

SAINT GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

CHURCH
STAFF

- Parish Priest:
Fr. Michael
Constantinides
- Parish Council
President:
Mary Rankin
- Philoptochos
President:
Susan Matos
- Sunday School
Director:
Deacon
Paul Speed
- Caretaker:
Jason Leon

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

November Calendar	2
President's Corner	3
Community News	5
Stewardship Update	6
Assembly Notice	8
Lives of the Saints	9- 10
Test your Faith	12



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2015

The Trophybearer

PASTORAL MESSAGE

We find ourselves in the winter of the year where all outside is brown, lifeless and cold. The days are shorter and the weather is more miserable. Indeed this is the time of year that brings us down both physically, with all the colds and flu that go around, and mentally, with all the dreariness and darkness.

It is at this time that we gather together and try to bring some good cheer to ourselves and our families. We have our national celebration of Thanksgiving where we do indeed offer thanks to God for all that He has done for our nation throughout our history.

While setting a day aside to thank God is actually good, is that all we do? Do we forget about God every other day of the year? Is He only in our lives when we need Him, or do we make Him an active member of our lives? These are questions that we should ask ourselves every day of our lives.

We should make a special effort to make God an active part of lives by first living the life that we are called to live. We need to come to Church and become **active** members and not simply names on lists. **Active** members are those who participate in the life of the Church. **Active** members are those who prepare themselves and approach the Chalice with the fear of God, faith and love often. **Active** members are those who respond to the call of God and His Church. In other words to be active, we must act. We cannot wait to be acted on. Our faith is a verb not a noun.

So, while we are celebrating this holiday season, let us remember that we must always be thankful to God for what He has done and continues to do for us. Let us act on our faith and renew our lives in Christ our God.

Fr. Michael Constantinides

Parish Priest

November 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 5th Sunday of Luke 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion +Sacrament	2	3	4 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum 7:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	5	6 Fast Day	7
8 7th Sunday of Luke Synaxis of the Archangel's Michael and Gabriel Parish Assembly 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	9	10	11 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum 7:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	12	13 Fast Day	14 +Sacrament
15 8th Sunday of Luke Fast of the Nativity Begins Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	16 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	17 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	18 Fast Day No Orthodox Study Forum	19 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	20 Fast Day	21 The Entrance of the Theotokos Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Metropolis Assembly in Madison, WI </div>						
22 9th Sunday of Luke Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	23 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	24 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at the Congregation Beth Israel at the Tri-City Jewish Center	25 Feastday of Saint Katherine the Great Martyr Fast Day 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy No Orthodox Study Forum Evening Meal	26 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	27 Office Closed Fast Day	28 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed
29 13th Sunday of Luke Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Family Worship only	30 Feast Day of Saint Andrew Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy					

The Council Connection

There are three events coming up in the next few weeks that have the potential to impact our parish for many years to come.

On Sunday, November 8, we will meet for our annual Fall Parish Assembly following Divine Liturgy. At the meeting we will be approving our 2016 budget and also hearing the report and plan of action from our Renovation Committee. This meeting will lie out an important path for the parish to follow for many years. A light lunch will be provided so that more members might be able to attend.

The second event, Stewardship Sunday, takes place on the following Sunday, November 15. We sometimes want to avoid this day because it seems like we are being asked to give so frequently, often for such mundane things as a plumbing bill or vacuum cleaner repairs. Father Anthony M. Coniaris shared the following

story that illustrates this frustration:

One day, a person complained to his priest that the Church and Christianity is one continual "give, give, give." To which the priest replied, "Thank you very much for the finest definition of Christianity I have ever heard. You're right; Christianity is all about a constant "give, give, give." God giving His only Son to the world to show His unconditional love. His Son Jesus giving His life on the cross to forgive our sins and destroy death. Then our Lord's disciples giving all they had to make sure God's Good News of love was preached to all people everywhere. They not only gave away their homes and businesses, but even gave up their lives as martyrs in gratitude to God! It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through

our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.

Please keep this story in mind when you fill out your pledge cards and prepare for Stewardship Sunday.

