

**SAINT GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**CHURCH STAFF**

- **Parish Priest:**  
Fr. Michael  
Constantinides
- **Caretaker:** Jason Leon
- **GOYA Advisors:**  
Dr. Vicky Pyevich/  
Anne Kirpatrick
- **HOPE/JOY Advisors:**  
Pres. Maria Constanti-  
nides/Candice Elias
- **Outreach and Evangel-  
ism Chair:** Angela  
Spurgetis
- **Parish Council Presi-  
dent:** Mary Rankin
- **Philoptochos Presi-  
dent:** Susan Coin
- **Prayer Ministry:** Gus  
Pappas
- **Sunday School Direc-  
tor:** Deacon Paul  
Speed

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

July/August Calendar	2-3
President's Corner	5
Community News	6
Stewardship Update	8
Parish Hap- penings	10- 12
Test your Faith	16



VOLUME 6 ISSUE 7

JULY/AUGUST 2016

# The Trophybearer

## **PASTORAL MESSAGE**

Now that we have reached the end of the Ecclesiastical year, I know we are all looking forward to some well-deserved rest and relaxation. Some of us will go to the lakes, some to camps; some might even go to Greece. Let's gather **FIRST** to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in our personal prayers, in our Christian Stewardship and, most importantly; in our worship, especially at the Divine Liturgy. As Orthodox Christians, it is our privilege, honor and responsibility to be in the Church and pray. Don't miss your time with God!

While we are resting let's not forget that we do not get a vacation from God. God expects us to keep working with Him. What does this mean? It means that while we may go to all these different places we can't forget what the Church has taught us throughout the year. We still need to help the poor. We still need to love each other. We still need to go to Church and receive Holy Communion.

We can remember to do these things no matter where we are. There are Orthodox Churches everywhere that we can go to and receive Holy Communion and where we can attend the beautiful Paraklesis services in August. While we are there we can and should pray for each other's health. I hope and pray that God gives you all a good and healthy summer, and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

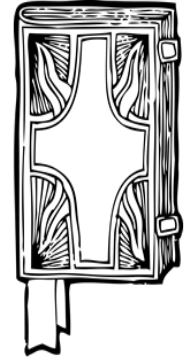
July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Fast Day	2
3 <b>2nd Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	4 <b>Independence Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	5 6:30 p.m. Festival Meeting in the Green Room	6 <b>Fast Day</b>	7	8 <b>Fast Day</b>	9
Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Congress in Nashville, TN						
10 <b>3rd Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	11	12 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	13 <b>Fast Day</b>	14	15 <b>Fast Day</b>	16
17 <b>Sunday of the Holy Fathers</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	18	19 6:30 p.m. Festival Meeting in the Green Room	20 <b>Fast Day</b>	21	22 <b>Fast Day</b>	23
24 <b>5th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	25	26	27 <b>Fast Day</b>  <b>Evening Meal</b>	28 10:15 a.m. Senior Citizen Group event	29 <b>Fast Day</b>	30
31 <b>6th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy						

## August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>Fast of the Dormition Begins</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	2 <b>Fast Day</b>  6:30 p.m. Festival Meeting in the Green Room	3 <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	4 <b>Fast Day</b>	5 <b>Fast Day</b>	6 <b>The Transfiguration of the Lord Fish, Wine and Oil allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
7 <b>7th Sunday of Matthew</b> <b>Wine and Oil allowed</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	8 <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	9 <b>Fast Day</b>	10 <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	11 <b>Fast Day</b>	12 <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	13 <b>Wine and Oil allowed</b>
14 <b>8th Sunday of Matthew</b> <b>Wine and Oil allowed</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy  7:00 p.m. Great Vespers at Assumption Church in East Moline	15 <b>The Dormition of the Theotokos</b>  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption in East Moline	16  7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	17 <b>Fast Day</b>  6:30 p.m. Festival Meeting in the Green Room	18	19 <b>Fast Day</b>	20
21 <b>9th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	22	23	24 <b>Fast Day</b>  <b>Evening Meal</b>	25 10:00 a.m. Senior Citizen Group event	26 <b>Fast Day</b>	27
28 <b>10th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	29 <b>The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy	30	31 <b>Fast Day</b>			

# Epistle Readers



“O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall show forth your praise!”

Anyone interested in being an epistle reader should contact the church office!

