

St. George Orthodox Church

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Web Site: saintgeorgeflint.org

V. Rev. Father Joseph M. Abud, Pastor

Protodeacon Michael Bassett

February 3, 2019

SUNDAY AFTER THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE لعيد دخول السيد إلى الهيكل

Tone - 3 3rd Matins Gospel {Mark 16:9-20}

Altar Servers: **EVERYONE**

Confessions

8:30-9:30am

Matins p.44

8:50am

Divine Liturgy p.91

10:00am

Memorial Service

Trisagion p.183

Welcome to St. George! Thank you for attending today's Divine Liturgy. Please register your visit by completing the guest book located in the narthex. We would appreciate getting to meet you, so feel free to join us during Coffee Fellowship in our Banquet Center!

Every Sunday we remember the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The word "Liturgy" means *work of the people* that means everyone participates through singing, praying, hearing the teaching, and opening our hearts to allow God's grace to enter. We believe Holy Communion to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Holy Communion can be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, being at peace with others, and attending the Divine Liturgy regularly. Please know everyone is invited to venerate the Holy Cross and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom** {*the Golden-Mouth*},
we sing the following Special Hymns for today:

First Antiphon

Verse 1. My heart hath poured forth a good word; I speak of my works to the King. (Ps. 44:1)

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse 2. My tongue is the pen of a swiftly writing scribe. (Ps. 44:1) *Refrain*

Verse 3. Grace is poured forth on Thy lips. (Ps. 44:2) *Refrain*

Verse 4. Wherefore God hath blessed Thee forever. (Ps. 44:2) *Refrain*

Glory to the Father ... , now and ever Amen. *Refrain*

Second Antiphon

Verse 1. Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O Mighty One, in Thy comeliness and Thy beauty. (Ps. 44:3)

Refrain: O Son of God carried in the arms of righteous Simeon, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

Verse 2. Bend Thy bow and proceed prosperously. (Ps. 44:3) *Refrain*

Verse 3. Thine arrows are sharp, O Mighty One. Under Thee shall people fall. (Ps. 44:4) *Refrain*

Verse 4. A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy Kingdom. (Ps. 44:5) *Refrain*

Glory to the Father ... , now and ever Amen. *Only begotten Son...*

Third Antiphon

Verse 1. Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear. (Ps. 44:9)

Verse 2. The rich among the people shall entreat thy countenance. (Ps. 44:11)

Verse 3. I shall commemorate thy name in every generation and generation. (Ps. 44:16)

Refrain: Troparion of the Meeting—Tone 4

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls, who grants us the Resurrection.

افرحي يا والدة الإله الممتلئة نعمة. لأن منك أشرق شمس العدل المسيح إلينا. منيراً الذين في الظلام. افرح الآن وابتهج أيها الشيخ الصديق. حاملاً على ذراعيك المعتق نفوسنا والمانح إيانا الرحمة العظمى.

Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

Troparion of the Resurrection—Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord has done a mighty act with His own arm. He has trampled down death by death and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades granting the world the great mercy.

لتفرح السماويات وتبتهج الأرضيات. لأن الرب صنع عزاً بساعده، ووطئ الموت بالموت، وصار بكرًا للاموات. وأنقذنا من جوف الجحيم، ومنح العالم الرحمة العظمى.

Troparion of the Meeting of Christ in the Temple—Tone 1 (as above)

Troparion for St. George—Tone 4

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings: Victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

بما أنك للمأسورين محرر ومعتق، وللفقراء والمساكين عاضد وناصر، وللمرضى طبيب وشاف، وعن المؤمنين مكافح ومحارب، أيها العظيم في الشهداء جاورجيوس اللابس الظفر، تشفع إلى المسيح الإله في خلاص نفوسنا.

Kontakion for the Meeting of Christ in the Temple—Tone 1

Thou sanctified a virgin womb by Thy birth and rightly blessed the hands of Simeon. Thou hast come, O Christ our God, and on this day hast saved us! Give peace and strength to the Orthodox people whom Thou has loved, O only lover of mankind.

أيها المسيح الإله، يا من بمولده قدس المستودع البتولي، وبارك يدي سيمعان كما لاق، وأدركنا الآن وخلصنا. إحتفظ رعيته بسلام في الخروب، وأيد الملوك الذين أحببتهم، بما أنك وخذك محب للبشر.

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 {16th Sunday after Pentecost}

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30 {16th Sunday of St. Matthew}

Holy Bread Offerings

- Areen Bathish for the health of her family especially parents **Emil** and **Hiam** on the occasion of Hiam's birthday -- *May God grant them many years!*
- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Metropolitan Paul** and **Archbishop John** who are in captivity, **Bishop Alexander** (Ottawa and Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York), **Laila** and **Sahar** Abdallah, **Androlla** Abu Aita, **Asma** Abuaita (sister of Janett Abuaita), **Ceasar** and **Naila** Banna, **Emil** Bathish, **Alex** and **Panayiotis** Deligorges, **Basil** Farah, **Vera** Farah, **Betty** Froberg, **Mariam** Ghanim (Manal's mother), **Phyllis** Good, **Carol** Haddad, **Roland** Haddad, **Patti** Harris, **Daisy** Isaac, **Nawal** and **Nemer** Iseid, **Sally** Joseph, **Nakhleh** Khoury, **Nicola** Khoury, **Kirolous** Meshraky, **Danny** Mortensen, **George** and **Renee** Nassif, **Aida** Raffoul, **Elaine** Shaheen, **Eva** Saseen (niece of George and Jeanette Nassif), **Michael** and **Nancy** Silpoch, **William** Sophiea Jr., and **Lois** Teunion; **Nicholas**, **Karen** and newborn twins **Emily** and **Evelyn** Shaheen (January 3rd, Nicholas is the son of Drs. Ron and Kathy).