Finally, on December 6, the parish will be called to vote for its 2016 Parish Council members. Please prayerfully consider running for a term on the council. The current members would love to have you join them as they address the needs of the parish. Speak to a council member, Father Michael, or a member of the election committee (to be appointed at the Fall Assembly) if you are interested in learning more about this service opportunity!

Yours in Christ,

Mary Rankin

Mary Rankin
Parish Council President

**Serving on
the
Council is
an honor!
If anyone is
interested
in serving
please see
Mary
Rankin or
Father
Michael**

Epistle Readers



**"O Lord, open my lips and
my mouth shall show forth
your praise!"**

**Anyone interested in being
an epistle reader should con-
tact the church office!**

**Sunday,
November 1, 2015
5th Sunday of Luke**
Alexa Florence

**Sunday,
November 15, 2015
8th Sunday of Luke**
Mary Rankin

**Sunday,
November 29, 2015
13th Sunday of Luke**
Kay Coin

**Sunday,
November 8, 2015
7th Sunday of Luke**
Michael Pyevich

**Sunday,
November 22, 2015
9th Sunday of Luke**
Angela Spurgetis

Parish Council Sunday Duty

**Sunday,
November 1, 2015**
Brad Crosson,
Mike Patramanis

**Sunday,
November 15, 2015**
Brad Crosson,
Mike Patramanis

**Sunday,
November 29, 2015**
Mary Rankin,
Joe Burmeister, Gus Pappas

**Sunday,
November 8, 2015**
Mary Rankin,
Joe Burmeister, Gus Pappas

**Sunday,
November 22, 2015**
Steve Eckert, Mary Rankin,
Mary Kay Eckhert

Coffee Hour Hosts for November 2015

Sunday, November 1, 2015
hosted by:
Diane Brackon in honor of her
Chrismation

Sunday, November 8, 2015
hosted by:
Stan and Kay Coin

**Sunday,
November 15, 2015**
hosted by:
Helen Stiegel and
Claudette Jannes

**Sunday,
November 22, 2015**
hosted by:
Open

**Sunday,
November 29, 2015**
Mary Rankin



**Fellowship
and fun!**

Community News

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Parish Council elections will be held on Sunday, December 6. It is an honor and a privilege to serve on the Parish Council, but it is also a commitment to the good of our Parish. If you feel the call to support and represent our parish in this special way, please come forward. It is mandatory for all candidates to attend one of the seminars being held. The first is on **Tuesday, November 3** at 7:00 p.m. and the second is on **Monday, November 9** at 7:00 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Our Annual Stewardship Sunday will be held on Sunday, November 15th. We ask you all if you like to bring your pledge card with you on that Sunday and deposit it into the pledge box. May the Lord bless us with another wonderful year.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Green room.

HOSPITAL VISITS

If you or a family member are in the hospital, please call the office. Ever since the change in the privacy laws,

hospitals are reluctant to call churches. Please call us so that we can avoid missing our parishioners in their time of need.

INTERNET NEWS

Saint George is announcing to all Facebook users the creation of our Facebook page. See us at:

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeQC?ref=bookmarks)

[www.facebook.com/
StGeorgeQC?](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeQC?ref=bookmarks)

[ref=bookmarks](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeQC?ref=bookmarks)

Please visit our Web-Site at

www.stgeorgeri.il.goarch.org



**Our Saint
George Parish
Community**

Sunday School News

Our Sunday School is in full swing now, and we wanted to share the tentative calendar laid out for the school year.

November 29, Thanksgiving weekend, no Sunday School.

December 13, practice for the Christmas presentation.

December 20, Christmas presentation.

December 27 and January 4, 2016; Christmas Break

April 23: we plan to have an activity (perhaps with the GOYA and JOY) to have the

Youth help tie palm crosses.

May 15, last day of Sunday School.

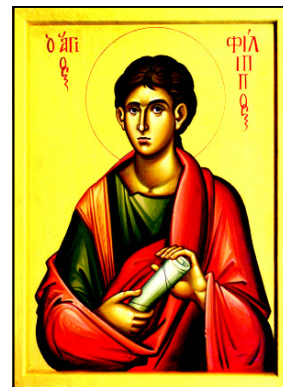
If we have students and teachers on a day designated as a break and all are willing, we would certainly allow a class to meet. My goal this year is to make Sunday School as accessible and inviting as we can, for the spiritual formation of our children.

