

The Good News

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 9

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PASTORAL MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How many of us ever tried to join a club? In most clubs there are certain rules and regulations that we must follow in order to become members. We either have to give money or wear certain kinds of clothes or do many other things so that we can fit in. And the sad thing is sometimes we go through all these hoops and yet we are still denied entrance into the club. The Church also demands that those who will be members fulfill certain responsibilities. My brothers and sisters in the Lord, the readings of the Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross tell us what these responsibilities are. They are faith and love. Let us take a few moments to discuss these awesome responsibilities and to see how we can fulfill them.

“Whoever desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.” (Gospel) Self-denial

This message was both to the people and to the disciples. The disciples lead people yet are part of the people of God. There are no special rules for leaders vs. those led. What should we deny? Not good things, but: sins, the predisposition towards evil and evil passions and desires. In other words, put to death the old man. Old man is separated both from God and from his fellow man. In fact he lives in death. The old man died in baptism, yet we resurrect him when we sin. We must get rid of him. This has to be voluntary since God does not force us. Instead, we are called to good things, not evil. We are called for reward not punishment. Yet man is free to choose.

What are the ramifications of this? The Christian life is not a bowl of cherries. St. John Chrysostom tells us “for although it be in my power, as Son of God, to hinder you from having any trial at all of those hardships, yet such is not my will for your sake, that you may yourself contribute something and be more approved.’ God does not smooth everything over for us nor does He remove trials and tribulations from our lives. Rather, God does explain the cost of discipleship which is self-denial, carrying one’s cross (that is suffering), and obedience to Christ.

“If it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not!” (St. Paul) repentance

What is repentance? Metanoia or change of mind involves real change and not simply going through motions. Why? It is because we fall short. Man is called to grow in image and likeness and to imitate God’s life. C. S. Lewis in his book the Screwtape Letters tells us: He (God) really wants to fill the universe with a lot of...little replicas of himself—creatures whose life, on a miniature scale will be like...His... (He)...really wants a world of beings united to Him but still distinct. We decided to do things our way yet we need to do things God’s way. When should we start? Now! After death it will be too late! We do not know the time of our death. In this life Christ grants us mercy and grace. In the next life Christ grants only judgment! Christ can forgive easily because he is Son of God, and as such has the authority to forgive sins, because he is the Son of Man, and was tempted like us.

How do we apply this to our lives? First through Prayer, which is communication with God and thus links us to Church and fellow man through God. It is an important element to Christianity which makes us realize that there are others besides us. Second through fasting which restores our relationship between our body and soul and restores our relationship with God, our fellow man and nature. It makes us realize we are not the most important things in the universe. Thirdly receiving Holy Communion brings us into union with God and saints and indeed makes us part of Christ. It is the defining characteristic of Christianity!

So we can see then that Christ calls us to follow him. To truly follow him we must deny ourselves. More accurately, we must deny the part of ourselves that was added on, that is sin. Having severed our evil dispositions we may approach the great mercy seat of Christ and be cleansed of our stains. This becomes easier knowing that Christ is indeed one of us and underwent temptation. He lived the life that he calls us to live and for that, reason can be merciful, because he knows how tough that life is. We approach the seat of mercy by using the tools that he provided us. These tools are prayer, fasting and Holy Communion. Let us then not overlook this great mercy that is given us to approach the mercy seat of Christ. For we know not the day or the hour of our death. Let us then take up our cross and follow Him. Let us not rebuild what we tore down. Let us rather persevere in the struggle so that we may join Saint Paul in saying, “It is not I who lives, but Christ who lives in me”.

In His Service

Fr. Michael Constantinides

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday of the Indiction Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) +Sacrament (Saint George)	2 Labor Day Office Closed Rock Island Labor Day Parade (Saint George)	3 Church Parking lot closed Due to construction; September 3rd-7th (Assumption) Festival set up and preparation all week! (Saint George)	4 Fast Day	5 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Romans 15 (Assumption)	6 Fast Day Greek Fest 4:00 p.m.– 11:00 p.m. (Saint George)	7 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Saint Elias in Dubuque, IA (Fr. Peter to Serve) Greek Fest 11:00 a.m.– 11:00 p.m. (Saint George)
8 The Nativity of the Theotokos/ Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Dress-Down Sunday Festival Clean up following the Divine Liturgy (Saint George)	9	10	11 Fast Day	12 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Romans 15 (Assumption)	13 Fast Day 3:30 p.m. Senior Outing (Saint George)	14 The Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Please note: The procession of the Holy Cross will occur following Orthros as is the ancient tradition and not the Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 6:00 pm Great Vespers (Assumption)
15 Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School begins following Holy Communion "Back to School Bash" at the Assumption Church following Sunday School classes	16 6:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (Assumption)	17 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (Saint George)	18 Fast Day	19 10:00 a.m. Bible Study Romans 16 (Assumption)	20 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Small Paraklesis (Assumption)	21 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Prophet Elias in Dubuque (Fr. Thomas to Serve) 6:00 pm Great Vespers (Assumption) Wine Tasting 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. (Saint George)
22 1st Sunday of Luke Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School following Holy Communion Start of year Agiasmos for Sunday School (Saint George)	23	24	25 Fast Day Evening Meal	26	27 Fast Day	28
29 2nd Sunday of Luke Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George)	30	Note Beginning September 15, 2019: 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)	Metropolis Assembly in Minneapolis, MN	Metropolis Assembly in Minneapolis, MN	Metropolis Assembly in Minneapolis, MN	Metropolis Assembly in Minneapolis, MN

