



THE TRIUMPHANT

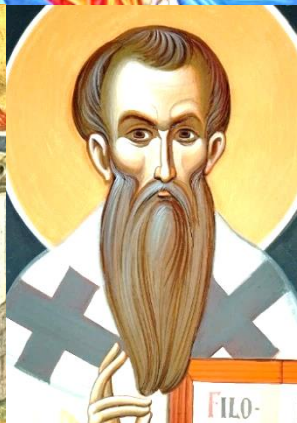
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church

Father Neofitos Sarigiannis

frneofitos@saintgeorgeoc.com

www.saintgeorgeoc.com

January/February 2021



Welcome to the HOLYday season.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				31	1	2
3 Sunday before Theophany 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	4 5:00 pm Teen/Adult Greek Language	5 Eve of Theophany 7:30 am - 11:00 am Royal Hours & Vespers Liturgy & with Great Blessing of Water 5:30 pm Youth Zoom Meeting	6 Epiphany of Our Lord 8:30 am – 11:00 am Epiphany of Our Lord Great Blessing of Water 7:00 pm Young Adults Zoom Meeting	7 Feastday of St. John the Baptist 8:30 am- 10:30 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 4:30 pm Level 1 Zoom Greek School 5:30 pm Level 2 Zoom Greek School	8	9
10 Sunday after Theophany 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	11 5:00 pm Teen/Adult Greek Language 6:30 pm Book Club/ Bible Study	12 5:30 pm Youth Zoom Meeting	13 7:00 pm Young Adults Zoom Meeting	14 11:30 am Senior Fellowship Meeting 4:30 pm Level 1 Zoom Greek School 5:30 pm Level 2 Zoom Greek School 5:30 Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary followed by the Sacrament of Confession	15	16 4:00 pm Ariana Verrigni Baptism
17 12th Sunday of Luke Feastday of St. Anthony 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	18 8:00 am Bag Lunch Prep 5:00 pm Teen/Adult Greek Language 6:30 pm Book Club/ Bible Study	19 12:00 PM Soup Kitchen Serve Bag Lunch 5:30 pm Youth Zoom Meeting	20 7:00 pm Young Adults Zoom Meeting 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM St. Neophytos the Martyr- VESPERS- ORTHROS and DIVINE LITURGY	21 Feastday of St. Neophytos & St. Maximos 4:30 pm Level 1 Zoom Greek School 5:30 pm Level 2 Zoom Greek School 5:30 Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary & Confession 6:30 pm Philoptochos Meeting	22	23
24 14th Sunday of Luke 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	25 5:00 pm Teen/Adult Greek Language 6:30 pm Book Club/ Bible Study	26 5:30 pm Youth Zoom Meeting	27 7:00 pm Young Adults Zoom Meeting	28 4:30 pm Level 1 Zoom Greek School 5:30 pm Level 2 Zoom Greek School 5:30 Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary followed by the Sacrament of Confession	29	30
31 Sunday of Zacchaeus 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy						



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February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00 pm Teen/Adult Greek Language 6:30 pm Bible Study/ Book Club	2 5:30 pm Youth Zoom Meeting	3 7:00 pm Young Adult Zoom Meeting	4 4:30 pm Level Greek School 5:30 pm Level 2 Greek School 5:30 pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary followed by the Sacrament of Confession	5	6
7 16th Sunday of Matthew 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	8 5:00 pm Teen/Adult/ Greek Language 6:30 pm Bible Study/ Book Club	9 5:30 pm Youth Zoom Meeting	10 7:00 pm Young Adult Zoom Meeting	11 4:30 pm Level Greek School 5:30 pm Level 2 Greek School 5:30 pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary followed by the Sacrament of Confession	12	13
14 Sunday of the Canaanite 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	15 5:00 pm Teen/Adult Greek Language 6:30 pm Bible Study/ Book Club	16 5:30 pm Youth Zoom Meeting	17 7:00 pm Young Adult Zoom Meeting	18 4:30 pm Level Greek School 5:30 pm Level 2 Greek School 5:30 pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary followed by the Sacrament of Confession	19	20
21 Sunday of the Canaanite 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	22 5:00 pm Teen/Adult Greek Language 6:30 pm Bible tudy/ Book Club	23 5:30 pm Youth Zoom Meeting	24 7:00 pm Young Adult Zoom Meeting	25 4:30 pm Level Greek School 5:30 pm Level 2 Greek School 5:30 pm Paraklesis to the Virgin Mary followed by the Sacrament of Confession	26	27
28 Sunday of the Prodigal Son 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy						



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros

Archiepiscopal Encyclical: Feast of Christmas

December 25, 2020

*"Τι σοι προσενέγκωμεν Χριστέ, ὅτι ὤφθης ἐπὶ γῆς ὡς ἄνθρωπος δι' ἡμᾶς; (Στιχηρόν Ἰδιόμελον)
What shall we offer You, O Christ, You Who have appeared on earth as human for our sake?"
(Special Sticheron)*

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Μέσα στὸ σκοτάδι τῆς φετινῆς χρονιάς, ἔφτασε τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου καὶ ὁ λαμπρότερος ἀστέρας τῆς ἀνθρώπινης ἱστορίας φωτίζει ξανά τις καρδιές μας, ὀδηγώντας μας στὸ σπήλαιο τῆς πόλης τοῦ Δαβίδ. Ἀντιμετωπίσαμε μεγάλες δυσκολίες αὐτὴ τὴ χρονιά, ἀλλὰ σήμερα τὸ βρέφος τῆς Βηθλεὲμ μᾶς καλεῖ νὰ ἐπισκεφθοῦμε τὸ παγωμένο καὶ σκοτεινὸ σπήλαιο, νὰ γίνουμε συναντιλήπτορες καὶ συνοδοιπόροι στὶς δυσκολίες ποὺ τὸ ἴδιο ἀντιμετώπισε γιὰ τὴ σωτηρία μας. Κατέβη ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν καὶ ἐνανθρώπησε μέσα στὴ μήτρα τῆς νεαρῆς παρθένου Μαρίας, παραδίδοντας τὸν ἑαυτό του στὰ χέρια τοῦ Ἰωσήφ, ἀνθρώπου γεμάτου ἀπορίες γιὰ τὸ θαυμαστὸ αὐτὸ γεγονός τῆς γεννήσεως. Ἔτσι καὶ ἐμεῖς, ὅπως ἡ Μαρία καὶ ὁ Ἰωσήφ, μὲ ἀφελότητα καρδίας, ἄς ξεπεράσουμε τίς ὅποιες ἀμφιβολίες μας καὶ ἄς πιστέψουμε στὰ λόγια τοῦ ἀγγέλου, ποὺ μᾶς βεβαιώνει «ὅτι αὐτὸς ἐστὶν ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν καὶ τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα».