In that vein, we would welcome volunteers to fill in when needed. No commitment other than to consider

it and help when we need a teacher so as to not offer class. I will make sure the substitute has a lesson plan or activity so there is no sweating of a lesson. Consider it prayerfully, and contact me or any of the teachers if you would like to help.

Attendance appears to be up a little so far; I ask for your prayers that it continues so and that we can be a portion of training our children in the faith.

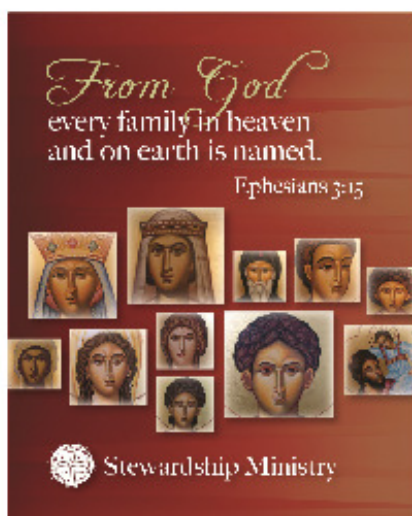
Deacon Paul



**St. Philip the Deacon
is the patron saint of
Religious Education.
He was an inspired
evangelist and
teacher whose mis-
sionary work brought
a multitude of new
believers to Christ in
Samaria and other
cities along the coast
of Palestine**

St. George Stewardship Notes

"From God every family in heaven and on earth is named." (Eph. 3: 15)



FILL THE CHURCH WITH FAMILY:

November 15, 2015

Stewardship Sunday

When we speak of stewardship and family we must also consider stewardship *of* family. Most often, we stress the importance of stewardship of the great gifts of God's material world, but which of God's gifts is greater than family?

Stewardship Sunday To-Do List:

- Bring your pledge card to offer on this day.
- Commit to bringing family members: consider bringing nephews, nieces, elderly parents or godparents, grandchildren, godchildren, brothers and sisters (by birth or your brothers and sisters in Christ)!

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAMILY: *A Dwelling of Christ and a Witness of His Gospel*

Parish Happenings

**St. George
Fall General Assembly
Sunday, November 8
Following Divine Liturgy**

**(Come for the meeting,
stay for the Sandwich!)**



**A light lunch will be available for those who attend with
a free will donation to offset costs.**

**Please plan to attend. If you need a copy of the agenda,
please contact the church.**

Parish Happenings

**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
OF
ST. GEORGE CHURCH**
2930 31st Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201

November 1, 2015

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

The St. George Philoptochos Ladies are sponsoring the 2015 Parish Christmas Card. As in previous years, every one of us has an opportunity to send our Christmas greetings to all our church members and friends. A beautiful card with all the names of those participating is sent to everyone on our mailing list.

We hope that everyone will be included in the 2015 Christmas Card. Please send the portion below with your name as you wish it to appear on the card, along with your generous donation, to the church office or return it to the table set up after liturgy on Sundays. Please return your donation by November 22. All proceeds are used for benevolent projects of the Philoptochos Society. The Philoptochos Ladies have chosen to donate the proceeds of this year's Christmas card to the following charities:

St. Anthony's Window, Davenport (700 homeless are fed here each week)

River Bend Food Bank

Christian Care (Domestic Violence Shelter and Rescue Mission)

In this season of giving, please find it in your heart to give to those less fortunate.

