

The Good News

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2019

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

October is here, fall is in the air, and all the creepy and spooky things are on full display. Every October I find myself having conversations about Halloween and if/how we as Orthodox Christian should be participating. My feelings on this have changed a little as I have grown into my ministry, however at the center of this conversation lies a message from the book of Proverbs which is very popular with the spiritual fathers of our church: "Guard your heart". I feel this expression best encapsulates my current views of the peculiar observances of Halloween this month.

To guard your heart is to realize that what you see cannot be unseen, what you say cannot be unsaid, what you hear cannot be unheard, and what you do cannot be undone. Normally this is a cause for joy and glorifying God. I do not wish to unsee icons, unhear hymns, or forget any of the beauty of the world I have experienced. There are, of course, two sides to this thought, and during this time of year we are especially bombarded with images that cannot be unseen. What effect do these gory, violent, suspenseful, or demonic representations have on us or our hearts? How does participating in this type of culture benefit our spiritual lives? I believe it does not. These things not only waste our time, but also provide a disservice for us on our faith walk by allowing for moments where our heart is not guarded.

When the church fathers speak to this idea, they more commonly refer to it as "guarding our thoughts". Truly these two ideas go hand in hand. It is by guarding our thoughts that we guard our hearts. St. Paisios of Mt. Athos warns that our thoughts are like airplanes and our head is the airport. We should encourage certain good and helpful thoughts to land, while waving bad and unhelpful thoughts past without allowing them to land. As we go about our lives we should constantly be aware of this process of thoughts flying overhead, being ever vigilant of our task in the flight control tower actively deciding what things we want in our lives and which do not belong.

Which leads me back to the conundrum I am faced with during this time year. On one hand I am allowed this opportunity to cheerfully greet our neighborhood children as they go door to door collecting treats, but on the other I actively choose to avoid the scary movies, costumes, and haunted houses that are not a reflection of who I am and the type of Christian life I am trying to live for myself and as an example to the world. So brothers and sisters, I encourage us all, at all times of the year to guard our thoughts and our hearts from all things evil and unbeneficial to our salvation.

The Wise Heart

- ¹⁹ My son, give heed to my word
And incline your ear to my words,
²⁰ That your fountains may not fail you;
Guard them in your heart;
²¹ For they are life to those who find them
And healing for all their flesh.
²² **Keep your heart with all watchfulness,
For from these words are the issues of life.**
²³ Put away from yourself a crooked mouth
And remove unrighteous lips far from you.
²⁴ Let your eyes look straight forward,
And let your eyelids assent to righteous things.
²⁵ Make straight paths for your feet
And direct your ways aright.
²⁶ Do not turn aside to the right or to the left,
But turn your foot from an evil way;
²⁷ For God knows the ways on the right hand,
But those on the left are perverse;
²⁸ And He shall make your paths straight
And guide your steps in peace.

-Proverbs 4:19-28

AFR Thomas

October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Note: Sunday Liturgy 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Assumption)</p>	<p>The Holy Protection of the Theotokos 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption</p>	<p>Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Koulourakia Baking (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Small Paraklesis (Assumption)</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Koulourakia Baking (Assumption) 6:00 pm Great Vespers (Assumption)</p>
<p>3rd Sunday of Luke Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	7	8	<p>Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 10:30 a.m. Spanakopita Folding (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Spanakopita Folding (Assumption)</p>	<p>10:30 a.m. Spanakopita Folding (Assumption) 2:00 p.m. Quad Cities Orthodox Christian Youth Group trip to the Corn Crib 6:00 pm Great Vespers (Assumption)</p>
<p>Sunday of the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	14	15	<p>Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>Fast Day Saint Luke the Evangelist 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George Church 6:00 p.m. Small Paraklesis (Assumption)</p>	<p>6:00 pm Great Vespers (Assumption)</p>
<p>6th Sunday of Luke Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	21	22	<p>Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George) Evening Meal</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Pastichio Baking (Assumption)</p>	<p>Feast Day of Saint Demetrios 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Assumption Church 9:00 a.m. Pastichio Baking (Assumption)</p>
<p>7th Sunday of Luke Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	28	29	<p>Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>		