Αὐτὰ τὰ Χριστούγεννα τῆς πανδημίας ἀντιμετωπίζουμε μεγάλες προκλήσεις καὶ προβλήματα, μὲ οἰκονομικὰ ἀδιέξοδα καὶ ἐνίοτε καὶ ἀπώλειες ἀγαπημένων προσώπων, ἀλλὰ ἄς θυμηθοῦμε τὴ Μαρία καὶ τὸν Ἰωσήφ στὸ ταξίδι τους γιὰ τὴ Βηθλεὲμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας. Ὑπάκουσαν στὴν ἐντολὴ τοῦ Καίσαρα καὶ ἔγιναν οἱ συντελεστὲς τοῦ θαύματος: «Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας» (Ἰωάν. 1:14). Στερήθηκαν καταλλήλου καταλύματος ἀλλὰ βρῆκαν τὴ θαλπωρὴ στὴ φάτνη μὲ τὰ ἄλογα ζῶα τῆς γῆς, προσκυνούμενοι ἀπὸ Μάγους ἐξ Ἀνατολῶν. Γεύθηκαν τὸ θαῦμα τῆς ἐπισκέψεως τῶν ποιμένων καὶ τῆς δοξολογίας τῶν ἀγγέλων. Τί θαυμάσια δῶρα ἀλήθεια, μέσα στὴν ἀπόλυτη ταπείνωση, μέσα στὴν ἔλλειψη τῶν ἀναγκαίων ἀγαθῶν!

Προσκυνώντας τὸ θεῖο βρέφος στὴν ταπεινὴ φάτνη τῶν ζώων, ἄς ὀλοκληρώσουμε αὐτὸ τὸ ταξίδι τῆς πίστεως προσφέροντας καὶ ἐμεῖς τὸ ταπεινὸ μας δῶρο ὡς εὐχαριστία. Τὸ ἰδιόμελο τοῦ ἑσπερινοῦ τῆς ἐορτῆς συνεχίζει: «ἔκαστον γὰρ τῶν ὑπὸ σοῦ γενομένων κτισμάτων, τὴν εὐχαριστίαν σοι προσάγει· οἱ Ἄγγελοι τὸν ὕμνον, οἱ οὐρανοὶ τὸν Ἄστέρα, οἱ Μάγοι τὰ δῶρα, οἱ Ποιμένες τὸ θαῦμα, ἡ γῆ τὸ σπήλαιον, ἡ ἔρημος τὴν φάτνην· ἡμεῖς δὲ Μητέρα Παρθένον. Ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεὸς ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς».

Ἀγαπητοὶ μου χριστιανοί, ἀκόμη καὶ μέσα στὶς πολλαπλὲς δυσκολίες τῆς πανδημίας, τὸ δῶρο ποὺ μποροῦμε νὰ προσφέρουμε εἶναι ὁ ἴδιος μας ὁ ἑαυτός: μιμούμενοι τὴν ἀγάπη καὶ τὴν ἀφοσίωση μὲ τὴν ὁποία ἡ ἀειπάρθενος Μαρία προσέφερε τὸν ἑαυτό της στὸ Θεό. Ἐμεῖς προσφέρουμε Μητέρα Παρθένον, διότι ἔχουμε τὴν ἴδια φύση μὲ αὐτὴ, τὴν ἀνθρώπινη φύση, τὴν ὁποία προσλαμβάνει ὁ Λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ γίνεται ἄνθρωπος, ἐρχόμενος στὸν κόσμο. Ἐορτάζοντας τὰ Χριστούγεννα τοῦ 2020, εὐχόμαι τὸ φῶς τοῦ Κυρίου νὰ λάμψει στὶς καρδιές σας, σὰν τὸ φῶς τοῦ ἀστέρα τῆς Βηθλεὲμ στὸν χριστουγεννιάτικο οὐρανό, ὀδηγώντας σας σὲ ἓνα εὐλογημένο καὶ εὐτυχὲς νέο ἔτος.

Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, δοξάσατε.

Beloved Brethren in the Lord,

In this darkest time of the year, we have arrived at the turn of time, when the brightest Star that ever shone arises in our hearts to guide us to the Cave in the City of David. We have all faced so very much this past year, and the little Child of Bethlehem calls to each of us to come unto Him and witness His vulnerability for our sake. He descended from Heaven to be incarnate within the womb of a young Virgin, and entrusted Himself to an old man whose mind was full of doubts. We too, have our innocence and our doubts, just like Mary and Joseph. But as they were faithful to the words of the Angel, God still speaks to us and tells us that He is our God, and His mercy endures forever.

This Christmas, one that is full of challenges and difficulties, of despair and even loss, let us remember Mary and Joseph and their journey to Bethlehem of Judea. They went to be obedient to the law of Caesar, but they witnessed the birth of



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Grace and Truth (John 1:14). They were deprived of shelter, but they made a home with the creatures of the earth and entertained the Magi of the East. They saw wonder in the eyes of the Shepherds and heard the echoes of the songs of Angels. There was a time of gifts in the midst of humble paucity.

As we arrive at the Cave and behold the One Who condescended to be laid in a Manger, let us contemplate our own journey of faith, and this time of the gifts that we may bring. The hymn above continues: "Each of Your creations that You fashioned offers thanks to You: the Angels, their hymn; the heavens, a Star; the Shepherds, their wonder; the Magi, their gifts; the earth, the Cave; the desert, the Manger; and we offer the Virgin Mother. O God before all ages, have mercy upon us!"

My Beloved Christians, even in the midst of this pandemic, we can offer ourselves to God with the same love and devotion that the Ever-Virgin Mary offered herself. When we offer Her in praise, we are in fact offering ourselves, because we are of the same flesh and bone as she, full human beings that are called to bring forth God in the world. As you celebrate this Christmas of 2020, I pray the Lord will shine in your hearts as did the Star in the sky, and guide you to a blessed and prosperous New Year.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

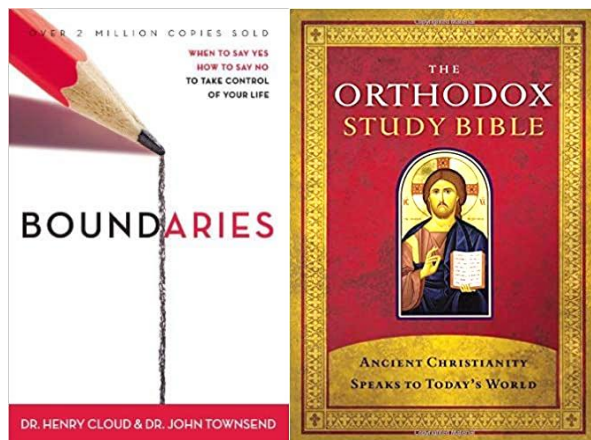
† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America

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St. George Book Club/ Bible Study 2021

Join us on Mondays! Our next Class will be on January 11.