Sincerely,

Pat Andrews, Chairman
Parish Christmas Card Committee

**St. George Philoptochos Society
2015 Parish Christmas Card**

Name _____

(Please print as it should appear on card)

Donation _____ (Checks payable to Philoptochos Society)

2015 Stewards

Father and Presbyteria	Jim Gartelos	Demetrios and Kathy
Michael Constantinides	John and Randi Gartelos	Papageorgiou
Deacon and Deaconess	George Gnatovich	Chris Pappas
Paul Speed	Steven Goodell	Gus and Kerri Pappas
Father and Presbyteria	Nick Grevas	Judy Pappas
Chris Matos	Pat Grevas	Matt and Lori Pappas
Anne Allen	Mary Jane Griffin	Nick Pappas
Marcia Allen	Pete and Arlene Gust	Tim Pappas
Ray and Connie Allen	Gus and Irene Harb	George and Alexia Patramanis
Dale and JoElaine Allison	Nidal Harb	Mike and Vickie Patramanis
Jeff and Elaine Amidon	Vanessa Hayden	Angela Perantinos
John and Pat Andrews	J.P. and Andrea Jacobs	Marina Pikis
Mike and Nancy Avgenackis	Nick and Claudette Jannes	Demetrios Pliakos
Paul and Christine Bagatelas	Tim and Kathy Joannides	Mike and Vickie Pyevich
Polly Bagatelas	Scot and Adrienne Johnson	Mary Rankin
Ted and Karen Bagatelas	Candice Kalman	Jovanka Rastovic
Tom and Jenny Bakeris	Georgia Kalomas	David Ray
Georgena Barnes	Louis and Amanda Kantzavelos	Alex Reese
Pascal Booras	George and Diane Karoules	Dennis and Marina Reese
Frances Bourboulas	Chris and Lennice Kavallieros	Effie Skafidas
Spiro Bruskas	Ermioni Keber	Frank J. and Mary Jane Skafidas
Elaine Burmeister	Quinn and Anne Kirkpatrick	Gordon and Helen Smith
Joe Burmeister	Deborah Kutsunis	Randy and Chris Smith
John and Darcy Callas	George and Linda Kutsunis	Janice Smirles
Emily Caras	Ted and Debra Kutsunis	Angela Spurgetis
Peter and Becky Caras	Chris and Nikki Lebessis	Colette Spurgetis
Carol Chickris	Jennifer Lensgraf	Dennis and Nancy Spurgetis
George and Nancy Coin	Joan Lensgraf	Diana Spurgetis
Harry G. and Susan Coin	Jason Leon	Helen Spurgetis
Nick and Nancy Coin	Von Lillios	Lucille Spurgetis
Stan and Kay Coin	Darlene Lingris	Mary Spurgetis
Helen Corelis	Tassos Liras	Nick and Fran Spurgetis
John and Shan Corelis	Dena Manta	Ken and Helen Stiegel
Brad and Mariellen Crosson	Emmanuel and Tracy Mathews	John and Martha Stratton
Cleo Dalamaggas	Nancy Mathews	Marge Stratton
Mrs. Sam Demou	Peter and Susan Matos	Marlowe Suess
Niki Doty	John and Linnea Mekus	James and Elizabeth Teros
Angeline Douglas	Michael Montgomery	Veronica Tolescu
Angela and Sean Doyle	Helen Moorhead	Gus and Virginia Tripilas
Steve and Mary Kay Eckert	Steve Morgan	Ellen Tsagaris
Daniel and Mari Elias	Ken and Pam Mott	James Tsagaris
Maurice and Sue Elias	John Natsis	Ted Vlahos
Tony and Candace Elias	Marguerite Nelson	Frank Vretis
Paul and Cathy Farrell	Anthony and Marianne Nichols	Bill and Diane Whitehead
Edward Filip	Pauline Nichols	Kim and Mary Winters
Scott and Alexa Florence	Scott and Leesa Palmer	Kulla Wiss
Elaine Froumis		John and Joanna Zaimes

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

***Listed here are
the individuals/
families who
pledged their
commitment
in 2015!***

Notification of the Fall General Assembly on Sunday, November 8, 2015

Dear St. George Stewards,

On Sunday, November 8, 2015, following the fellowship and coffee hour, we will be convening our Fall General Assembly in the Gold Room. Please make every effort to attend.

As a reminder, the General Assembly is a meeting of all members in good-standing. A member in good-standing is defined by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese as any person eighteen years of age or older who was baptized according to the rites of the Orthodox Church, or was received into the Orthodox Church by Chrismation, who lives according to the faith and canons of the Orthodox Church, who has met his or her stewardship obligation for 2015 and abides by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese and the by-laws of the Parish. Members in good-standing, in attendance, constitute a quorum of the General Assembly.