Epistle Readers	Parish Council Sunday Duty
Sunday, October 6, 2019	Sunday, October 6, 2019
3rd Sunday of Luke	Nick Coin,
Alexa Florence	John Mekus,
Sunday, October 13, 2019	Dennis Spurgetis and
The Sunday of the Fathers	Diana Spurgetis
Ethan Kirkpatrick	Sunday, October 13, 2019
Sunday, October 20, 2019	Joe Burmeister,
6th Sunday of Luke	Mary Kay Eckert,
Loukia Constanti-	Gus Pappas
nides	and Mary Rankin
Sunday, October 27, 2019	Sunday, October 20, 2019
7th Sunday of Luke	Mariellen Crosson,
Calvin Schneider	Doug Kenyon and
	Ted Pitsoulakis
	Sunday, October 27, 2019
	Nick Coin,
	John Mekus,
	Dennis Spurgetis and
	Diana Spurgetis

EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

October 23, 2019: Mary and Bill Rankin.

**November 13, 2019 Deacon Paul and
Diakonissa Romilie**

**December 12, 2019 Candice Kalman/Jason
and Andrew Leon**

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

Coffee Hour Hosts for October 2019

Sunday, October 6, 2019: Open

Sunday, October 13, 2019:

The Pitsoulakis Family

Sunday, October 20, 2019:

Elizabeth Teros

Sunday, October 27, 2019:

Elaine Burmeister/

Joe and Hilary Burmeister

Prospora Baking Schedule for October 2019

Sunday, October 6, 2019:

Mary Kay Eckert

Sunday, October 13, 2019: Open

Sunday, October 20, 2019:

Georgjean Pitsoulakis

Sunday, October 27, 2019:

Marcia Allen

ORTHODOX STUDY FORUM

Come and join us as we look into the inner meaning of the Scriptural texts and see how they apply with the teachings of the Fathers, the Tradition of the Church and with our lives today. Join us also as we examine the traditions of the Church and compare them with what our parents taught us. We meet every Wednesday Morning at 10:00 a.m. beginning on Wednesday October 2, 2019 and Thursday evenings beginning on October 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. so bring your Bibles, your questions and your friends as we begin our Orthodox Study Forum.

Assumption Corner - October 2019

Continued: Assumption Steward Check Ins with Father Thomas

At the request of the parish council Fr. Thomas is continuing to meet with as many of you as possible. October is the final month for scheduling meetings so that a presentation can be made at our November general assembly. This will give everyone an opportunity to offer their views on our church as we look towards the future. Please schedule a time directly with father Thomas.

ICON Charities Collection: St. Thomas - October 6th

There will be a free will offering on Sunday, October 6th during coffee hour with proceeds going to ICON Charities, which will be used to fund programs in India, the see of St. Thomas the Apostle. ICON is a locally run Indian Orthodox Charity.

Iconography Presentation - October 12

Open to anyone interested, Fr. Thomas will be offering a presentation on iconography at Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday October 12th.
More information in the included flyer.

Youth Event: Pumpkin Patch - October 12

A Quad Cities Orthodox Christian Youth Groups event is being held on Saturday October 12th. All families welcome, see included flyer from more information.

Philoptochos News: Meeting - October 13

Philoptochos will be having their monthly meeting after church on Sunday, October 13th. Also please keep an eye on the calendar for all of our baking days, and help when you can. Any level of baker is welcome on baking days!

Altar Boy Retreat - October 18-20

All high school aged altar servers are encouraged!

Next Food Fest: November 2nd

Save the Date! Please see the included flyer for more information!
Volunteer sign-ups will be happening soon, please consider offering your time!

OCTOBER
18-20



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago
Altar Boy Retreat

@ the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center

HIGH SCHOOL ALTAR BOYS FROM OUR ENTIRE METROPOLIS ARE INVITED OCTOBER 18-20 TO OUR ALTAR BOY RETREAT AT THE ST. IAKOVOS RETREAT CENTER. THE WEEKEND, THEMED, "IN GOD'S GLORY" WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS, ACTIVITIES, AND A SERVICE PROJECT ON THE CHAPEL AT THE RETREAT CENTER. THE RETREAT BEGINS FRIDAY NIGHT AT 7PM AND CONCLUDES SUNDAY AT 1PM. ONLY 36 SPOTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS RETREAT. NEEDS-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE BY REQUEST.

WHAT: METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO ALTAR BOY RETREAT (HS ONLY)

WHEN: OCT 18-20, ST. IAKOVOS RETREAT CENTER (7PM FRI-2PM SUN)

REGISTRATION:

- DEADLINE: FRI, 10/11
- COST: \$175/PERSON (CARD PAYMENTS @ CHICAGO.GOARCH.ORG, OR CHECKS PAYABLE TO 'METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO' SENT TO: PO BOX 507, ELK GROVE VILLAGE, IL 60009)

Registration Link:
<https://bit.ly/2kpaP31>

Homemade Greek Food and Pastries

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

Saturday, November 2 11 am - 8 pm

Dine In or Carry Out



Pastitsio
Greek Salad
Gyros
Dolmathes
Baklava
Souvlaki



PLUS
Lamb
Greek Chicken
Spanakopita
Galaktobouriko



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
Fellowship Hall
4900 Kennedy Drive, East Moline, IL
(309) 792-2912

OCTOBER YOUTH EVENT

Quad Cities Orthodox Christian
Youth Group

Meet us at the

CORN CRIB

October 12th 2pm-5pm

6924 US-150 Coal Valley, IL

\$5 per person
0-3 free

Join us for a group hay ride,
bouncy house, tetherline,
zip line, cow roping,
human hamster wheel,
and barrel train.

Iconography: An aid to our spiritual journeys

- What is iconography?
- What can it say to Christians today?
- What can believers learn from this ancient tradition?

Find out by attending:

“Icons as Windows Into Heaven”

Featuring
Rev. Thomas Alatzakis,
priest at Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church, East Moline

When: 8:30 a.m.-noon,
Saturday, Oct. 12

Where: Grace Lutheran Church,
1140 E. High St., Davenport

Cost: **Free** to all



**Enhance your
faith walk!**

**Register today
by calling
Grace Lutheran Church
at 563-322-0769**

Dionysios the Areopagite (October 3)

This Saint was from Athens, a learned man, and a member of the famous judicial court of Mars Hill (in Greek Aros Pagos, hence the name Areopagite (see Acts 17:19-34). When Saint Paul preached in Athens, he was one of the first there to believe in Christ, and, according to some, became the first bishop of that

city. Others say -- and this may be more probable--that he was the second Bishop of Athens, after Saint Hierotheus, whom Dionysios calls his friend and teacher "after Paul" (On the Divine Names, 3:2). With Saint Hierotheus he was also present at the Dormition of the most holy Theotokos; the Doxasticon

of the Aposticha for the service of the Dormition is partly taken from a passage in Chapter III of On the Divine Names. According to ancient tradition, he received a martyr's end (according to some, in Athens itself) about the year 96

John the Wonderworker of Kronstadt (October 19)

Saint John of Kronstadt was a married priest, who lived with his wife in virginity. Through his untiring labours in his priestly duties and love for the poor and sinners, he was granted by our Lord great gifts of clairvoyance and miracle-working, to such a degree that in the last years of his life miracles of healing--both of body and soul--were performed countless times each day through his prayers, often for people who had only written to

him asking his help. During his lifetime he was known throughout Russia, as well as in the Western world. He has left us his diary My Life in Christ as a spiritual treasure for Christians of every age; simple in language, it expounds the deepest mysteries of our Faith with that wisdom which is given only to a heart purified by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Foreseeing as a true prophet the Revolution of 1917, he unsparingly rebuked

the growing apostasy among the people; he foretold that the very name of Russia would be changed. As the darkness of unbelief grew thicker, he shone forth as a beacon of unquenchable piety, comforting the faithful through the many miracles that he worked and the fatherly love and simplicity with which he received all. Saint John reposed in peace in 1908.

The Holy Great Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer (October 26)

Saint Demetrius was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty

because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrius', came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrius, help me!" and straight-

way he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded straightway and Demetrius was pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house, As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.