Books are available in our Bookstore and online at

<https://st-george-greek-orthodox-church.square.site/>

We meet via Zoom during the pandemic. Please email Father Neofitos to join our Book Club. frneofitos@saintgeorgeoc.com



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From the desk of Fr. Neofitos

Saying Happy Holidays versus Merry Christmas

In our church both are appropriate. But one must understand the context of each proclamation. We have entered into a dense and rich holiday season filled with many holidays contributing to our Salvation. Our Orthodox faith is richer than just words. It is about Jesus. The ultimate word; the WORD of God became flesh. In this HOLY Season (holiday) we are celebrating HIS Nativity. I also wanted to outline all the Holidays known as DODEKAIMERON, the 12 days of Christmas. Mind you, the 12 days of Christmas before the Nativity are Holy days as well. December 12th marks the beginning of this feast all the way till December 24th. We fast a little more after this day, St. Spyridon's feast day, and prepare more earnestly for Christ's entry into this world as an innocent babe.

The Dodekaimeron begins with Christmas. We celebrate our Lord's birth in a manger. There were several witnesses. Our Lord and Savior was born in a manger. There, animals were kept to be fed. Lowly shepherds were notified by an angelic vision that something holy is occurring in this place where a star in the sky was shining on the Holy site of the manger.

The Nativity here equals unity. Angels, multitudes of angels, were singing and were joined by animals, shepherds, and three wise men. The three wise men from the east followed the same star. They were of pagan religions and they believed in celestial bodies. Gods of the sky influencing people on Earth. Good and evil gods that lived in the sky. As we hear in the feast hymn of the Nativity:

“the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο”

In that moment, God's divine revelation allowed these kings to believe in and seek out the king of kings. Animals, lowly shepherd's, and educated pagans from afar, all acknowledge their God and Savior. Those in power and the chief priests sadly did not recognize Him. They sought to have Him murdered from as early as His birth. During this season it is important to refocus our life and choose our Lord over vain and trivial things.

On December 26th we celebrate the Virgin Mary - our Panagia. In the church, we always celebrate the main supporting party or parties concerning a big event on the day after the feast. Thus, we celebrate Jesus' mother the day after His birth.

On December 27th we celebrate St. Stephen the Holy Archdeacon and First Martyr. He was the first martyr to die for Christ sake after the passion and resurrection of our Lord. He teaches us that we should witness for our faith. Today there is still persecution for believing in God. We, however, have a greater responsibility to practice and proclaim this holy witness. To attend services and follow the law of God. We must cherish the freedom we have been gifted especially in countries like the U.S.A.

On January 1st we celebrate New Year's Day which is more a societal holiday. In the church, we celebrate baby Jesus' naming and circumcision on January 1st as well as the feast of St. Basil the Great. As Christians, we are taught to model Jesus' life. It is still a practice today that not many parents know about. We ask a priest to come and bless the mother and newborn child on the eighth day after the child's birth.



***Baby George Nektarios
8 day naming and blessing.***

Then we have Holy Epiphany and the Great Blessing of the Waters. This is Jesus's baptism in the Jordan by his cousin, Saint John the Baptist, and the holiday is called Holy Epiphany or Theophany. God, the HOLY TRINITY, revealed himself to us for the first time. All three parties were manifested on Earth – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father's voice was heard from heaven, Jesus the son was incarnate and submitting to holy baptism, and the Holy Spirit descended on the Lord in the form of a dove. On this day, all the water on Earth becomes blessed and God sanctifies us through His Son who was baptized in those earthly waters so that we might be transformed and transported to Heaven. Thus, the whole world is united and blessed this day, through water.



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On January 7th we celebrate feast of Saint John the Baptist. Just like on December 26th we celebrate the Virgin Mary because she was a main character in the main holiday of the Nativity, on January 7th we celebrate Saint John because he was the main character in Jesus's baptism January 6th. Indeed, this is a period of holy days.

Today the Sunday after Christmas, we celebrate Saint Joseph the wise and patient. The betrothed to Mary. A descendant of David the Prophet and King. Father of James, the brother of God, who was the first Bishop in the church of Jerusalem.

Today, we also remember the slaughter of all the youths at the hand of Herod the king. The 3 wise men in faith and love, and with the fear and respect for God, sought the King of Kings. Herod responded to this news with the opposite sentiment and cruel actions. Envy and greedy fear seized him to also search for the King of Kings to kill him. These 14,000 infants were slaughtered at the hands of Herod's orders for fear of losing his throne. He ascertained the age of this child judging by the appearance of the star in the sky.

The new baby king would be about two years old, at the time. So, he ordered the murder of all firstborn sons from the age of two and under. These were the first martyrs for Christ, and we remember them today. All these babies had names and we do not know what the names are. They are some of the souls that we do celebrate on All Saints Day. The nameless hundreds and thousands murdered throughout the ages celebrate on All Saints Day after Pentecost.

In our lives, we might feel lonely, depressed, and tired of the many difficulties we face. Our Lord invites us to have courage. He has come for our salvation. He shines in our hearts because He is the sun of righteousness.

We are not alone in this struggle. He faced struggle and persecution and difficulties from the day He was born. From the threat of murder, fleeing to Egypt, all the way leading to His ultimate passion, persecution, arrest, Crucifixion and Resurrection from the dead. Even on his way to his willing crucifixion he told us to pick up our cross and follow Him. He showed us the way to salvation. He has not asked us to take on any burden that He has not already taken on himself. In doing so, death itself was defeated. He is the one who takes away the sins of the world. He is asking us to join Him and to be awakened by the star in the sky.

If we really look around, abundant blessings and mercies pour forth upon us.

We can see the biggest blessings all around us. God sanctified our offerings. We offer him ourselves, our time, our heart, and our soul He blesses them and gives them back to us. We offer bread and wine. He blesses it and makes it His body and blood. We offer water He blesses it and makes it holy water. We offer him our children; He blesses them and gives them back to us baptized - sanctified - and illumined as Christians.

We offer candles, prayers, and money and we are blessed.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

We are blessed by these holy days. Let us believe in Him and remain in His grace.

I wish you all Xronia Polla and a blessed remaining Holy Day - Holiday season.





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What are the 12 Days of Christmas?

Fr. Andrew George - <https://www.goarch.org/-/what-are-the-12-days-of-christmas>

The commemoration of the Nativity of our Lord, the Baptism of our Lord, and the events related to them developed over time in the life and practice of the Church. Originally celebrated together on the same day, their celebrations - and the sequence of 12 days in between them - offers the faithful a festal period of great joy.

History

As they designated dates to commemorate events in Jesus' life, the early Christian Church selected January 6 as the date to observe both the birth and baptism of Christ. In the early 4th century it was felt by the church leadership that a distinction should be made between the two observances. They selected Dec 25 to be the date to celebrate the birth of Christ and kept Jan 6 to be the baptism.

The selection of Dec 25 also addressed a second issue. The end of December was filled with pagan gatherings and festivities (in honor of the "sun god" as he became victorious over the "god of darkness" as the days slowly began to become longer (the winter solstice). Christians were falling back to pagan temptations with these festivities, thus the church fathers wanted to provide them with their own reason to celebrate. This reason of course became the birth of the Son of God (who made the sun).