A new member may vote in the General Assembly provided that they have been in good-standing at least three (3) months prior to the date of the General Assembly. If you would like to vote on any of the motions made during the General Assembly, you must be present. Absentee ballots will not be counted.

2015 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Sunday, November 8th, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPENING PRAYER
3. STEWARDSHIP REPORT
4. PHILOPTOCHOS REPORT
5. FESTIVAL REPORT
6. 2015 BUDGET
7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT
8. AUDIT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
9. SET DATE FOR BOARD ELECTIONS
10. OLD BUSINESS
11. NEW BUSINESS
12. CLOSING PRAYER
13. ADJOURNMENT

Mary Rankin
Parish Council President

Fr. Michael Constantinides
Parish Priest

The Great Martyr Menas (November 11)

The Holy Great Martyr Menas of Egypt, an Egyptian by birth, was a military officer and served in the Kotyaeion region of Phrygia under the centurion Firmilian during the reign of the emperors Diocletian (284-305) and Maximian (305-311). When the emperors began the fiercest persecution against Christians in history, the saint refused to serve these persecutors. He removed his soldier's belt (a sign of military rank) and withdrew to a mountain, where he lived an ascetic life of fasting and prayer.

Once he happened to ar-

rive in the city during a pagan festival. At the climax of the games the saint's accusing voice rang out, preaching faith in Christ, the Savior of the world. At his trial before the prefect Pyrrhus, the saint bravely confessed his faith, saying that he had come to denounce the impious. The prefect was angered, and had Menas arrested.

Pyrrhus offered to restore the saint's former rank if he would offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. When he refused, he was put to cruel tortures, then he was beheaded. This occurred in the year 304.

Christians gathered up the martyr's relics by night and hid them until the end of the persecution. Later, they were brought to Egypt and placed in a church dedicated to St Menas southwest of Alexandria.

The saint received grace from God to work miracles, and to help those in need. St Menas is noted for healing various illnesses, delivering people from possession by demons, and as a protector, especially during times of war. We also ask his help in finding lost objects.



The Holy Great Martyr Menas

The Holy Prophet Obadiah

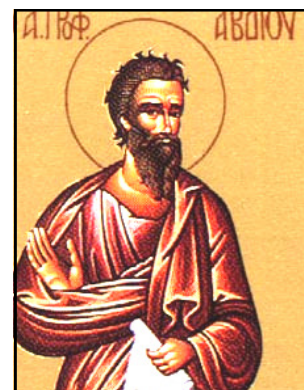
The Holy Prophet Obadiah [or Abdia] is the fourth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, and he lived during the ninth century B.C. He was from the village of Betharam, near Sichem, and he served as steward of the impious Israelite King Ahab. In those days the whole of Israel had turned away from the true God and had begun to offer sacri-

fice to Baal, but Obadiah faithfully served the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in secret.

When Ahab's wife, the impious and dissolute Jezebel, hunted down all the prophets of the Lord (because of her quarrel with the Prophet Elias), Obadiah gave them shelter and food (3/1 Kgs 18:3 ff). Ahab's successor King Okhoziah [Ahaziah] sent

three detachments of soldiers to arrest the holy Prophet Elias (July 20). One of these detachments was headed by St Obadiah. Through the prayer of St Elias, two of the detachments were consumed by heavenly fire, but St Obadiah and his detachment were spared by the Lord (4/2 Kgs 1).

From that moment St Obadiah resigned from



The Holy Prophet Obadiah

The Holy Prophet Obadiah (Continued)

military service and became a follower of the Prophet Elias. Afterwards, he himself received the gift of prophecy. The God-

inspired work of St Obadiah is the fourth of the Books of the Twelve Minor Prophets in the Bible, and contains predictions

about the New Testament Church. The holy Prophet Obadiah was buried in Samaria.

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

The Church's Services

Across

4. A special service held in the Orthodox Church for the repose of the souls of the dead.
6. The Morning Service, which is combined with the Liturgy.
9. The closing prayers and benediction, including the Apolytikia in Church Service.
10. This hymn is sung after the Gospel reading and during the Great Entrance.

Down

1. The prayer taught by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, which begins with the phrase "Our Father..."
2. This is another name for the service that precedes the Divine Liturgy.
3. A service held in the evening, which is mainly a Thanksgiving prayer for the closing day and a welcome of the new one to come
5. The main form of worship for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

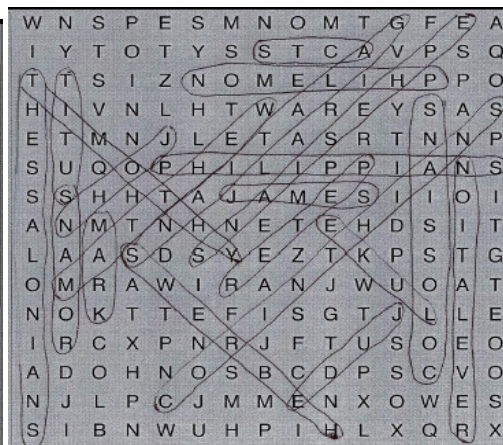
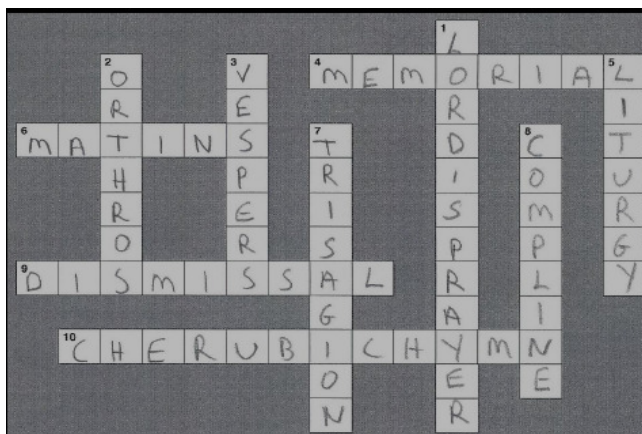
7. "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us."
8. This service is celebrated in the evening.

New Testament Books

Thessalonians	John
Romans	Corinthians
Mark	James
Philippians	Luke
Titus	Colossians
Jude	Peter
Revelation	Acts
Galatians	Timothy
Ephesians	Hebrews
Philemon	Matthew

*If you change
from inhumanity
to almsgiving,
you have
stretched forth
the hand that
was withered. If
you withdraw
from theaters
and go to
church, you
have cured the
lame foot. If you
draw back your
eyes from a
harlot ... you
have opened
them when they
were blind ...*

*These are the
greatest
miracles.
St. John
Chrysostom*





Thank you to Nancy N. Coin for her loving dedication for the beauty of our founders well!

God bless you and your green thumb!

“Lord...Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house”

(from a prayer in the Divine Liturgy)

Test Your Faith...

The Church's Services

Across

1. The twenty stanzas into which the Orthodox Psalter is divided.
6. The Service of the preparation of the elements of bread and wine before the Divine Liturgy is known as _____.
10. A hymn of praise consisting of 24 stanzas sung at the Salutations services.

Down

2. This is a short verse from the scriptures, especially the psalms, sung or recited in the Divine Liturgy and other services.
3. A hymn of praise in honor of the Mother of God. In Greek it is called the Megalynarion.
4. A hymn which refers to or praises the Theotokos is known as a _____.
5. A prayer sung by the chanter or choir in honor of the celebrant bishop or presbyter.
7. Another name for the Akathyst Hymn is _____.
8. A liturgical verse or scriptural passage sung or read before the reading of the Epistle
9. These special hymns are sung during the Service of Matins.

Liturgical Items

- | | |
|----------------|---------|
| Blessing Cross | Candles |
| Deacons Doors | Crozier |
| Antimension | Censer |
| Iconostasis | Orlets |
| Tabernacle | Diskos |
| Royal Doors | Spear |
| Exapteriga | Icons |
| Prosphora | Spoon |
| Prothesis | Altar |
| Trikirion | Aer |
| Antidoron | |
| Asterisk | |
| Cathedra | |
| Dikiron | |
| Chalice | |