- We also pray for those who are with child: **Jenny** (Hanna) Abuaita, **Ola** (Michael) Alqazaha, Dr. **Lindsey** (Dr. Ryan) Brunner, **Katrina** (Gary) Gagne, **Diana** (Ayman) Khair, **Walaa** (Rami) Khoury, **Natalie** (Shadi) Qumsieh, and **Sandy** (Raad) Qumsieh {daughter of Issa and Esperanza}.

Communion Hymn (for the Lord's Day)

(Refrain) Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest.

(Verse) Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! (Refrain)

(Verse) Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Reception of Holy Communion

Please remember only ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS who have PREPARED themselves may partake of Holy Communion. *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29). If you are physically able, please remain standing during Holy Communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is hosted by *Areen Bathish*.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS Available dates: February 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th ~ sign-up poster and hosting information is in the Lounge and includes: bringing whatever you wish to serve and cleaning up afterwards. St. George provides coffee, cups, cream, and sugar at a charge to the host of \$25. For more information, see Manal Abuaita.

GODPARENT SUNDAY IS NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH Invitations for Godchildren to send to their Godparents (and *vice-versa*) are available in Church School or in the Lounge. Please pick up an invitation to send to your Godchild (or Godparents). It will be a wonderful day and we want everyone to be here! Godchildren may bring their Godparents to their class. When you know who will be attending, please RSVP in the Church School office.

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS We can make donations and purchases by Credit or Debit Card. This can be done by coming to the office or calling 810-732-0720 during Office Hours (see below).

➤ **OFFICE HOURS** Our office manager, Kelly Dotson, works on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays (10am-4pm); Tuesdays and Wednesdays (1pm-4pm).

When the Church Fails Us

When we feel betrayed by the "dark side" of the Church

by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington

For those who have experienced what has been called the "dark side" of the Church, the struggle to remain faithful to the Orthodox Faith can seem daunting. The dark side is the result of the sinful, fallen nature of all of us who make up the Body of Christ. It is that part of each of us which is yet to be transformed, and made whole. This is especially difficult for pious believers when that dark side rears its ugly head through those who serve the Church as her clergy. But if we see this dark side for what it is, and know it is not actually coming from the Life of the Church, but from the

great Enemy of our souls, we realize our common fallen nature is vulnerable to the attacks of Satan, who as the enemy of God, attacks those who serve the Church with an especially hardened hatred. When priests and bishops are seen as operating in a shameful way, and we see no love in them, we can find ourselves wondering if there is anything to the Church. When the Church fails us, be it her clergy, or fellow members of a parish, we can feel especially betrayed, and wonder why we remain at all.

Like all human institutions, the Church can fall short of her calling, and her special vocation as hospital of the soul, can appear no different from any other human institution. Rather than receiving the needed love, and the resulting healing of the soul, the parishioner may feel as though they have been abused. Parish intrigue can turn the hospital into an insane asylum, and we come away feeling hurt and disrespected. We look at political organizations, businesses, institutions of higher education, and other human based institutions, and see this dark side of the human condition, and we can see that this dark side is not about the divinely instituted Church, nor her clergy, but about the Evil One.

When we look at our common enemy, we see this dark side is really not about the Church, but about ourselves, and our own common failure to submit our whole selves, and all our life, into the hands of Our Savior. It is in this submission to Christ, that healing will take place, and we will be made whole. That is the point in which we can stop blaming our clergy, or our bishops, and take the blame upon ourselves. The dark side is coming from within our own fallen nature, and it is we who are in need of acting according to the gospel message. We are the enemy of Christ, and it is our sin that is responsible for the dark side that resides within the life of Christ's Church.

When we confront our own fallen nature, and blame only ourselves for the debilitating dark side, we usher in the Light of Christ, and all is made whole. When we have done that, we are no longer able to see the sin of others, and we look upon everyone that seems to have failed us, in a new light. We look at them as Christ. Be it Christ crucified, or Christ glorified, we see only Christ. It is then that we emerge out of the long, dark tunnel, having been purified by the action of the Holy Spirit. We are made whole (holy), and the failures of others are no longer noticed by us, and we see only the love of Christ in the faces of our brothers and sisters. The dark side is transformed, and we are made stronger for having suffered as we did, and we will have experienced the truth in the saying that God allows difficulties, humiliations, and hardships, as the way to draw us closer to Him, and make us stronger.

When this happens, we will know that God is Our Father, and He desires His children to grow in wisdom and strength. Because of His great love for us, He allows us to experience pain and rejection, knowing it will make us stronger. Just as an earthly father knows an overprotected child does not grow in wisdom and strength, God, as the Good Father, changes us into loving, compassionate, and giving persons, and the darkness is no more.

COMING EVENTS

This Week	The traditional fasting discipline (<i>no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine, olive oil, and their by-products</i>) is observed on Wednesday and Friday.
TODAY	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting after Divine Liturgy
Monday	Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles 6-8pm
Wednesday	Arabic/English Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles 12-2pm SOYO Wednesday 6:30-8:30pm
Saturday	Great Vespers and Confessions 5pm

- If you know of a parishioner who has given birth, fallen ill, or admitted to the hospital, please call the church office or let Father Joe know.