-Hymn of Kassiani	15 Holy Wednesday 6:00 PM Holy Unction Service	16 Holy Thursday The Mystical LastSupper 9:30 AM Vesperal Liturgy 6:00 PM The 12 Gospels-The Passion of Christ	17 Holy Friday 9:30 AM Royal Hours 3:00 PM Apokathelosis 6:00 PM Epitaphios/ Lamentations	18 Holy Saturday 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy – Proti Anastasi 11:00 PM Resurrection Service			
19 Pascha/Easter 10:30 PM Agape Vespers	20	21	22 Feast of St. George the Triumphant begins 6:30 PM Great Vespers	23 Feast of St. George the Triumphant 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy	24 Theotokos of the Life-giving Spring 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Orthros & Divine Liturgy	25			
26 Sunday 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	27	28	29	30	1	2			



We miss you so much



<u>Καλή Ανάσταση</u>



We can't wait to see you again!



Altar Servers Bookstore Bible Study/ Book Club Choir/Chanters Church Ushers Epistle Readers Fellowship Group Friends of St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society **Office Manager and Facilities Staff Order of AHEPA Parish Council Members** Soup Kitchen Stewardship Sunday School Teachers and Assistants "Thursday Morning Boys" Building and **Grounds Volunteers Youth Group Leaders and Volunteers:** Angels/HOPE/JOY and GOYA

St. George Greek Orthodox Church 107 Clinton Street Schenectady, NY 12305

Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis Presvytera Catherine Sarigiannis **Gladys Paravalos** Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis **Olga Delorey Brian Goodale** Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis **Eliana Georgelos Gladys Paravalos Olga Delorey** Camille Kosloski **Phil Menagias Brian Goodale Olga Delorey** Lucy Brady Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis

St. George Ministry Leaders

Steve Giakoumis

Lucy Goodale Toni Kananis Anna Morlock



frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com csarigiannis22@gmail.com Gladys1717p@aol.com

odelorey@nycap.rr.com

brian.goodale@outlook.com

ggeorgelos@nycap.rr.com

office@saintgeorgegoc.com p_menagias@hotmail.com

Lukia@nycap.rr.com Dafnia3@yahoo.com

518-372-4476

lg1010@live.com anna217m@aol.com