Epistle Readers

**Sunday, September 1,
2019**

**The Indiction
Alexa Florence**

**Sunday, September 8,
2019**

**The Sunday before
the Cross**

**Ethan Kirkpatrick
Sunday, September
15, 2019**

**Sunday after the
Cross**

**Loukia Constantinides
Sunday, September
22, 2019**

**1st Sunday of Luke
Isabella Elias**

**Sunday, September
29, 2019**

**2nd Sunday of Luke
Scot Johnson**

Parish Council Sunday Duty

**Sunday, September 1,
2019**

**Joe Burmeister,
Mary Kay Eckert,
Gus Pappas and
Mary Rankin**

**Sunday, September 8,
2019**

**Mariellen Crosson,
Doug Kenyon
and Ted Pitsoulakis**

**Sunday, September 15,
2019**

**Nick Coin,
John Mekus,**

**Dennis Spurgetis and
Diana Spurgetis
Sunday, September 22,
2019**

**Joe Burmeister,
Mary Kay Eckert,
Gus Pappas
and Mary Rankin**

**Sunday, September 29,
2019**

**Mariellen Crosson,
Doug Kenyon
and Ted Pitsoulakis**

IT'S COOKIE DAY AT
STAVRO LOGOS
ST. GEORGE BOOKSTORE
SUNDAY, 9/22/19, \$3.00 A DOZEN
PLUS – ½ PRICE SALE ON SELECT ITEMS



Memorials for September

**September 1, 2019
Irene Theodore
(6 months)**

**Demetrios Theodore
(18 years)**

**September 15, 2019
Vasilios Govostis
(3 months)**

**Constantine
Kalimeras
(2 Years)**

**Demetrios Kappas
(10 years)**

**September 22, 2019
Jenny Joannides
(1 Year)**

**September 29, 2019
Pat Grevas (1 year)**

EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

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

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.**

Prospora Baking Schedule for September
2019

Coffee Hour Hosts for September 2019

**Sunday, September 1,
2019: Mary Kay Eckert
Sunday, September 8,
2019: Diane Breckon
Sunday, September 15,
2019: Patti Kenyon
Sunday, September 22,
2019: Lina Assaf
Sunday, September 29,
2019: Lina Assaf**

**Sunday, September 1,
2019: Veronica Tolescu
Sunday, September 8,
2019: Diane Breckon
Sunday, September 15,
2019: Presbyteria Maria
Sunday, September 22,
2019: Candice Kalman
Sunday, September 29,
2019: Angela Spurgetis
in honor of Collette's
Birthday**

Assumption Corner - September 2019

Feast Day and Centennial Events

A Huge thank you to all those who helped make our centennial week a wonderful experience that would not have been possible without the planning, help, support and participation of so many, thank you!

Please Pardon our Dust - Construction at Assumption

As you may noticed, 3 different projects are going on to keep our facilities in good shape. The retaining wall along the northern property line has been rebuilt. (thankyou to all those who helped with the construction). The roof is in the process of being completely recovered over the classrooms, the fellowship hall, and the kitchen. And finally, **from the 3rd-6th of September the parking lot will be resurfaced. So keep in mind the church will only be accessible by parking across the street on those days as the work**

Assumption Steward Check Ins with Father Thomas

At the request of the parish council Fr. Thomas is hoping to meet with as many of you as possible over the next few months. This will give everyone an opportunity to offer their views on our church as we look towards the future. There will be opportunities to meet on Sundays, but weekdays are preferred. Please schedule a time directly with father Thomas.

Church School Resumes September 15th

Church school classes resume on September 15th with 2019-2020 school year! Sunday school is open to all children prek-12th grade. This year our first day of church school will be accompanied by a Quad-Cities wide back to school back at Assumption after church. (More information in the included Flier)

Bake Sale - Baking begins this month

Keep an eye our for baking days as Philoptochos' Annual Holiday bake sale preparation begin in September!

Festival Update - Next Food Fest: November 2nd

Every army needs a general, and our food fests cannot continue without a chairman . Anyone interested in chairing the festivals needs to speak with a parish council member or Fr. Thomas ASAP!

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:



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

AUTHENTIC
GREEK
FOOD

OUR
**BIG
FAT
GREEK**
WINE TASTING



Presented & Sponsored by
Dimitri Wine & Spirits, Inc.

Admission: \$45 at door \$35 purchased in advance



**Saturday
September 21, 2019
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

2930 31st Avenue Rock Island, Illinois 309-786-8163



**Quad Cities Orthodox
Christian Youth Group**

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

September 15

**Following Sunday
School**

**Assumption
Greek Orthodox
Church**

4900 Kennedy Drive
East Moline

We invite all Orthodox youth in the QC to come out for a fun time! Let's start off the school year with a bash! We plan to have a bouncy house for the younger kids, and yard games for the older kids. Lunch will be provided. There will also be an ice cream Sundae bar!

Sponsored By Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, St. George Greek Orthodox Church, and St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

Please ask to join our facebook page @Quad Cities Orthodox Christian Youth Group