

The Good News

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2019

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As August begins, we find ourselves at the start of another ecclesiastical period of fasting. With the great feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos being celebrated on August 15th, we are prescribed a period of fasting and preparation beforehand. This fast period lasts from August 1st until after communion on the 15th. It might seem odd to us today, to give up certain foods and take up certain virtues like prayer and almsgiving, but this practice has been in place since at least the 5th century. So why does this feast day, over so many others, necessitate a preparatory time of fasting?

The Theotokos is often referred to as the new Eve. Eve through disobedience caused humanity to be exiled from Eden, the Theotokos becomes the new Eve who through her obedience (“Let it be to me according to your word” Lk 1:38) becomes the mother of God. Through her the scriptures are fulfilled and she becomes the first Christian. So then today as followers of Christ when we look to her as an example, what we see is obedience. It is not a blind fruitless obedience that the Theotokos follows but rather a God-lead fruitful obedience that enriched not only the Theotokos but all of Humanity.

This is a good approach for us to take as we enter this period of the fast. I know very few people who enjoy fasting, most of us would prefer eating whatever we want, spending however we want and doing whatever we want. This leads to a world in which we only care about ourselves and ultimately, within this mindset we completely reject God, because we cannot serve two masters (ourselves and God). The fast is prescribed because it is medicine and it serves to remind us of our total dependence on God. So we too through the fast can allow our obedience to God (righteousness) and to the Church (fasting) to become fruitful, not just for ourselves but for all those around us.

The feast of the Assumption of the Theotokos is important for us because it becomes both a confirmation of Christ’s Holy Resurrection and a glimpse into our eschatology (the study of the end of days). Our theological tradition states that the body of the Theotokos was “assumed” into heaven. There are no relics of the Theotokos, rather her death served as a reminder of what we can attain by following a life in her son, and our God, Jesus. The Assumption shows us that the resurrection is possible for all of us, and it is only a matter of time before all of us are, God willing, also assumed into His kingdom at the second coming.

As August begins and the church year ends, let’s all take this time of fasting and reflection in order to evaluate ourselves. Are we truly following God in the way of obedience, or are we only trying to get by. Spiritually are we thriving or surviving? My hope and prayer is that for all of us over the next month to take a spiritual inventory, consider the ways in which we can grow in Christ, and also the ways in which we can further deny ourselves in our conforming to His will.



August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Note: Sunday Liturgy 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Assumption)	Note: Sunday Liturgy on August 18 Saint George 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy			Fast of the Dormition Begins 6:00 p.m. Paraklesis (Assumption and Saint George)	Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Small Paraklesis (Saint George) 6:00 p.m. Great Paraklesis (Assumption)	Wine and Oil allowed 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias in Dubuque, IA (Fr. Michael to Serve) 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers (Assumption)
7th Sunday of Matthew Wine and Oil allowed Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) 6:00 p.m. Great Paraklesis (Assumption)	Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers (Assumption)	The Transfiguration of the Lord Fish, Wine and Oil allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 6:00 p.m. Great Paraklesis (Assumption)	Fast Day 2:00 p.m. Centennial Meeting (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Small Paraklesis (Assumption and Saint George)	Fast Day 10:00 noon Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Great Paraklesis (Assumption)	Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Small Paraklesis (Assumption and Saint George)	Wine and Oil allowed 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias in Dubuque, IA (Fr. Thomas to Serve) 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers (Assumption)
8th Sunday of Matthew Wine and Oil allowed Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) 6:00 p.m. Great Paraklesis (Assumption)	Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Small Paraklesis (Assumption and Saint George) 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (Assumption)	Fast Day 1:00 p.m. Care Link Meeting (Saint George) 6:00 p.m. Great Paraklesis (Assumption)	The Eve of the Dormition of the Theotokos Fast Day 2:00 p.m. Centennial Meeting (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers at Assumption Church	The Dormition of the Theotokos 8:30:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption reception to follow	Fast Day 1:00 p.m. Golf Outing (Assumption)	10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Prophet Elias in Dubuque (Fr. Peter to Serve) 4:30 p.m. Centennial Grand Banquet (Assumption)
9th Sunday of Matthew Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Followed by a community barbecue outside on our memorial patio (weather permitting) (Assumption)		6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (Saint George)	Fast Day	10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 11:00 a.m. Senior Outing (Saint George)	Fast Day	10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias in Dubuque, IA (Fr. Thomas to Serve)
10th Sunday of Matthew Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George)	Greek to me (Assumption)		Fast Day Evening Meal	The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist Fast Day 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy (Assumption) 8:30 a.m. Souvlakia meat cutting (Saint George) 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption)	Fast Day	8:30 a.m. Souvlakia Skewering (Saint George) 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias in Dubuque, IA (Fr. Michael to Serve) +Sacrament (Assumption)

Epistle Readers

Sunday, August 4, 2019
7th Sunday of Matthew
Georgjean Pitsoulakis

Sunday, August 11, 2019
8th Sunday of Matthew
Loukia Constantinides

Sunday, August 18, 2019
9th Sunday of Matthew
Scot Johnson

Sunday, August 25, 2019
10th Sunday of Matthew
Kay Coin

Parish Council Sunday Duty

Sunday, August 4, 2019
Nick Coin, John Mekus, Dennis Spurgetis and Diana Spurgetis

Sunday, August 11, 2019
Joe Burmeister, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas and Mary Rankin

Sunday, August 18, 2019
Mariellen Crosson, Doug Kenyon and Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday, August 25, 2019
Nick Coin, John Mekus, Dennis Spurgetis and Diana Spurgetis

Big Fat Greek Festival

St George Greek Orthodox Church invites you to join us for our annual Big Fat Greek Festival Friday, September 6 and September 7, 2019.