Once Christmas Arrives

Our Orthodox Church today celebrates highly and with great festivity and joy! Once Christmas arrives on December 25, we enter a new liturgical period. The major period runs 40 days, from Jesus' Birth to His 40 day Presentation to the Temple (Feb 2). Within these 40 days is some sub-division.

From December 25 to January 6, there became a 12-day period from the one major celebration to the next major observance. Thus, we have the "12 days of Christmas" that bridge the birth with the baptism and it became a festal period of time of great joy and celebration. As time progressed January 6 began to be called the "little Christmas."

We have the 7-day Christmas tide which are part of the 12 Days of Christmas, focusing on immediate events up to His naming & Circumcision on the 8th day (January 1). Henceforth, we begin to prepare for the observance of His Baptism when He was 30 years old.

The Baptism of Our Lord

In the Orthodox Church January 6 is officially called the Baptism of our Lord – Theophany (sometimes called simply Epiphany). Theophany means "God's appearance" and Epiphany simply "appearance". On the day of Jesus' baptism, the Holy Trinity was made manifest with the appearance of the dove and the voice that was heard from the sky (Matt 3:13 – 17).

The Catholic Church later in history changed January 6 to be the arrival of the Wise men and made the Baptism to be the Sunday after January 6. In our Orthodox observances, the arrival of the Wise men is combined on the same day as the birth. The Armenian Church still retains January 6 as their Christmas commemoration.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

These 12 days that comprise the "12 days of Christmas" also include other observances on various levels. The first level are events that are directly associated to Christ's birth in the flesh, including the murder of the 14,000 baby boys that Herod ordered when Jesus was born (December 29) and the 8-day naming of Jesus (January 1).

A second level of observances during these 12 days are commemorations of people from the earliest decades of the spread of the Christian faith after the death and resurrection of Christ and Pentecost, such as St. Stephen (one of the first of the 7 deacons) who became the first martyr in Christianity (December 27); and the "seventy" as they are known, these being the 70 apostles that the 12 apostles trained and sent off to travel and preach (January 4).

The third level of commemorations of these 12 days are for those who in later centuries lived and honored Christ in marvelous ways and became saints of the church, such as St Melanie of Rome from the 5th century (December 31), St Basil the Great from the 4th century era (January 1), and St Sylvester, Bishop of Rome also from the 4th century (Jan 2).

In its development over many centuries, the twelve days of Christmas that we celebrate today have become a theological and historical cornucopia of both the life of Christ and the life of the Church through its Christian Witness. What follows is a brief review of the themes from each of the twelve days of Christmas.

Day 1 - Dec 25 - The Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

The Shepherd's worship and the visit of the wise men from the East.



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Day 2 - Dec. 26 - Synaxis of the Virgin

Gives Glory and Praise to her, who bore our Lord. Also on the 26th is the commemoration of the Flight into Egypt when an angel warned Joseph of King Herod's plans to kill the children in Bethlehem.

Day 3 - Dec. 27 - St. Stephen the Deacon and 1st Martyr

He was the 1st of the 7 deacons in the "start up" Christian Church (Acts 7) who was stoned to death by the Jews, in 34 A.D. Tradition says that the Theotokos & St. John the Theologian witnessed the stoning.

Day 4 - Dec. 28 - 20,000 Martyrs of Nicomedia (men, women and children)

An event in 302 AD when the wicked Emperor Maximian Hercules, while visiting in Nicomedia learned of the large number of Christians living there and devised a means to get rid of them. It was the days preceding Christmas that he visited so, on Christmas, as the Christians were in church....his soldier's surrounded the church, so no one could leave. The Emperor's envoy gave them a choice to deny Christ and offer sacrifice to the pagan idols, or, be burned to death. The congregation chose death (in fact catechumens were quickly baptized). The soldiers set fire on all 4 sides of the church and the building burned for 5 days The smoke had a fragrant scent and a golden light surrounded the church.

Day 5 - Dec 29 - 14,000 children of Bethlehem (Holy Innocents)

King Herod was furious hearing from the wise men about a new born King in Bethlehem, and ordered that all the babies, 2 yrs and under to be killed in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. This occurred, 1 yr. after the birth. Herod sought out Zachariah's son, also newly born (John, who later became the Baptizer of Jesus) thinking that John would be the "New King". When Zachariah refused to hand over baby John, Herod killed Zachariah as he also killed Simeon who had received Christ as the 40 day old baby Jesus. Angered with the Jews in general – Herod also killed Hyrcanes, their high priest and 70 elders from the Sanhedrin (their council). Herod was so enraged that "someone" would take his position – he also killed own brother and sister, as well as his wife and 3 of his sons! What a crazed man!

Day 6 - Dec 30 - Deacon Timon (one of the 7 Deacons)

Also counted as one of the 70 Apostles who became Bishop in Arabia. He died by crucifixion there in the third century (298AD). On the same day we have the martyrdom of St Anysia from Thessaloniki, born of wealthy and prominent parents. She was orphaned young. She assisted the poor and devoted herself to prayer and fasting. This was the time of Emperor Maximian Hercules again. One of his decrees was that anyone was free to kill Christians when and where they came across them, without trial or sentences. So as Anysia was out in the streets one day, a soldier approached her and confirmed through direct conversation with her, that she was a Christian. He ran her through with a knife under her rib and killed her. This was actually during the days that the pagans had their festival of the sun god (which ultimately became later on in history the date selected for the observance of Christ's Birth).

Day 7 - Dec 31 - Nothing directly connected to Christmas per se, but 2 important figures of the 4th and 5th Century who witnessed greatly to Christian living.

4th Century - Martyr Zoticus, Protector of the Poor

A priest in Constantinople, who had a home for the poor and those with infectious diseases. He was a close acquaintance of Emperor Constantine the Great. Constantine's son (Constantine) was jealous of all the money his dad gave to Zoticus to help the poor and the sick, that he tied Zoticus to the behind of a wild ass and he ultimately died of his wounds.

5th Century - Holy Mother Melanie of Rome

Born to wealthy parents, she was forced to marry a young nobleman. After having 2 children she convinced him that they should live as brother and sister. Their 2 children died some time later and they agreed to give their possessions to the poor and the church. They traveled as well to many far away places doing good works along the way. She ultimately became a nun at the Mt. of Olives in Jerusalem.

Sunday After Christmas - Honor is given Joseph the Guardian (i.e. also called Righteous Joseph), David the King (the son of Jesse) and Iakovos, the (step-brother) of Christ, the 1st bishop of Jerusalem.

Day 8 – Jan 1st - Circumcision and Naming of Jesus

In observance of Jewish Law since the time of Abraham, Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus to the Temple for circumcision and he was also given the name "Jesus", the name announced to Mary at the time of the annunciation by Archangel Gabriel



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

(Luke 1:31). This act of circumcision showed that Jesus took true human flesh upon Himself, (not its resemblance as heretics' would later say about him).

Also on Jan 1st, St. Basil the Great is remembered. Born around 330 A.D. under the reign of Constantine the Great. As an un-baptized person, Basil spent 19 years in Athens studying philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and other secular disciplines. In his mature years, he was baptized in the Jordan River. He became ultimately Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia, died unfortunately young, at age 50. He was a great champion of the faith of moral purity and a great theological mind.

Day 9 - Jan 2nd - St. Sylvester, Bishop of Rome

At the age of 30 he was elected a bishop and served for 20 yrs/died in 335 A.D. He is the one attributed for bringing St. Helen to the Christian faith and ultimately King Constantine himself. He also is credited with "reforming" the Saturday fast (that it would not be a strict fast day) making only Holy Saturday a strict Saturday of fasting.

Jan. 2nd also remembers St. Theodota the mother of the brothers St. Cosmas and Damian, the unmercenary and miracle working doctors.

Day 10 - Jan 3rd - Prophet Malachi (500 yrs. before Christ)

Malachi, is the prophet who prophesied the coming and the mission of John the Baptist (Malachi 3:1). In fact there was no prophet between Malachi and John. Malachi also prophesied about the dread judgment, against ungrateful Israel and against the lawless Hebrew priests.

January 3rd also remembers Martyr Gordius. Born in Caesarea of Cappadocia/an officer in the Roman Army in the reign of Emperor Licinius. After the Army, he went to Sinai (to Mt. Horeb) in contemplation and prayer. He was stabbed to death in 320 A.D.

Day 11 - Jan 4th - Synaxis of the 70 Apostles

This day honors these men, that Jesus also selected that followed the 12 Apostles (Luke 10:1-11), sending them out 2 by 2 going to every city before He himself has to go. This was similar to the Old Testament period in that Moses also had 70 elders that he appointed - Exodus 18:21, 22; 24:1. The 70 Apostles offered valuable service to Christ in those earliest of years as missionaries.

Day 12 - Jan 5th - Hieromartyr Theopemptos, Bishop of Nicomedia and also Martyr Theonas (a pagan magician)

This was the era of Emperor Diocletian who persecuted Christians. When Theopemptos was brought before the Emperor, he responded to the Emperor's request to deny Christ, by quoting Scripture - (Matt 10:28) "Fear not them who kill the body, who are unable to kill the soul." Then he added - do unto my body as you please. Diocletian sent his magician to trick and outdo the bishop...when Theonas saw that even poison would not hurt the Bishop, he converted to Christ! Theopemptos was then beheaded 298 A.D. Theonas was buried alive 298 A.D.

The Glorious Observance of the Baptism of Our Lord

Jan 5 - The Paromy / Preparation (Strict Fast)

Jan 6 - The Baptism Observance

Jan 7 - Synaxis in honor of St John the Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist

Certainly, these 12 days are of great significance and should be known, honored and lived rightly.

St. George Bookstore - Online and in Church



Bookstore items are available for viewing and purchase online as well. Pick up only.

[Visit our Bookstore Online!](#)
Liturgical Offerings



Offerings of: Communion Wine, Altar Candles for a week

(ακοίμητον), Prosforo, Altar Incense-Μοσχοθυμίαμα, Koliva - Memorial for the Departed, Artoklasia – Sweet Bread for Prayers for the Health of the Living can all be made on our Square Site. Click the icon to visit:

<https://st-george-greek-orthodox-church.square.site/>



Square



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Council

The ongoing Campaign for St. George has achieved a milestone. This past week, the donation total reached \$51,950, surpassing our initial goal of \$50,000. This wonderful achievement speaks to the amazing generosity of so many parishioners in the St. George community. Thank you to the 56 donors (so far) who have contributed to the Campaign to support the financial needs and ministries of the Church during this difficult time.

As we celebrate this outstanding news, we recognize that many friends and parishioners of St. George have not yet made their donation to the Campaign. It is not too late! As the important work of St. George continues, so too does the Campaign. If you would like to make a credit card donation, please go to saintgeorgegoc.com and click on the Campaign link in the upper right of the webpage. To send a donation by check, please make it payable to "St. George Greek Orthodox Church" with a note saying it is for the Campaign. Mail your check to St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 107 Clinton St., Schenectady NY 12305.

The holiday pre-order bake sale at St. George was a success. The bake sale brought in a profit of nearly \$9,100 with proceeds from bakery items going to the Church and for spanakopita going to Philoptochos. Marketing efforts to promote sales was highlighted by our own Father Neofitos and Gladys Paravalos being interviewed on Spectrum News (channel 9) for a segment that played every hour during their broadcast on November 30th. Sales jumped significantly on that day and the day after.

Around 200 customers purchased homemade items from a menu that included Spanakopita, Tsourekia, Baklava, Kourambiedes, Koulourakia, and Paximathia.

Thanks to the small but dedicated team that did the baking, managed the sales, and worked on the 2 days when customers stopped by the Hellenic Center to pick up their orders.

This event demonstrated how we can manage a fundraising event in a safe, fun, and profitable way. More events will be planned for 2021 and we look forward to your participation.

St. George Needs Your Help! Join a new Committee for 2021 - Often, we associate stewardship with financial support. While that is important, stewardship also refers to the donation of one's time and talents. The Parish Council has established a new committee for 2021 and is calling on all parishioners to consider serving on it.

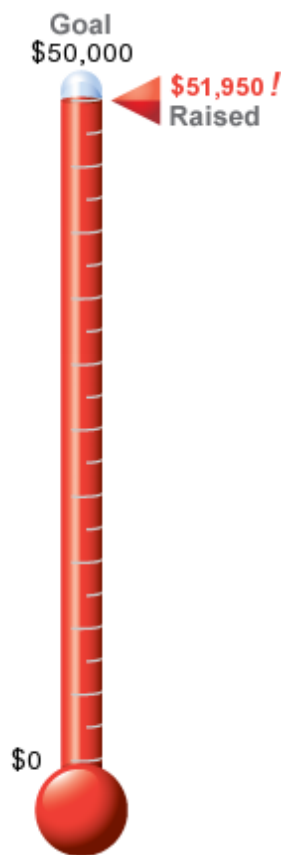
The new committee is the 2021 Fundraising Committee. The committee will be comprised of 8-10 (or more) parishioners of St. George with a goal of being creative. The committee, starting in January, will be asked to develop a fundraising plan for the year that will include 2-3 (or more) events, along with a calendar and needed resources. Two or three members of the Parish Council will serve on the committee as well.

The first committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 17th after Church services.

Please consider offering your time, talent and creativity to this very important committee ... and encourage another parishioner to join with you. Please contact Father Neofitos (FrNeofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com) or Brian Goodale, Parish Council President (Brian.Goodale@outlook.com) to volunteer as soon as possible. We want to have the committee members identified prior to the January 17th meeting.

Thank you very much for considering this. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to you and your family.

Brian Goodale
Parish Council President





Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Meet our Greek School Teachers

We Welcome our New Greek School Teachers George Cotzas and Ioanna Loula. Presvytera Catherine Sarigiannis will be taking a maternity year this year.