**Sunday, July 3, 2016**  
**2nd Sunday of Matthew**  
 Matthew  
 Alexa Florence

**Sunday, July 10, 2016**  
**3rd Sunday of Matthew**  
 Kay Coin

**Sunday, July 17, 2016**  
**Sunday of the Holy Fathers**  
 Mary Rankin

**Sunday, July 24, 2016**  
**5th Sunday of Matthew**  
 Ethan Kirkpatrick

**Sunday, July 31, 2016**  
**6th Sunday of Matthew**  
 Michael Pyevich

**Sunday, August 7, 2016**  
**7th Sunday of Matthew**  
 Alexa Florence

**Sunday, August 14, 2016**  
**8th Sunday of Matthew**  
 Loukia Constantinides

**Sunday, August 21, 2016**  
**9th Sunday of Matthew**  
 Michael Gust

**Sunday, August 28, 2016**  
**10th Sunday of Matthew**  
 Angela Spurgetis

## Parish Council Sunday Duty

**Sunday, July 3, 2016**  
 Joe Burmeister,  
 Mary Kay Eckert  
 Mary Rankin  
 Ken Stiegel

**Sunday, July 10, 2016**  
 Dale Allison  
 Brad Crosson,  
 Mariellen Crosson  
 Mike Patramanis

**Sunday, July 17, 2016**  
 John Mekus,  
 Dennis Spurgetis,  
 Diane Spurgetis  
 Mary Rankin

**Sunday, July 24, 2016**  
 Joe Burmeister,  
 Mary Kay Eckert  
 Mary Rankin  
 Ken Stiegel

**Sunday, July 31, 2016**  
 Dale Allison  
 Brad Crosson,  
 Mariellen Crosson  
 Mike Patramanis

**August, 7, 2016**  
 John Mekus,  
 Dennis Spurgetis,  
 Diane Spurgetis  
 Mary Rankin

**August, 14, 2016**  
 Joe Burmeister,  
 Mary Kay Eckert  
 Mary Rankin  
 Ken Stiegel

**August, 21, 2016**  
 Dale Allison  
 Brad Crosson,  
 Mariellen Crosson  
 Mike Patramanis

**August, 28, 2016**  
 John Mekus,  
 Dennis Spurgetis,  
 Diane Spurgetis  
 Mary Rankin

## Parish Registry WEDDING

Stephanie Thodos and Eric Cruikshank were united in the Sacrament of Holy Marriage on June 4, 2016 and the sponsor was Nicholas Passini.

## Memorials July 10, 2016

Andrew Andrews:  
 45 year  
 Mabel Andrews:  
 21 years

## Coffee Hour Hosts for July/August 2016

**Sunday, July 3, 2016**  
 hosted by:  
 Open

**Sunday, July 10, 2016**  
 hosted by:  
 John and Pat Andrews

**Sunday, July 17, 2016**  
 hosted by:  
 Open

**Sunday, July 24, 2016**  
 hosted by:  
 Open

**Sunday, July 31, 2016**  
 hosted by:  
 Open

**Sunday, August 7, 2016**  
 hosted by:  
 Open

**Sunday, August 14, 2016**  
 hosted by:  
 Open

**Sunday, August 21, 2016**  
 hosted by:  
 Open

**Sunday, August 28, 2016**  
 hosted by:  
 Open

## *The Council Connection*

Like many people raised in the 1950's, I was taught it was impolite to discuss money matters with others outside of the immediate family. I find I continue to carry this attitude with me and am very shy about addressing financial issues. At the June 14 parish council meeting, it became clear that I must overcome my reticence and communicate with my church family about its financial standing.

**Expenses:** As mentioned on the stewardship page, it takes about \$23,000.00 a month to cover the parish's expenses of employee costs, commitments to Archdiocese and Metropolis, insurance, repairs and maintenance, utilities and water, altar and sanctuary supplies and much more. If you do not attend the general assemblies where financial statements are distributed, please contact the parish and arrange for copies to be sent through email or post office.

In addition to these expenses, the renovation committee chaired by John Stratton made recommendations of projects needed to be done to keep the property in good repair for the future. The three most

critical issues are to preserve the stained glass windows (which are showing signs of deterioration), to repair the roof of the sanctuary, and to acquire a new burner for the heating system. The cost for these items is estimated at about \$110,000. Thanks to a generous gift from George and Nancy Coin, the costs of the window preservation have been donated as well as a substantial portion toward the remaining projects, but the parish needs to find ways to address the remaining needs.

**Income:** In addition to stewardship, parishioners give through candle purchases, the Sunday tray, and other donations. **However, this only covers about 50% of the expenses and needs to grow (as does our membership).** The remainder comes through events such as the festival and the Mardi Gras or transfers from other funds. Because sponsorships for the festival have decreased due to a reluctance of businesses to donate large amounts to individual churches, the festival income stream has decreased.

**The council is asking for ideas for solutions from parishioners on ways to narrow the gap between income and expenses.**

One opportunity would be for a parishioner to step up and volunteer to serve on the Foundation Fund Committee. The Foundation Fund, under committee leadership of Steve Eckert, has reached a value of \$564, 675.00 as of May 31. Steve has stepped down from the committee, which is currently seeking a new member. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Dennis Spurgetis, current chairman. The committee is working with the American Bank and Trust's trust department to develop an investment strategy to generate income for the parish within the guidelines of the fund's rules and regulations.

Yours in Christ,

*Mary Rankin*

Mary Rankin  
Parish Council President

**Serving on the Parish Council is a sacred opportunity! If you wish to serve please contact Father Michael or Mary Rankin!**

## Community News



### Our Saint George Parish Community

#### PRAYERS FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Have we taken for granted our health? Some of our members who are no longer able to come to church would always appreciate a phone call just to say hello or even a card!

Anne Allen

Ted Bagatelas

Helen Corelis

Stella Cudworth

Elaine Froumis

Pat Grevas

Judy Pappas

Jim Patton

Xenia Patton

Effie Skafidas

Janice Smirlis

Jim Tsagaris

#### **PASTORAL NOTES:**

•Father Michael will be away from the Parish from Sunday July 3, following the Divine Liturgy until Friday July 8th to attend the Archdiocesan Clergy Laity Congress in Nashville, Tennessee. In the event of an emergency please telephone the Church office.

•Father Michael will be away from the Parish from Sunday July 10, following the Divine Liturgy until Sat-

urday July 30. In the event of an emergency please telephone Father Tom Alatzakis at (847) 927-3333.

•The fast of the Dormition of the Theotokos begins on Monday August 1 and continues through and including Sunday August 14, 2016.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The Parish council will meet on Tuesday, July 12 and Tuesday, August 16th

at 7:00 p.m. in the Green room.

#### **STEWARDSHIP**

Please help support the ministries of our Parish by submitting your annual Stewardship pledge. Your commitment helps contribute to the financial support of our Church.

## Senior Ministry

**July**  
The next meeting of our St. George Church Senior Citizen Group will be on Thursday, July 28th at 10:15 a.m. We will meet at the church where Mr. George Eaton, the US Army Command Historian, will give us a presentation and slide show on "The History of the Arsenal" He calls it 'his mysterious little island'. All seniors and church members are welcome to attend as well as anyone from the general public who would like to hear his presentation. Following the program we will go to "Arthur's Garden Deli" in Rock Island for a "Dutch-treat" lunch. Please RSVP to Kay Coin or Nancy Avgenackis if you plan to attend.

#### **August**

The August meeting of our St. George Church Senior Citizen

Group will be on Thursday, August 25th. We will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and drive to the Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village and Olde St. Ann's Church just north of (but not in) Scott County Park. Those wishing to meet us at the village rather than at church, we will arrive there about 10:30 to 10:45. The site manager, Deborah Leistikaw, will give us a guided tour. Cost is \$2.00 per person. "The Soda Fountain" will be open that day for floats, sodas, banana splits, and etc., which may be sufficient for our lunch. Please RSVP to Kay Coin or Nancy Avgenackis if you plan to attend.

#### **September**

The September meeting of our St. George Church Senior Citizen Group will be on

Thursday, September 8th. We will be taking the River Action Senior Citizen Golf Cart Tour. The cost is \$12.50 per person and registration with payment is required as early as possible. We will meet at the church at 10:30 a.m. and drive to Sunset Marina Park where we will meet our golf carts. Tour starts promptly at 11:30 a.m. and will take us to the Rock Island and Moline river fronts starting at and returning to Sunset Park and traveling to Sylvan Island, Moline, and Butterworth Parkway returning at 1:30 p.m. If you are interested in going contact Kay Coin or Nancy Avgenackis who both have more information and registration forms. Don't wait! This sells out early! Following the tour we will go to the "City Limits Restaurant" for a "Dutch-treat" lunch.

## 2016 Stewards

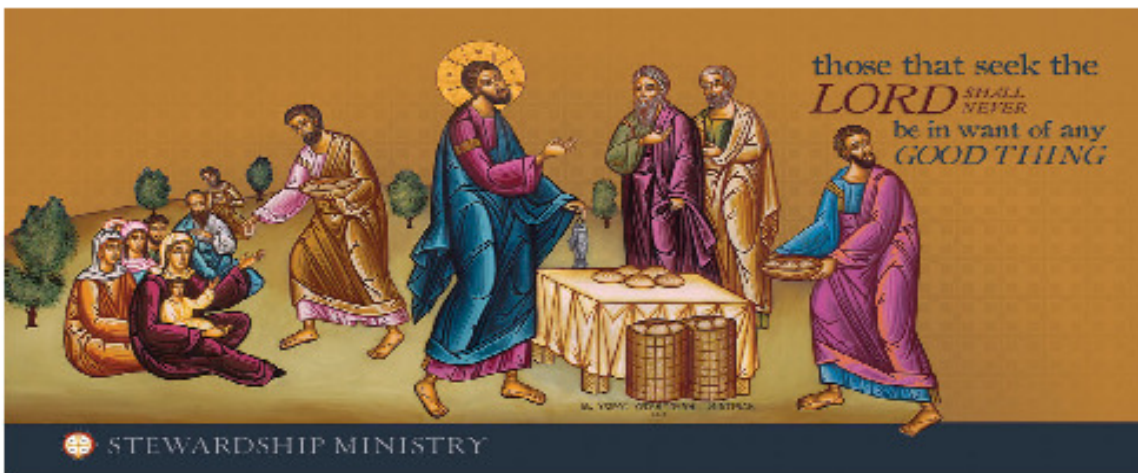
Father and Presbytera Michael Constantinides	Steve and Mary Kay Eckert	Peter and Susan Matos	Randy and Chris Smith
Deacon and Deaconess Paul Speed	Daniel and Mari Elias	John and Linnea Mekus	Angela Spurgetis
Father and Presbytera Chris Matos	Maurice and Sue Elias	Helen Moorhead	Colette Spurgetis
Jorge and Basema Alias	Tony and Candace Elias	Steve Morgan	Dennis and Nancy Spurgetis
Ray and Connie Allen	Scott and Alexa Florence	Ken and Pam Mott	Diana Spurgetis
Dale and JoElaine Allison	Elaine Froumis	Marguerite Nelson	Mary Spurgetis
Jeff and Elaine Amidon	George Gnatovich	Anthony and Marianne Nichols	Nick and Fran Spurgetis
John and Pat Andrews	Nick Grevas	Pauline Nichols	Ted Spurgetis
Mike and Nancy Avgenackis	Pat Grevas	Demetrios and Kathy Papageorgiou	John and Despina Statho- poulos
Ted and Karen Bagatelas	Theo J. Grevas	Chris Pappas	Ken and Helen Stiegel
Tom and Jenny Bakeris	Michael Gust	Gus and Kerri Pappas	John and Martha Stratton
Benjamin and Georgena Barnes	Pete and Arlene Gust	Judy Pappas	Marge Stratton
Pascal Booras	Vanessa Hayden-Porter	Matt and Lori Pappas	James and Elizabeth Teros
Frances Bourboulas	Nick and Claudette Jannes	Nick Pappas	Stephanie Thodos
Diane Breckon	Tim and Kathy Joannides	George and Alexia Patramanis	Veronica Tolescu
Joe Burmeister	Scot and Adrienne Johnson	Mike and Vickie Patramanis	Gus and Virginia Tripilas
Hillary Callas	Candice Kalman	Angela Perantinos	Ellen Tsagaris & Dino Milani
John and Darcy Callas	Georgia Kalomas	Marina Pikis	James Tsagaris
Emily Caras	Louis and Amanda Kant- zavelos	Ted and Georgjean Pitsou- lakis	Ted Vlahos
Peter and Becky Caras	George and Diane Karoules	Demetrios Pliakos	Frank Vretis
Carol Chickris	John and Jennifer Kay	Ann Polilo	Bill and Diane Whitehead
George and Nancy Coin	Ermioni Keber	Mike and Vickie Pyevich	Kim and Mary Winters
Harry G. and Susan Coin	Quinn and Anne Kirkpatrick	Mary Rankin	Kulla Wiss
Harry S. and Paula Coin	Deborah Kutsunis	Jovanka Rastovic	John and Joanne Zaimes
Nick and Nancy Coin	George and Linda Kutsunis	David Ray	Connie Zeroth
Stan and Kay Coin	Ted and Debra Kutsunis	Dennis and Marina (Yokas) Reese	
Helen Corelis	Chris and Nikki Lebessis	Effie Skafidas	
John and Shan Corelis	Jennifer Lensgraf	Frank J. and Mary Jane Skafidas	
Brad and Mariellen Crosson	Jason Leon	Tom Skafidas	
Cleo Dalamaggas	Von Lillios	Janice Smirles	
Angeline Douglas	Darlene Lingris	Gordon and Helen Smith	
Jayne Eckert	Dena Manta		
	Emmanuel and Tracy Mathews		
	Nancy Mathews		

**We are deeply grateful  
to our Lord Jesus Christ  
for our faithful and  
committed Stewards.**

**These parishioners  
have either filled out a  
pledge card, made a  
2016 stewardship  
contribution, or both as  
of 06/20/16.**

# St. George Stewardship Notes

*"Those that Seek the Lord Shall Never be in Want of Any Good Thing"*



## 2016 QUICK FACTS

(as of  
June 14, 2016)

**\$120,300.00 =**  
Amount pledged for 2016  
by 122 households

**\$68,512.00 =**  
Amount given to 2016  
stewardship since Jan. 1

**\$986.00 =**  
Average pledge per  
household at this date

**\$274,893.00 =**  
Amount needed for the  
ministries of  
St. George Parish for  
2016

## Preventing Traditional Summer Cash Flow Concerns

Our Saint George Parish requires \$23,000.00 in income every month to meet its ongoing expenses. These expenses include payroll obligations, heating and cooling bills, supplies, our commitment to the Archdiocese so that we can continue to have a system for ordained priests and a national presence and ministry, printing and postage costs, maintenance of property, and a myriad of other things.

During summer months, the parish traditionally experiences lower giving due to vacations, school being out, etc. The parish council finds it difficult to pay \$23,000.00 worth of bills with an average income of \$5,000 to \$6,000 during these months.

We ask that parishioners not forget their beloved parish in the excitement of traveling and pursuing summer plans and continue their financial support throughout the next few months!

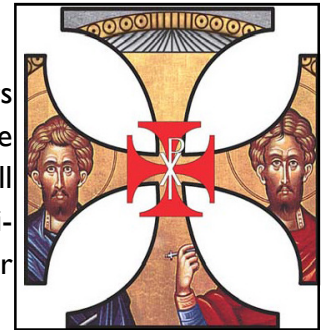


### Philoptochos Corner

The Philoptochos Society's membership drive is under way. Please submit forms/payment to Kay Coin, 2229 31st Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201 or drop them off in the Philoptochos box in the church of-

St. George's. Collection has begun for the Philoptochos Rummage Donation Drive and will continue through July 24. We are doing a simpler variation on the traditional labor-intensive

rummage sales of years past, but still, 100% of the profits from this sale will be donated to local charities. Please see the flier below for details.



**Saints Cosmas and Damianos the Patron Saints of Philoptochos**

**Focus on Philoptochos**

**Help us to Help Others**

#### **EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS**

July 27-Randy and Chris Smith

August 24-Nancy G. Coin, Darlene Lingris and Dena Manta

September 25-Cathy Farrell and Adrienne Johnson

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

### **St. George Church Philoptochos Society's Rummage Donation Sale 2016**

#### **Here's How It Works:**

##### **1. Donate your stuff**

- Mondays through Fridays, 9am-3pm.
- Sundays after Church

##### **Last Drop Off Day Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

##### **2. We sort through your donations.**

- Items that can be resold through Vintage Home and Family will be sent there and sold under an account just for St. George Philoptochos.
- All other items will be donated to the Disabled American Veterans resale store.

##### **3. What we will take:**

- All Men's, Women's, and Children's, clothing and accessories, in good condition
- Children's toys in good condition with all pieces
- Household items - lamps, pictures, furniture - easily transported (small tables, chairs), dishes, etc.

##### **3. What we will not take:**

- Any computer equipment, outdated electronics
- Large appliances
- Large furniture

Have Questions or Comments?  
Call or email Alexa Florence at 650-4748, alexaf@mchsi.com

**100% of the profits from this sale are donated to local charities.**

## **Your Church Needs Help!**

The parish could use donations to help hold down expenses. We have generous stewards, but as expenses rise, it's difficult to meet our monthly operating costs of about \$21,000. So if you are at Wal-Mart, Target, etc. any of these items are appreciated:

Sturdy folding stepstool for reaching top shelves

Dessert-size plates and napkins

Paper towels

Coffee stirrers

Sugar packets (both real and artificial)

Disposable tablecloths for the long tables used for coffee hour

Powdered drink mixes (such as lemonade) for an alternative for non-coffee drinkers

A pitcher or two for preparing beverages & other useful serving pieces and utensils

A ream or two of printer paper

(both 8 ½ x 11 and/or 11 x 17)

Cleaning supplies such as dish detergents, scrubbers, air freshener for restrooms, etc.

(Ask Jason if there are things he particularly would find useful such as special brass polishing solutions, etc.)

Garbage bags

Packages of 6" x 9" envelopes for mailings

**Save these Dates  
to  
Board the Festival Bus!!!!**



**2016 Our Big Fat Greek Festival  
St. George Greek Orthodox Church**

**September 16 and 17**

Reserve these dates to volunteer:

- **Late August:** Souvlaki cutting and skewering (Exact dates to be announced)
- **Monday, September 5:** March in the Rock Island Labor Day Parade to promote the festival!
- **Friday, September 16 (3 pm to 11 pm):** Festival
- **Friday, September 17 (11 am to 11 pm)**

***Greatest need for volunteers is 4 pm – 8:30 pm in the Kitchen, Serving Line & Drive-Thru!***





St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
 HOPE/JOY  
 Join us for Orthodox Fellowship

Child's Name		Child's Name	
Age		Age	
Grade		Grade	
Child's Name			
Age			
Grade			
Home Address:			
Parent Name:			
Parent Contact Phone #:			
E-Mail:			



HOPE/JOY Advisors:

Presbytera Maria Constantinides  
 Candice Elias

[presmariazoe@aol.com](mailto:presmariazoe@aol.com)  
[elias4130@yahoo.com](mailto:elias4130@yahoo.com)

(708) 214-2372  
 (563) 529-4499

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church  
 2930 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL  
 STUDENT FAMILY REGISTRATION

Family Last Name	Mother's First Name	Father's First Name
Address	City	Zip Code
1 <sup>st</sup> Number to call	2 <sup>nd</sup> Number to call	Best email for communications

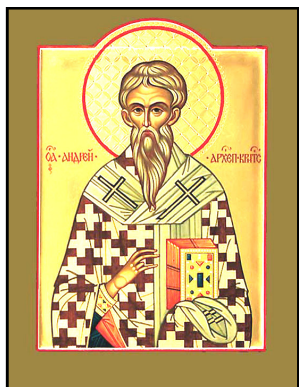
STUDENT INFORMATION

FIRST NAMES	PATRON SAINT	BIRTHDAY (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

First Names	GRADE IN SCHOOL				
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1. _____					
2. _____					
3. _____					
4. _____					
5. _____					

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4)



### Saint Andrew of Crete

Saint Andrew, Archbishop of Crete, was born in the city of Damascus into a pious Christian family. Up until seven years of age the boy was mute and did not talk. However, after communing the Holy Mysteries of Christ he found the gift of speech and began to speak. And from that time the lad began earnestly to study Holy Scripture and the discipline of theology.

At fourteen years of age he went off to Jerusalem and there he accepted monastic tonsure at the monastery of St Sava the Sanctified. St Andrew led a strict and chaste life, he was meek and abstinent, such that all were amazed at his virtue and reasoning of mind. As a man of talent and known for his virtuous life, over the passage of time he came to be numbered among the Jerusalem clergy and was appointed a secretary for the Patriarchate -- a writing clerk. In the year 680 the locum tenens of the Jerusalem

Patriarchate, Theodore, included archdeacon Andrew among the representatives of the Holy City sent to the Sixth Ecumenical Council, and here the saint contended against heretical teachings, relying upon his profound knowledge of Orthodox doctrine. Shortly after the Council he was summoned back to Constantinople from Jerusalem and he was appointed archdeacon at the church of Hagia Sophia, the Wisdom of God. During the reign of the emperor Justinian II (685-695) St Andrew was ordained bishop of the city of Gortineia on the island of Crete. In his new position he shone forth as a true luminary of the Church, a great hierarch -- a theologian, teacher and hymnographer.

St Andrew wrote many liturgical hymns. He was the originator of a new liturgical form -- the canon. Of the canons composed by him the best known is the Great Penitential Canon, including within its 9 odes the 250 troparia recited during the Great Lent. In the First Week of Lent at the service of Compline it is read in portions (thus called "methymony" [trans. note: from the usage in the service of Compline of the "God is with us", in Slavonic the "S'nami Bog", or in Greek "Meth' Humon ho Theos", from which derives

"methymony"], and again on Thursday of the Fifth Week at the All-night Vigil during Matins.

St Andrew of Crete gained renown with his many praises of the All-Pure Virgin Mary. To him are likewise ascribed: the Canon for the feast of the Nativity of Christ, three odes for the Compline of Palm Sunday and also in the first four days of Holy Passion Week, as well as verses for the feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and many another church-song. His hynographic tradition was continued by the churchly great melodists of following ages: Saints John of Damascus, Cosma of Maium, Joseph the Melodist, Theophan the Written-upon. There have also been preserved edifying Sermons of St Andrew for certain of the Church feasts.

Church historians are not of the same opinion as to the date of death of the saint. One suggests the year 712, while others -- the year 726. He died on the island of Mytilene, while returning to Crete from Constantinople, where he had been on churchly business. His relics were transferred to Constantinople. In the year 1350 the pious Russian pilgrim Stephen Novgorodets saw the relics at the Constantinople monastery named for St Andrew of Crete.

**God  
considers  
His own  
self  
constantly  
obligated  
for  
whatever  
charities  
you do to  
your fellow  
men.**

**Saint Basil  
the Great**

## The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist (August 29)

The Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist: The Evangelists Matthew (Mt.14:1-12) and Mark (Mark 6:14-29) provide accounts about the martyric end of John the Baptist in the year 32 after the Birth of Christ.

Following the Baptism of the Lord, St John the Baptist was locked up in prison by Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch (ruler of one fourth of the Holy Land) and governor of Galilee. (After the death of king Herod the Great, the Romans divided the territory of Palestine into four parts, and put a governor in charge of each part. Herod Antipas received Galilee from the emperor Augustus).

The prophet of God John openly denounced Herod for having left his lawful wife, the daughter of the Arabian king Aretas, and then instead cohabiting with Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19-20). On his birthday, Herod made a feast for dignitaries, the elders and a thousand chief citizens. Salome, the daughter of Herod, danced before the guests and charmed Herod. In gratitude to the girl, he swore to give her whatever she would ask, up to half his kingdom.

The vile girl on the advice of her wicked mother Herodias asked that she be given the head of John the Baptist on a

platter. Herod became apprehensive, for he feared the wrath of God for the murder of a prophet, whom earlier he had heeded. He also feared the people, who loved the holy Forerunner. But because of the guests and his careless oath, he gave orders to cut off the head of St John and to give it to Salome.

According to Tradition, the mouth of the dead preacher of repentance once more opened and proclaimed: "Herod, you should not have the wife of your brother Philip." Salome took the platter with the head of St John and gave it to her mother. The frenzied Herodias repeatedly stabbed the tongue of the prophet with a needle and buried his holy head in a unclean place. But the pious Joanna, wife of Herod's steward Chuza, buried the head of John the Baptist in an earthen vessel on the Mount of Olives, where Herod had a parcel of land. (The Uncovering of the Venerable Head is celebrated (February 24). The holy body of John the Baptist was taken that night by his disciples and buried at Sebastia, there where the wicked deed had been done.

After the murder of St John the Baptist, Herod continued to govern for a certain time. Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea, later sent Jesus Christ to him, Whom he mocked

(Luke 23:7-12).

The judgment of God came upon Herod, Herodias and Salome, even during their earthly life. Salome, crossing the River Sikoris in winter, fell through the ice. The ice gave way in such a way that her body was in the water, but her head was trapped above the ice. It was similar to how she once had danced with her feet upon the ground, but now she flailed helplessly in the icy water. Thus she was trapped until that time when the sharp ice cut through her neck.

Her corpse was not found, but they brought the head to Herod and Herodias, as once they had brought them the head of St John the Baptist. The Arab king Aretas, in revenge for the disrespect shown his daughter, made war against Herod. The defeated Herod suffered the wrath of the Roman emperor Caius Caligua (37-41) and was exiled with Herodias first to Gaul, and then to Spain.

The Beheading of St John the Baptist, a Feast day established by the Church, is also a strict fast day because of the grief of Christians at the violent death of the saint. In some Orthodox cultures pious people will not eat food from a flat plate, use a knife, or eat food that is round in shape on this day.



**The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist**

**Almsgiving  
heals the soul's  
incensive power;  
fasting withers  
sensual desire;  
prayer purifies  
the intellect and  
prepares it for  
contemplation  
of related  
beings. For the  
Lord has given  
us  
commandments  
which  
correspond to  
the powers of  
the soul.**

**St. Maximos  
the Confessor**



## Answers to Last Month's "Test Your Faith..."

- What is the Church?
1. a building where religious services are held
  2. **the people of God who come together for common worship**
  3. a parish, headed by the priest and the parish council
  4. a social institution

Who founded the Church?

1. Abraham
2. John the Baptist
3. **Jesus Christ**
4. Apostles

Which of the following is **not** a name for the second person of the Holy Trinity?

1. Logos (Word)
2. The Anointed One
3. Savior
4. **Father**

The head of the Orthodox Church is:

1. the Metropolitan
2. the priest
3. the Patriarch
4. **Jesus Christ**

Who is the Theotokos?

1. **the Virgin Mary**
2. a princess who first accepted Christianity
3. a Greek Martyr from the fourth century
4. an Orthodox Nun

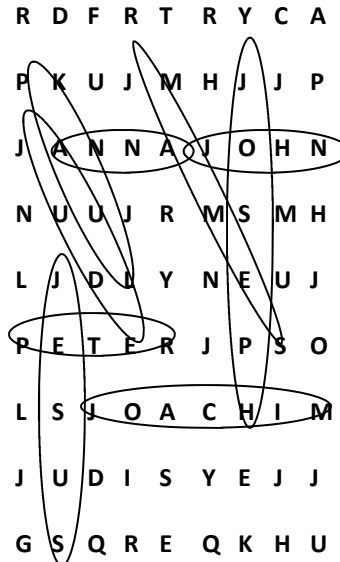
-----

### Word Search

#### Jesus and His family

1. JOACHIM
2. JESUS
3. JOSEPH
4. PETER
5. JAMES

6. ANNA
7. PAUL
8. MARY
9. JOHN
10. JUDE



## Thought to Ponder

In the matter of piety, poverty serves us better than wealth, and works better than idleness, especially since wealth becomes an obstacle even for those who do not devote themselves to it. Yet, when we must put aside our wrath, quench our envy, soften

our anger, offer our prayers, and show a disposition which is reasonable, mild, kindly, and loving, how could poverty stand in our way? For we accomplish these things not by spending money but by making the correct choice. Almsgiving above all else

requires money, but even this shines with a brighter luster when the alms are given from our poverty. The widow who paid in the two mites was poorer than any human, but she outdid them all.

*St. John Chrysostom,  
Baptismal Instructions*

# Test Your Faith...

## Across

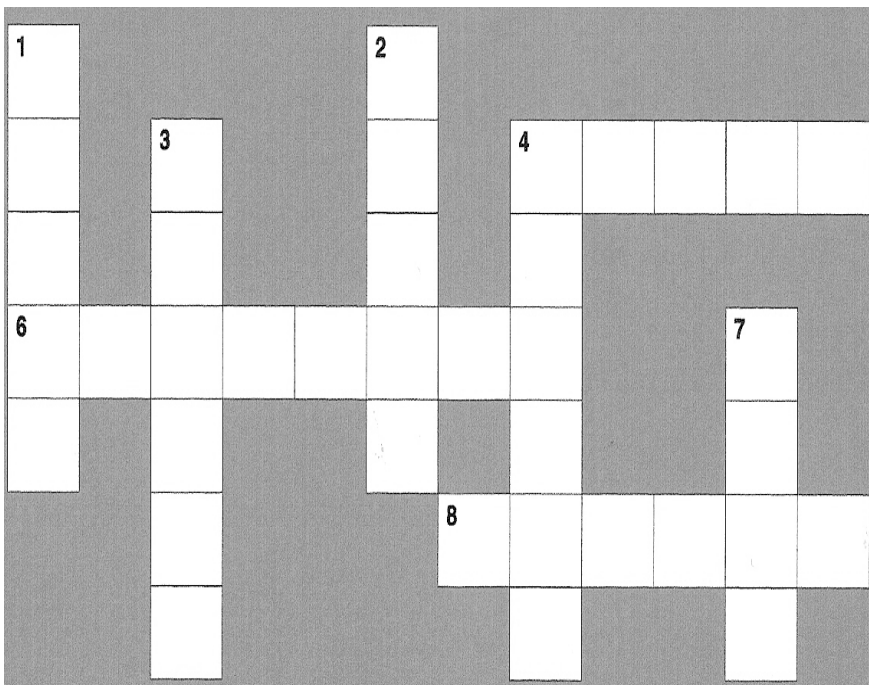
4. Blessed are the pure of \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall see God.
6. Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called \_\_\_\_ of God.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

1. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Blessed are they who \_\_\_\_: for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the poor in \_\_\_\_: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4. Blessed are they who \_\_\_\_ and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
7. Blessed are the \_\_\_\_: for they shall inherit the earth.

## CHURCH ROLES

1. Deaconess
2. Abbess
3. Bishop
4. Reader
5. Chanter
6. Deacon
7. Novice
8. Abbot
9. Dean
10. Nun



F B P A E R U B Z U N  
 O V A N B A A F V Z V  
 D H A N I B H B N O X  
 R E E I U N E I B H M  
 D E A C O N E S S O N  
 C H A N T E R H S O T  
 C B G D O E O O N I O  
 V N A R E V O P N I E  
 A C C N I R I D S A O  
 D C M T O E A C R B B  
 O C B D C N Z H E N G