We look forward to celebrating our faith and culture.

Our Big Fat Greek Festival has become not only a premier event in Rock Island, but also a wonderful community event for the entire Quad Cities.

Our success is due to the efforts of our volunteers.

Speaking of volunteers, we are always in need of volunteers. Please help the St George church by helping at the festival, please contact Mary Rankin at mbar-ton83@aol.com or call the church office at 309-786-8163.

We will have delicious Greek food and pastries and you can get it to go from our Drive Thru too.

Greek coffee presented by Theo's Java Club, Rock Island.

Boutique area with clothing, jewelry, and other gifts.

Greek music and folk dancing performances.

Children's Tent with activities, prizes, and bounce house.

We support the River Bend Foodbank and Care Link with a portion of our proceeds.

Be sure to remember a special separate event, Our Big Fat Wine Tasting hosted by Dimitri Wine & Spirits held on Saturday, September 21, 2019. Get a discount by purchasing your tickets in advance.

EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

August 28, 2019: Kim and Mary Winters and George and Diane Karoules.

September 25, 2019: Alexa Florence, Dena Manta, Nancy G Coin.

Anyone interested in participating in this worthwhile ministry should contact Dena Manta at 332-1684.

Coffee Hour Hosts for August 2019

Sunday, August 4, 2019: Open
Sunday, August 11, 2019: Open
Sunday, August 18, 2019: Matt Pappas
Sunday, August 25, 2019: Open

Prosphora Baking Schedule for August 2019

Sunday, August 4, 2019: Speeds
Sunday, August 11, 2019: Diane Breckon
Sunday, August 18, 2019: Presbyteria Maria
Sunday, August 25, 2019: Open

Assumption Corner - August 2019

Feast Day and Centennial Events

Assumption is celebrating our 100th Anniversary along with our parish feast day on the week of August 15th. There will be various services and celebrations to mark this milestone. We want you to be aware of this historical event and we ask you to keep our parish in your prayers as we enter into our next hundred years.

We have a five day celebration planned, the events are as follows:

Feast Day Services

Wednesday August 14th
Eve of the Assumption of the Theotokos
6pm Great Vespers & Artoclasia

Thursday, August 15th
Assumption of the Theotokos
8:30 am Orthros & 9:30 am Liturgy
Fellowship lunch to follow

Centennial Golf Outing

Friday August 16th
Fyre Lake Golf Club
1057 Fairway Lane - Sherrard, IL 61281
1pm Start

7pm Social hour at Assumption
75\$ for both 25\$ for social only

Tickets still available, contact:
jstoupoulos@gmail.com



Centennial Grand Banquet

Saturday, August 17th
The Bend Event Center
910 Bend Blvd - East Moline, IL
4:30 pm Cocktail hour & 6:00 pm Dinner

Tickets available through August 9th,
call Assumption church office to save
your seats: 309-792-2912

Centennial Divine Liturgy

Sunday, August 18th
8:30 am Orthros
9:30 am Liturgy
Followed by a community barbeque
outside on our memorial patio
(weather permitting)

2019 Festival Volunteers Needed!



Calling all able-bodied (and those with a slightly less than able body!) parishioners, friends and family to volunteer for the 2019 Our Big Fat Greek Festival!

On September 6 and 7 Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Beverages (Taverna and Pop)
- Children's Activities
- Drive-through
- Gates
- Gift Shop
- Kitchen/Grilling
- Pastries
- Serving Line
- Table Clearing

Shift times are roughly 3 to 10 pm on Friday; 11 am to 4 pm and 4 pm to closing on Saturday. Contact volunteer chair to adjust your available times.

Please contact Mary Rankin to volunteer for Our Big Fat Greek Festival. She can be reached at 563-263-2341 or mbarton83@aol.com .

Name: _____

Phone and/or email: _____

Area(s) you would like to work: _____

Times/Days Available: _____

Celebrating our 15th Year!



Opa! 2 days of food, dancing & fun!

Friday Sept. 6: 4 pm-11 pm, Saturday Sept. 7: 11 am-11pm
 Don't miss the Drive Thru for Greek Food to Go!

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

At the corner of 30th Street & 31st Avenue in Rock Island
 Call 786-8163 for more information.

Admission \$2

Kids under 12 admitted free!

Sponsored by:

DIMITRI
Wines & Spirits, Inc.

 **Pappas O'Connor**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

 **Urological Associates, P.C.**
of the Iowa and Illinois Quad Cities Region



A portion of the proceeds will go to support River Bend Foodbank and Care Link of Rock Island.

Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (August 6)

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His

face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I

am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5).

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). It is because of this that the Kontakion of this Feast is said daily (when there is not a great feast) in the Service of the Typica in perpetual commemoration of the glory that will be the lot of the Saints. According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15)

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the

Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages

of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens