

THE TROPHYBEARER

Pastoral Thoughts

We are, as C.S. Lewis wrote, psychosomatic beings; that is to say, we are bodies and souls. On the one hand, our souls long for connection with the divine, with something above and beyond this physical realm. We define that transcendent something in different ways, we human beings; but we long for there to be something more than what we can measure and sense.

On the other hand, we are of the material world. We must take in nutrients to live. We must breathe oxygen, and oxygen only in its gaseous state under specific circumstances. Liquid oxygen, and oxygen bound to hydrogen and constituting water, are of no use, indeed, of positive harm too, our lungs.

We live in a narrow range of temperature ranges and atmospheric pressures. We respond physically to our environment.

We live in a rhythm of daily changes and cycles. Our sleep becomes lighter and lighter, and we awaken. We reach our energetic maximum and go to our tasks for the day. We 'wind down' and rest, it is to be hoped, in the evening, and return to sleep. We in fact can die without sleep.

The Church knows our physical selves, by revelation, and, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, prepares us for the joy of Easter by building to it. The hymnology and services, the symbols and disciplines, tire us. Not in a negative sense, but in the sense that good work done tires us.

There is a tiredness that comes from fruitless labor, from tension and struggle that seems never to end. That is not the sort of tiredness for which we are intended in Lent. We are intended for that tiredness that comes from a job well done, for meaningful labor leading to accomplishment.

Lent is a time of struggle, but it is the struggle against evil and for good, struggle with a mission, struggle with a goal. We are in training, in boot camp, if you will. We are training to hone ourselves into the persons most ready for that mission, to be the light of the world.

In the light of the resurrection, the path will be seen as light, as joy, as the journey to the most blessed place. The darkness will go, the training will go, we will revel in the resurrection of our most beloved Jesus. All the effort will have been worth it, turned into glorious struggle and righteous work by the result.

The things we treasure most in life are usually hard won. That is the way we are made, to strive for the best. This Lent, we have this golden opportunity to come together for worship, for prayer and study, and to train ourselves for the moment we can cry out with exhaustion and with joy, 'Christ is Risen'!

The time to train is now, the opportunity is now. There is no time to waste.



This issue:

Pastoral Thoughts

PAGE 01

Epistle Readers

PAGE 02

Parish Council Groups

PAGE 02

Evening Meal Volunteers

PAGE 02

Prospora Makers/Coffee
Social Hosts

PAGE 02

Lives of the Saints

PAGE 03

Church Calendar

PAGE 04

PARISH NEWS

Epistle Readers

Anyone wishing to become an Epistle Reader, Please
Contact Father Michael

Sunday, April 6, 2025: Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt: Mary Rankin

Sunday, April 13, 2025: Palm Sunday: Alexa Florence

Sunday, April 20, 2025: Holy Pascha: Harry Coin

Sunday, April 27, 2025: Sunday of Thomas: Kim Eastland

Evening Meal Volunteers

April 23, 2025: Kathy and Kevin Begyn

May 28, 2025: Dennis and Nancy Spurgetis

June 25, 2025: Father Michael, Presbyteria Maria and Patti Kenyon

July 23, 2025: Penny McGimpsey and Angela Spurgetis

August 27, 2025: Mary and Kim Winters and George and Diane Karoules

September 24, 2025: Dena Manta and Alexa Florence

October 22, 2025: Randy and Chris Smith

November 20, 2025: (Thursday) Ted Pitsoulakis and Jimmy Pliakos

December 18, 2025: (Thursday) Deacon Paul and Deaconess Romilie Speed

Anyone interested in taking part in this worthwhile ministry should contact
Mary Winters at 563-726- 2880

Parish Council Sunday Duty Schedule

Sunday, April 6, 2025: Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and
Pete Hadjis

Sunday, April 13, 2025: Palm Sunday (All Groups)

Sunday, April 20, 2025: Pascha (All Groups)

Sunday, April 27, 2025: Kim Eastland, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, and
Ted Pitsoulakis

Parish Registry

40-Day Blessing: Anna Josephine, daughter of Antonia and Corey Faulhaber
was churches on March 16, 2025

PROSPHORA MAKERS

Sunday, April 6, 2025:
Open

Sunday, April 13, 2025:
Open

Sunday, April 20, 2025:
Open

Sunday, April 27, 2025:
Open

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sunday, April 6, 2025:
Steve and Mary Kay Eckert
Sunday, April 13, 2025:
Jorg and Basema Alias
Sunday, April 20, 2025:
Holy Pascha/No Coffee Hour
Sunday, April 27, 2025:
Cathy Farrell

HOLY WEEK DONATIONS

If you wish to give anything from
our donation list, the following is
available:

Bay Leaves/Palms: \$600.00

Carnations/Flower Petals:
\$350.00

12 Candles for the 12 Gospels:
\$80.00

Clergy Paschal Candles: \$200.00

Please call the Church office and
speak with Fr. Michael to find out
what is available.

Thank you for your constant love
and support!

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

5th Sunday of Lent (April 6)

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is recorded. Since the end of the holy Forty Days is drawing nigh, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty-seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in very deed.

Saturday of Lazarus (April 12)

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village in Judea. This village is situated in the eastern parts by the foothills of the Mount of Olives, about two Roman miles from Jerusalem. When Lazarus - whose name is a Hellenized form of "Eleazar," which means "God has helped," became ill some days before the saving Passion, his sisters had this report taken to our Saviour, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He tarried yet two more days until Lazarus died; then He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea that I might awake My friend who sleepeth." By this, of course, He meant the deep sleep of death. On arriving at Bethany, He consoled the sisters of Lazarus, who was already four days dead. Jesus groaned in spirit and was troubled at the death of His beloved friend. He asked, "Where have ye laid his body?" and He wept over him. When He drew nigh to the tomb, He commanded that they remove the stone, and He lifted up His eyes, and giving thanks to God the Father, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And he that had been dead four days came forth immediately, bound hand and foot with the grave clothes, and Jesus said to those standing there, "Loose him, and let him go." This is the supernatural wonder wrought by the Saviour that we celebrate on this day.

According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealing a clay vessel, he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: "Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ." In 890 his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise, at which time undoubtedly the Emperor composed his stichera for Vespers, "Wishing to behold the tomb of Lazarus . . ."

Palm Sunday (April 13)

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

HOLY FRIDAY (APRIL 18)

When Friday dawned, Christ was sent bound from Caiaphas to Pontius Pilate, who was then Governor of Judea. Pilate interrogated Him in many ways, and once and again acknowledged that He was innocent, but to please the Jews, he later passed the sentence of death against Him. After scourging the Lord of all as though He were a runaway slave, he surrendered Him to be crucified.

Thus the Lord Jesus was handed over to the soldiers, was stripped of His garments, was clothed in a purple robe, was crowned with a wreath of thorns, had a reed placed in His hand as though it were a sceptre, was bowed before in mockery, was spat upon, and was buffeted in the face and on the head. Then they again clothed Him in His own garments, and bearing the cross, He came to Golgotha, a place of condemnation, and there, about the third hour, He was crucified between two thieves. Although both blasphemed Him at the first, the thief at His right hand repented, and said: "Remember me, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom," to which our Saviour answered, "Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." As He hung upon the Cross, He was blasphemed by those who were passing by, was mocked by the high priests, and by the soldiers was given vinegar to drink mixed with gall. About the ninth hour, He cried out with a loud voice, saying, "It is finished." And the Lamb of God "Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) expired on the day when the moon was full, and at the hour when, according to the Law, was slain the Passover lamb, which was established as a type of Him in the time of Moses.

Even lifeless creation mourned the death of the Master, and it trembled and was altered out of fear. Yet, even though the Maker of creation was already dead, they pierced Him in His immaculate side, and forthwith came there out Blood and Water. Finally, at about the setting of the sun, Joseph of Arimathea came with Nicodemus (both of them had been secret disciples of Jesus), and they took down the all-holy Body of the Teacher from the Cross and anointed it with aromatic spices, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. When they had buried Him in a new tomb, they rolled a great stone over its entrance. Such are the dread and saving sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ commemorated today, and in remembrance of them, we have received the Apostolic commandment that a fast be observed every Friday.

Change for Change **Challenge**

From Sunday, March 9 to Good Friday, April 18, 2025, The Philoptochos Society is again asking parishioners to help fill a milk jug to benefit a local charity. This year proceeds will go to ***Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley***. This organization's mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. **The Philoptochos will match the donations up to \$300.** So *change your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters into something that can help change the lives of those in need.*



2025 Saint George Pascha Potluck Dinner

Come join us following AGAPE Vespers for a wonderful Lamb dinner provided by St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

Everyone brings something along with them and we share in the truest sense of Christians.



Good Music

Fun fellowship

Foods from all around the world.

Join us for the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church annual

PASCHA POTLUCK DINNER



SAINT GEORGE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



On Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., we will celebrate Great Vespers for the feast of Saint George.

Following Great Vespers will be a coffee reception

Then, on Wednesday, April 23, 2023, we will celebrate the feast day of The Great Martyr George the Trophybearer with Orthros at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

Immediately following Divine Liturgy a Luncheon Buffet for all those in attendance.

All are invited to join us in celebration of the Great Martyr George.

Come and enjoy a day of celebration honoring our Great Saint.



LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK **NEEDS**

If you wish to give anything from our donation list, the following is available:

Bay Leaves/Palms: \$600.00

Carnations/Flower Petals: \$350.00

Clergy Paschal Candles: \$200.00

8 Lillies: \$10.00 each

Please call the Church office and speak with Fr. Michael to find out what is available.

Thank You for your constant love and support!

2025 CHURCH CALENDAR/HOLY WEEK/PASCHA

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

APRIL 12, 2025

8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 13, 2025

8:30 a.m. Orthros

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Service of the Bridegroom

GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY

APRIL 14, 2025

7:00 p.m. Service of the Bridegroom

GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY

APRIL 15, 2025

7:00 p.m. Service of the Bridegroom

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY

APRIL 16, 2025

3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Unction

7:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Thursday and Anointing with Holy Unction

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY

APRIL 17, 2025

9:00 a.m. Vespersal Divine Liturgy

7:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Friday

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

APRIL 18, 2025

9:00 a.m. Royal Hours

3:00 p.m. Apokathelosis

7:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Saturday

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 19, 2025

9:00 a.m. Vespersal Divine Liturgy

11:00 p.m. Holy Resurrection Vigil

HOLY AND GREAT PASCHA

April 20, 2025

11:00 a.m. Agape Vespers

Followed by our Pot-luck Dinner

BRIGHT TUESDAY

EVE OF SAINT GEORGE

APRIL 22, 2025

6:00 p.m. Great Vespers followed by a coffee reception

BRIGHT WEDNESDAY

FEAST-DAY OF SAINT GEORGE

APRIL 23, 2025

8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy w/Artoclasia
Luncheon

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Fast Day	2 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy	3 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras (join us either in person (in our parish library) or via zoom.	4 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. The Akathyst Hymn	5 Oil and Wine Allowed
6 4th Sunday of Lent Sunday of Saint John Climacus Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes following Holy Communion	7 Fast Day	8 Fast Day	9 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	10 Fast Day	11 Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Women's Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	12 Saturday of Lazarus Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
13 Palm Sunday Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	14 Holy Monday Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	15 Holy Tuesday Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	16 Holy Wednesday Fast Day 3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Unction 7:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Thursday and Anointing with Holy Unction	17 Holy Thursday Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Friday	18 Holy Friday Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours 3:00 p.m. Apokathelosis 7:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Saturday	19 Holy Saturday Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy 11:00 p.m. Holy Resurrection Vigil
20 Holy Pascha Fast Free 11:00 a.m. Agape Vespers Luncheon to follow!	21 Fast Free	22 Eve of Saint George Fast Free 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers Reception to follow	23 Feast Day of Saint George Fast Free 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy Luncheon to follow! Evening Meal	24 Fast Free	25 Fast Free	26 Fast Free
27 Sunday of Thomas 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes follow Holy Communion	28	29	30 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum			