

SUNDAY BULLETIN

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
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www.saintgeorgegoc.com

Sunday before Nativity

December 20th, 2020



We celebrate the Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Ignatius the God-Bearer, Bishop of Antioch, Our Righteous Father Philogonius, Bishop of Antioch.



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Hymns of the Day

Ἀπολυτικίον Ἀναστάσιμον

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Προεόρτιον

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἡνοικταὶ πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθα, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἄδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

Προεόρτιον

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμὴν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Apolytikion of St. George

Ως τῶν αἰχμαλῶτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν υπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός, βασιλέων υπέρμαχος, τροπαιοφόρε μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ θῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Κοντάκιον

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

For the Forefast

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image.

For the Fathers

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls

Apolytikion of St. 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.

Kontakion

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word * in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds *



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Epistle Readings

The Epistle according to Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

Ἀδελφοί, πίστει παρώκησεν Ἀβραάμ εἰς γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γάρ τὴν τοῦς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; ἐπιλείπει με γὰρ διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ, Σαμψών, Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρης, ἐδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοῦς νεκροῦς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμpanίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρης ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐπὶ ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν.

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

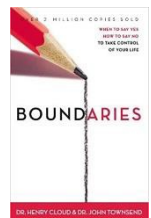
Gospel Readings Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of Sheal'tiel, and Sheal'tiel the father of Zerub'babel, and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. The Birth of Jesus the Messiah Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'uel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

St. George Book Club/Bible Study 2021

Join us on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm in our church. We are reading our new book, Boundaries. We will still be discussing Gospel and Epistle readings, icons, the Saints, Hymns of the church, and many beautiful parts of our rich faith. Our book is available in our Bookstore and online at

<https://st-george-greek-orthodox-church.square.site>. We also have a call in and a Zoom option available for those far away or at home. Please email Father Neofitos to join our Book Club. frneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com





Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Today in Church

Church Usher Assignment

Sunday, December 20 Brian Goodale, Panos Rallatos

Sunday, December 27 Arji Cakouros, Toni Kananis

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

Upcoming Calendar

Sunday, December 20

Sunday before Nativity

8:30 am Orthros

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 21

5:00 pm Teen/Adult Greek Language

6:30 pm Bible Study/Book Club

Tuesday, December 22

5:30 pm Youth Zoom Meeting

Thursday, December 24

5:00 pm Royal Hours of the Nativity

6:00 pm Vespers Divine Liturgy and Carols

Parish office closed

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day Services - Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

7:00 am – 10:00 am Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church Info:

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

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

Reverend Father Neofitos Sarigiannis fneofitos@saintgeorgegoc.com

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

Parish Office closed on Friday



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

The Campaign for St. George



Donate and for more information, please visit:

<http://saintgeorgeoc.com/campaign-for-st-george>

We thank all those who contributed toward our campaign for St. George. We have surpassed our goal!). If every one of our one hundred and twenty four pledged members and business owners pledges even \$50, it will put us further passed our goal by December 31. Let us see what God wills.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Sunday before the Nativity (Icon on front)

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eighteenth of this month, we celebrate all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke hath recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Children.

Apolytikion of the Sunday before the Nativity

Great are the accomplishments of faith. In the fountain of flame the three Holy Youths rejoiced as though they were resting by the waters. And the Prophet Daniel showed himself to be a shepherd to the lions, as though they were sheep. Through their prayers O Christ our God, save our souls.



Come visit our square site!

[https://st-george-greek-orthodox-
church.square.site/](https://st-george-greek-orthodox-church.square.site/)

- Online Bookstore
- Liturgical Offerings
- Candle Stand
- Prayer Request Form
- Greek School Payments

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.

- **Stewardship contributions** – Can be mailed into our office or made through **PayPal**
- **One-Time Donation** – Can be made through our **new square site**

Please email or call the office if you have any questions
518-393-0742.



Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Church

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 24	5:00 pm Royal Hours of the Nativity 6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy & Carols
Friday, December 25	7:00 am – 10:00 am Christmas Day Orthros & Divine Liturgy
Sunday, December 27	Sunday after the Nativity – Feast of St. Stephen 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Sunday, January 3	Sunday before the Theophany 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, January 5	Eve of Theophany 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, January 6	Holy Theophany 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Thursday, January 7	Synaxis of John the Baptist 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

**On January 6, 2021 Father Neofitos will begin blessing homes.
Please fill out the card below and return to the office for confirmation.**

Name - _____

Address - _____

Cell/ Main # - _____

Preferred day and time - _____

Feel free to contact the office if you have any questions.

Social distancing must be adhered to and all must wear face masks.