Greek School Teacher for Pre-K to Grade 8

My name is Ioanna Loula (Ιωάννα Λούλα) and I am so happy and proud to be a teacher at St. George Greek school! I was born and raised in Athens, Greece and I moved to the US in 2012. Originally, I come from a small village very close to the city of Ioannina, where I spend most of my childhood summer vacation full of lovely and memorable experiences! I received my bachelor's degree in Education from University of Ioannina in Greece and my Master's in Social work from SUNY Albany. I have been teaching Greek as a second language for four years at St. Sophia Greek school in Albany, NY. I have a true passion for working with kids. I love watching them grow physically, mentally and spiritually. Motivating and helping each child love the Greek language and culture is a challenge that I am honored to accept daily. My goal is to create lovely memories for my students that would make them curious to love, visit and explore Greece. Personally, I have been married for 8 years and I have a 4-year-old daughter. I love to spend time with my family and visit new places that are close to the beach.

Greek School Teacher for Teens and Adults

GEORGE MCOTZAS

Γιώργος Μ Κοτζάς

Birth Place: Ismailia, Egypt

Education:

- Greek High School, [Mansourah](#), Egypt
- BS in Elect. & Mech. Eng'g, [Athens](#), Greece
- MS in Nuclear Eng'g, [Saclay](#), France
- ME & D. Eng in Elect Power Eng'g, RPI, [Troy](#), NY
- Taught Greek in St Sophia's Adult Classes, 2015-2019

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR GREEK SCHOOL!

Click to Register

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1vCwAtUK2kALC7PzQ2yrF9roSCWckmd142qhaKDtBkw/edit>

Contact the Office for more info or any questions:

OFFICE@SAINTGEORGELOC.COM

or

518-393-0742

- Immigrated to USA in 1967
- Career in GE Co 44 years; Last 30 years, head of Eng'g & Research Groups. Retired in 2011
- Married, two children

Likes: languages, etymology, mythology, anthropology. Now taking care of two grandchildren!!

He wrote a book on his childhood in Greek, and he later translated it to English. Both books can be downloaded from the Web, gratis.

BOOK TITLE: **Egypt 's Port-Tewfick through the eyes of my soul**

English book link:

<https://anemi.lib.uoc.gr/metadata/2/5/d/metadata-1453118273-466993-23293.tkl> Greek book link:

<https://anemi.lib.uoc.gr/metadata/2/5/d/metadata-1453118273-466993-23293.tkl>



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church



Philoptochos News

By Olga Delorey

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the St. George Holiday Bake Sale. The proceeds from the pastries benefited the church and the spanakopita sales were for the benefit of our Philoptochos. Thank you to Aleka Menagias (Spanakopita Chair) and Gladys Paravalos, Anna Ktenas and Elaine Euripidou (Pastries Co-Chairs). By all measures the combined bake sale was a great success! We thank all those who helped with the preparation and worked the weekend of December 12-13 to facilitate the pick-up of orders. Internet sales were boosted tremendously by Tamani Wooley's spirited feature story on Spectrum News. We also thank Tracy Paige and The Gazette Newspapers for the three display ads which were provided gratis.

Our 6th Annual Mitten Tree was another success during this most challenging time. The children who are served by the City Mission of Schenectady will keep warm this



winter thanks to everyone who supported our efforts with their generous donations. We received beautiful hand knit items, purchased items and cash donations which were used to buy mittens, hats and scarves. We could not do this without you. All together we donated:

MITTENS: 50 pairs

HATS: 60

SCARVES: 46

During the months of September-October-November-December, our Philoptochos fulfilled its philanthropic mission by providing donations to the following: National Philoptochos (Retired Clergy & Widowed Presbyteres Fund, Hellenic College/Holy Cross Scholarship Fund, Emergency COVID-19 Relief Fund, National Emergency Fund, National Sisterhood of Presbyteres, Ecumenical Patriarchate, UNICEF, General Medical Fund); Direct Archdiocesan District: (Social Services Special Appeal, St. Michael's Home for the Aged); City Mission of Schenectady (student toiletry kits); Salvation Army (soup kitchen bag lunches), Concerned for the Hungry, Schenectady County Social Services (November and December), Operation Adopt-A-Soldier, Price Chopper Food Cards for Veterans; WGY Christmas Wish, Evangeline Booth Miracle Home,

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry; YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter.

Our heartfelt gratitude to the Soup Kitchen Bag Lunch sponsors to date: Katherine Orfan (October), Tom & Shannon Jones (November) and Ifigenia T. Brown (December). In December a special treat bag filled with a fresh orange, chocolate candies, candy canes and cookies were given to all who went to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen on the day we delivered our bag lunches.

Finally, we thank everyone who supported the Parish Christmas Card. May the coming New Year be a happy and healthy one filled with God's abundant blessings for you and your families.

Upcoming meetings: Thursday, January 21, 2021 and Thursday, February 18, 2021. All meetings begin at 6:30 pm.

***"...for I was hungry, and you gave me food ...
...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My
brethren, you did it to Me"***

Matthew 25: 35-40





Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Fellowship News

By Eliana Georgelos

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Hoping that 2021 turns out to be better than 2020. We have been praying for an end to the COVID epidemic and, with the new vaccines that have been developed, an end may soon be forthcoming. 2021 also brings a new President who will occupy the White House and lead our country. Whether we voted for Joe Biden or not, let us pray that God grants him the wisdom to lead this country with honesty and integrity, and the courage to choose the right path.

We congratulate our St. George family led by our parish council, and our Philoptochos members for putting on a successful pastry and spanakopita sale. Ten large trays of spanakopita were baked by Aleka Menagias and her crew, and numerous koulourakia, paximadia, kourambiedes and tsourekia were baked by our special trio...Gladys, Anna Ktenas and Elaine Euripidou. They returned to the Hellenic Center kitchen numerous times to bake additional pastries as more and more orders came in. Thank you to all for the time and energy that was put in to make this venture so successful.

We extend our prayers and very best wishes to our beloved Alice Giakoumis, Mary Wilson and Rena Counavelis who were all hospitalized for a period of time in December. May they all recover completely and return to us in good health.

The month of January brings us the feast of Holy Theophany (Epiphany) on January 6th. This Feast commemorates the Baptism of Christ and the divine revelation of the Holy Trinity. At the Baptism of Christ, all three Persons of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—were made manifest. Thus, this Feast is called either Epiphany, meaning manifestation, or Theophany, meaning manifestation of God. We hope to see you all in church as Father Neofitos conducts the service of the Blessing of the Waters.

Our Fellowship group managed to squeeze in a get together during the month of November with a pizza party. Although CDC protocols with social distancing and mask wearing were in effect, we all enjoyed being together and voted unanimously to gather again as soon as possible. However, due to our pastry and spanakopita sale in December, it was not possible to meet during that month. Since Covid numbers are increasing, a January meeting will not be taking place. But perhaps we can consider meeting in February.

We wish all our St. George family peace and good health in the coming year.





WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Stewardship for St. George

An Offering of Time, Talent and Treasure - Happy New Year! We pray that 2021 brings happiness and joy to you and your family. Last year has certainly been a challenge for all of us. Despite the challenges though, the ministries of St. George have continued to function and even increase with the love and support from Father Neofitos, Presvytera Catherine, the Parish Council, and our dedicated parishioners.

We would like to thank all of you who have fulfilled your 2020 stewardship commitments to date. A list of our pledged members is included in this bulletin. Please call the Church office if you see a discrepancy.

The monies received from stewardship pledges are crucial in supporting the Church. However, without the proceeds from the cancelled 2020 Festival, meeting the financial obligations of the Church may have been next to impossible had we not had a successful Campaign for St. George. For the 2021 year ahead, starting up a new Campaign for St. George is not feasible. We will have fundraisers here and there, but ultimately the proceeds might not cover the expenses that the Church incurs throughout the year. Stewardship growth, being such an important way to support the Church, needs to become our focus. We need to increase our stewardship pledges for 2021.

The average pledge in 2020 was approximately \$600 based on 125 pledges and a total pledged amount of \$75,000. For 2021, without having another Campaign and the strong possibility of not having a Festival like we are used to having, it is likely that we will struggle to meet our financial obligations. As such, there are two categories that we need to grow – (1) increasing the number of pledged members, and (2) increasing the amount pledged by each individual or family. We are asking that you consider increasing your pledge by 10% or more if you can. In addition, if you haven't been a pledged member, please strongly consider submitting your pledge today. By participating in either option, you will be providing a wonderful level of support and love for St. George.

If you have not had an opportunity to pledge for 2021 as of yet, you can use the attached form within this bulletin. We have also included a return envelope for your convenience. Your participation in stewardship is an important way of being a member in good standing.

Thank you and may God bless you and your family.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Αγιος Γεωργιος

PLEDGE FORM 20_____

Family Name _____

Envelope Number _____

MY PLEDGE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1500.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2000.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000.00	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
	Other	

- Weekly (_____ due each week)
Εβδομαδιαίος
- Monthly (_____ due at the start of the month)
Μηνιαίος
- Quarterly (_____ due at the start of the quarter)
Τριμηνιαίος
- Annually (_____ due at the start of the year)
Ετησίως

How much should you pledge?

Consider this.... in order to meet our budget, we need each family to pledge a minimum of \$650. That equals \$12.50 a week for the year.

Please add new or corrected information below

Family Name (Last) _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

Name _____ Cell Phone/Work _____

Email _____ Occupation _____ Baptized

Spouse _____ Cell Phone/Work _____

Email _____ Occupation _____ Baptized

Children _____ (age) _____ (baptized)

Some of the many ministries we invite you to participate in

- ANGELS (Pre-K - Kinder)
- HOPE (1st - 2nd grade)
- JOY (3rd - 6th grade)
- GOYA (7th-12th grade)
- YAL (Age 18-35)
- Philoptochos
- The Fellowship
- Bible Study / Book Club
- Books and Education
- Greek School
- Sunday School
- Altar Servers
- Parish Council
- Outreach & Evangelism
- Building and Grounds
- Strategic Planning
- Choir/Chanter
- Fundraising



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Mrs. Faith Adamec & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Antonovich & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Arrington
Mr. John Behiri
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Behiri
Ms. Susan Birbilis
Mrs. Maria Bosco & Family
Mrs. Lucy Brady & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Bratsos
Mrs. Ifigenia Brown
Ms. Arji Cakouros
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Casey & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Chamberas
Mr. & Mrs. George Christophorou
Mr. Andreas Christou & Ms. Sophia Shakolas
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Christou
Ms. Ariana Christou
Mr. & Mrs. Euripides Christou
Mrs. Patricia Chrysosovergis
Ms. Catherine Contompasis
Mrs. Catherine Contompasis
Mr. Charles Contompasis & Laurie Ives & Family
Ms. Constance Contompasis
Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Contompasis & Family
Ms. Demetra Corsones
Dr. Peter & Stephanie Cospito
Mr. & Mrs. George Cotzas
Mrs. Rena Counavelis
Mrs. Marianne Crary
Mrs. Chris Dafniotis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dafniotis
Mr. & Mrs. K. Deligiannis
Ms. Olga Delorey
Ms. Joanne Diamantis
Mrs. Katina Dikas & Family
Mrs. J. Maria Dostis-Koliatsis
Mrs. Marguerite Doulides
Mrs. Angela Economou
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Engwer & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Euripidou
Ms. Renee Euripidou
Mr. Arthur Georgelas
Mrs. Helena Georgelas

Mr. Nicholas Georgelas
Mrs. Eliana Georgelos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Giakoumis & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Giakoumis
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Goodale & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Grivas
Mr. Periklis Hais
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Holdsworth
Mr. & Mrs. Owen Huggins
Mrs. Frusina Ica Iancu
Dr. Philip & Helen James & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Jones & Family
Mrs. Catherine Julius
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kalil
Mrs. Evangelia Kalogeras
Ms. Antonia Kananis
Mrs. Fanny Karamanos
Ms. Balwant Maria Kingra
Mr. & Mrs. Hari Kingra & Family
Mr. Charles Koines
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Kolios
Mrs. Katina Kontakos
Ms. Kaliopi Kounoupis
Mrs. Voula Kounoupis
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kouray
Ms. Barbara Koutsakis
Mr. Dimitrios Koutsopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. H. Koutsopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. David Lambert
Mr. & Mrs. Trifon Laskaris
Mr. & Mrs. Paul LaViolette
Mrs. Rosemary Legorius
Ms. Christine Legorius
Mr. William Manikas
Mrs. Cathy Marco
Mrs. Akrivi Markopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. William McDonald & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Phil McGowen
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Menagias
Mrs. Anna Menagias
Mrs. Cathy Menagias
Ms. Corina Menagias
Mr. & Mrs. Fillipos Menagias & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Menagias
Ms. Maria Menagias
Ms. Anastasia Mikropoulos
Mrs. Antonia Mikropoulos
Ms. Antonia C. Mikropoulos
Ms. Demetra Mikropoulos
Mrs. Rena Mikropoulos & Family
Mr. Theodore Mikropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Shaun Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Morlock & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos Nikolaidis
Mr. Simeon Nikolaidis
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald O'Brien
Mrs. Katherine Orfan
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pagiotas
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Pagones
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Paravalos
Ms. Voula Paravalos
Mr. Tony J. Poulos
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rossetti
Fr. Neofitos & Pres. Sarigiannis
Mrs. Elena Sikamiotis
Mr. Kostas Sikamiotis
Mr. & Mrs. Gerasimos Sokaris & Family
Mrs. Ourania Sokaris
Mrs. Roubina Spyros-Morgan
Mrs. Stavroula Stamoulis
Ms. Maria Stamoulis
Mr. & Mrs. Van Stathis
Mr. James Stevens
Ms. Amie Strait & Family
Mrs. Olga Stryjski
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Svokos
Mrs. Themetria Svolos
Ms. Angela Theodore
Ms. Melissa Verrigni
Mr. & Mrs. Niko Verrigni & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Vlahakis
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Whipple & Family
Mrs. Mary Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Zanaros
Mrs. Anastasia Zoulas
Mrs. Mary Zoulas

St. George Youth Corner

From your youth Advisers – Lucy Goodale and Anna Morlock

We miss seeing everyone! We look forward to seeing everyone in church.

We have all been staying connected with the church either by attending Liturgy, worshipping via online services, and our weekly zoom meetings.

In order to stay connected please join our weekly zoom meetings with Fr. Neofitos on Tuesdays for a short spiritual lesson. Ages 4-12 meet Tuesdays from 5:30pm and Ages 13 to 18+ meet Wednesday at 7:00pm.

We send reminders through email and the remind app. To join the email Youth list please email Lucy Goodale your cell number and full names of the children at LGoodale7@gmail.com. Reminders and important Youth information are also sent through the Remind app. Please join our remind class using the link below or the class code.

<https://www.remind.com/join/f3fh94e> or use class code@f3fh94e

Here are some of the videos and lessons we will follow in the weeks to come:

[Be the Bee #16 | Holy Water for the Whole World](#)



Sometimes we divide the world into things that concern God and things that don't.

What can holy water teach us about that?

Connect with us at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries!

youth.goarch.org

[Be the Bee #17 | Running Out of Gas](#)

[Be the Bee #18 | Conquering Our Thoughts](#)

[Be the Bee #19 | Everyday Martyrs](#)

The Church is our Home!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2020 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensward (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Volume 8, Issue 50

A Ministry of the
Orthodox Christian Network
OCN

Covering our mouths!

These days, what do we all have to wear on our faces? When we are around other people, we have to cover our faces with masks, don't we? The masks are supposed to keep our germs in, just in case we're sick.

In the epistle reading, we hear about how God wants us to cover our mouths in a different way! Saint Paul tells us in the epistle, "But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another." Saint Paul is telling us to keep these things in, and don't let them out. Don't let them spread to others!

In a way, we have to cover our mouths so we won't let these bad things out. We have to be careful so we don't get really mad, or say mean things about another person. We have to be careful that we don't lie about people or gossip. We have to be careful not to say bad words.

We wear masks so we can keep germs away from other people. But as Christians, we have to *always* wear an imaginary mask over our mouths! We wear this mask so we don't let these horrible things out. The epistle reminds us that Christians don't do these things, because now we imitate God. So, let's wear our imaginary masks all the time, and keep our mean words from others!



<https://myocn.net/orthodox-christian-childrens-newsletter/>

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

AMBROSE
ANGER
BRAVE
CHRISTIAN
LIES
MARTYR
MASK
PURE
ROME
SEBASTIAN
STRONG
VICTORY

U A H Y H F Y M C S F D K S X
B Y F T Q J I H P E D N K Y N
C R L S T U R N M B W U Y C Q
W O A V U I K H T A X V B Y D
C T N V S Q W P P S V M U L H
G F D T E L H R G T E J A V T
X X I U A N G O J I B R M R V
E A T N A N G E R A K A R Y M
N R K E O X Q Y Z N S Q O T L
Y C U R S L U Q Y K G K M R A
M Y T P V O K L S X J B E A J
K S S V E X R S E I L T K M S
Y R O T C I V B X C V F E H I
T P Y T H U E U M I M Z E H S
E D Y P O H Z E A A P E N J O

SAINT SEBASTIAN THE CROWN OF VICTORY

Have you ever done something wrong...and you tried not to get caught? Maybe you stole a treat from the kitchen, and you ate it in secret! It's hard to take the punishment.

This week, we celebrate a saint who did everything right, but he still got in trouble for it! He knew he was going to get punished, but he even looked for the person who would punish him!

Saint Sebastian lived in Rome, just about two hundred years after Saint Paul lived there! He loved Christ, and he knew he would never give up his strong faith. The emperor Diocletian knew about him and had him tied to a tree and shot with arrows. But Sebastian didn't die from these arrows. Another Christian took him and healed him. Still, Saint Sebastian didn't give up! He even went to the emperor again, to warn him that he had done these awful things. He told the emperor he had sinned! This time, Diocletian made sure Sebastian was killed, and Sebastian received the best reward, a place in heaven with the Lord.

Just about 100 years after Sebastian's death, another saint from Italy (Saint Ambrose) wrote about Saint Sebastian. He said whenever there are "crowns of victory" you have to have "tests of strength." Saint Ambrose tells us how Saint Sebastian won the "crown of victory" because he passed these hard tests. He kept his strong faith all along!



What's in an icon?

We always know it's Saint Sebastian in the icon when we see the arrows!

Do you think Saint Sebastian looks calm and brave? Let's ask Saint Sebastian to help us be strong Christians too!



We celebrate St. Sebastian on Friday, December 18th (OC: Dec. 31st).



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

St. George Ministry Leaders

Altar Servers	Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis	frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com
Bookstore	Presvytera Catherine Sarigiannis, Gladys Paravalos	csarigiannis22@gmail.com Gladys1717p@aol.com
Bible Study/ Book Club	Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis	
Choir/Chanters	Olga Delorey	odelorey@nycap.rr.com
Church Ushers	Brian Goodale	brian.goodale@outlook.com
Epistle Readers	Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis	
Fellowship Group	Eliana Georgelos	ggeorgelos@nycap.rr.com
Friends of St. George	Gladys Paravalos	
Ladies Philoptochos Society	Olga Delorey	
Office Manager and Facilities Staff	Camille Kosloski	office@saintgeorgegoc.com
Order of AHEPA	Phil Menagias	p_menagias@hotmail.com
Parish Council Members	Brian Goodale	
Soup Kitchen	Olga Delorey	
Stewardship	Lucy Brady	Lukia@nycap.rr.com Dafnia3@yahoo.com
Sunday School Teachers and Assistants	Fr. Neofitos Sarigiannis	
"Thursday Morning Boys"	Steve Giakoumis	518-372-4476
Building and Grounds Volunteers		
Youth Group Leaders and Volunteers: Angels/HOPE/JOY and GOYA	Lucy Goodale Anna Morlock	lq1010@live.com anna217m@aol.com

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Info

2020 PARISH COUNCIL: Brian Goodale, President; Maria Dostis, Vice President; Alexandra Casey, Treasurer; Scott Morlock, Secretary; Roubina Morgan, Lucy Brady, Dimitri Koutsopoulos

Office: (518) 393-0742 Fax: (518) 393-4093

website: www.saintgeorgegoc.com email: office@saintgeorgegoc.com

Reverend Father Neofitos Sarigiannis frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com

107 Clinton Street Schenectady, NY 12305 - Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 AM – 2 PM Parish Office closed on Friday

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintGeorgeNY/>

St. George Square Site <https://st-george-greek-orthodox-church.square.site/>

Service Hours

Our Sunday service hours are:

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

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



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We look forward to seeing everyone in church!