

THE TROPHYBEARER

Pastoral Thoughts

Following the great feast of Pentecost, the Church gives us two beautiful celebrations: the Sunday of All Saints and the feast of the holy Apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Together, these feasts reveal the power of the Holy Spirit at work in human lives.

On the Sunday of All Saints, we honor the countless faithful who became holy through repentance, prayer, humility, and love for Christ. The saints came from every walk of life—martyrs, pastors, monastics, mothers, fathers, workers, and former sinners. Their lives remind us that holiness is not reserved for a few but is the calling of every Christian.

Saints Peter and Paul stand among the greatest examples of this transformation. Peter, though he denied Christ in fear, became the bold shepherd of the Church. Paul, once a persecutor of Christians, became the great apostle to the nations. Their lives show us that God does not seek perfect people but hearts willing to repent and follow Him faithfully.

These feasts also speak powerfully to our own time. In a world filled with distraction, pride, and division, the saints call us to live with faith, humility, courage, and love. They remind us that true holiness is found not in worldly success but in communion with Christ.

As we honor All Saints and the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, let us ask for their prayers and strive to imitate their faithfulness. May the same Holy Spirit who strengthened them guide us also, so that we may grow in holiness and glorify God in all things. Amen.



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 08

PARISH NEWS

Epistle Readers

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

Sunday, June 7, 2026: All-Saints: Kim Eastland
Sunday, June 14, 2026: 2nd Sunday of Matthew: Harry Coin
Sunday, June 21, 2026: 3rd Sunday of Matthew: Mary Rankin
Sunday, June 28, 2026: 4th Sunday of Matthew: Eric Reyes

Evening Meal Volunteers

June 24, 2026: Fr. Michael and Presbytera Maria Constantinides / Doug and Patti Kenyon
July 22, 2026: Penny McGimpsey / Angela Spurgetis
August 26, 2026: Kim and Mary Winters / George and Diane Karoules
September 23, 2026: Dena Manta / Alexa Florence
October 28, 2026: Randy and Chris Smith
(Thursday) November 19, 2026: Ted Pitsoulakis / Jimmy Pliakos
(Thursday) December 17, 2026: Deacon Paul / Deaconess Romilie

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

Parish Council Sunday Duty Schedule

Sunday, June 7, 2026: Nick Elias, Ted Pitsoulakis, and Dennis Spurgetis
Sunday, June 14, 2026: Joe Burmeister, Mariellen Crosson, Pete Hadjis, Gus Pappas
Sunday, June 21, 2026: Kathy Begyn, Kim Eastland, Mary Kay Eckert, and Mary Rankin.
Sunday, June 28, 2026: Nick Elias, Ted Pitsoulakis, and Dennis Spurgetis

Iconography Class

We are blessed to welcome a gifted iconographer to our Parish for a special week-long Iconography Workshop from July 6–11. This is a unique opportunity to learn the sacred tradition of icon writing in a prayerful and hands-on setting.

The workshop is nearly full, and we only have a few spaces remaining. If you have been considering participating, we encourage you to sign up soon, before the remaining spots fill up. Whether you are an experienced artist or simply feel called to deepen your faith through this beautiful spiritual practice, all are welcome.

Please visit the website to learn more about this amazing experience and reserve your spot.

<https://theodoreicons.com/rock-island>

Host Family Needed

We are also looking for a Parish family willing to host the iconographer and his wife during their stay the week of July 6–11. They are gracious guests, and his wife is a wonderful cook who will gladly prepare authentic Greek meals for the family while they are staying in your home.

Hosting them would be a beautiful opportunity for fellowship, hospitality, and sharing in this special ministry. If you feel called to open your home for the week or would like more information, please get in touch with Marge Stratton at 563-650-8458 or mstratton50@gmail.com. Thank you!

PROSPHORA MAKERS

Sunday, June 7, 2026: Open
Sunday, June 14, 2026: Open
Sunday, June 21, 2026: Open
Sunday, June 28, 2026: Open

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sunday, June 7, 2026:
Mariellen Crosson
Sunday, June 14, 2026:
Patricia Andrews and Marcia
Allen
Sunday, June 21, 2026:
Candice Kalman
Sunday, June 28, 2026: Nick
and Nancy Coin

PARISH REGISTRY

Baptisms

The servant of God Amara Jane (Maria) Teel was baptized into the Orthodox Faith on May 23, 2026, and the sponsor was Hilary Frakes.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Sunday of All Saints (June 7)

Honouring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honourable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we, the pious, honor all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased over time and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year, a common commemoration be held of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour" (Sunday of All Saints, Doxasticon of Vespers).

In this celebration, then, we reverently honour and call blessed all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives. All these, as well as the orders of the Angels, and especially our most holy Lady and Queen, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary, do we honor today, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede on our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy be with us all. Amen.

JUSTIN THE MARTYR AND PHILOSOPHER (JUNE 1)

This Saint, who was from Neapolis of Palestine, was a follower of Plato the philosopher. Born in 103, he came to the Faith of Christ as a mature man, seeking to find God through philosophy and human reason. A venerable elder appeared to him and spoke to him about the Prophets who had taught of God not through their own wisdom, but by revelation; and he led him to knowledge of Christ, who is the fulfillment of what the Prophets taught. Saint Justin soon became a fervent follower of Christ and an illustrious apologist of the Evangelical teachings. To the end of his life, while preaching Christ in all parts, he never put off his philosopher's garb. In Rome, he gave the Emperor Antoninus Pius (reigned 138-161) an apology in which he proved the innocence and holiness of the Christian Faith, persuading him to end the persecution of Christians. Through the machinations of Crescens, a Cynic philosopher who envied him, Saint Justin was beheaded in Rome in 167 under Antoninus' successor, Marcus Aurelius (reigned 161-180). Besides his defense of Christianity (First and Second Apologies), Saint Justin wrote against paganism (Discourse to the Greeks, Hortatory Address to the Greeks), and refuted Jewish objections against Christ (Dialogue with Trypho).

THE SYNAXIS OF THE 12 APOSTLES (JUNE 30)

The names of the Twelve Apostles are these: Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew, the First-called; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who was also the Evangelist and Theologian; Philip, and Bartholomew (see also June 11); Thomas, and Matthew the publican, who was also called Levi and was an Evangelist; James the son of Alphaeus, and Jude (also called Lebbaeus, and surnamed Thaddaeus), the brother of James, the Brother of God; Simon the Cananite ("the Zealot"), and Matthias, who was elected to fill the place of Judas the traitor (see Aug. 9)

Icon Painting Workshop St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Experience the unique spiritual world of the Byzantine Era through icon painting

July 6-11, 2026
St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Rock Island, Illinois



Join us on this six day intensive course under the direction of visiting master iconographer and expert instructor Theodoros Papadopoulos from Greece. This Virgin Mary icon will "come alive" as he will guide you step by step, through the ancient techniques of Byzantine Iconography. Let us journey together, discovering anew, this traditional artistic expression of theology and spirituality often called the "meeting place of the Divine". Whether you are beginner or a professional, this workshop offers the opportunity to learn or refine your techniques. The schedule of courses runs daily from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm.

Your tuition fee of \$850 includes all materials including boards, brushes, pigments etc.

Space is limited and early registration is suggested.

For enrollment or information contact Mr Theodoros Papadopoulos at the email: theodoreicons@gmail.com

or visit the website: theodoreicons.com/rock-island

You're Invited!

TO THE FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW
THE PATRON SAINT OF METROPOLITAN NATHANAEAL

JUNE 10, 2026

6:30 PM VESPERS

HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2501 S WOLF RD, WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

JUNE 11, 2026

8:00AM ORTHROS | 9:15AM DIVINE LITURGY

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

1017 N LA SALLE DR, CHICAGO, IL 60610

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



Prota



Class of 2026
Congratulations!
You did great!



On June 14th, we will take a day to honor our graduates here at St. George. Everyone who has or knows someone graduating this year, either from High school or College, should please email their names to Father Michael at frmike99@aol.com no later than Sunday, May 31st.

Include St. George on Your Next Shopping Run!

The last time our St. George parishioners responded enthusiastically to a request to pick up some items needed for the church when on their next Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Office Max or grocery expedition. Generous parishioners provided most of the copier paper, office supplies, paper plates and napkins, toilet paper, paper towels and other items used by the parish last year, resulting in reduced expenditures. For this we thank you all so much!

While throughout the pandemic we have not asked for this help, we are close to exhausting our supply and would like to make this an annual opportunity to share our bounty from God (as well as Bounty from Procter & Gamble)!

Suggested items to donate

Office Supplies:

- Reams of 8 1/2" x 11" copier paper (white)
- Reams of 8 1/2" x 14" copier paper (white)
- Reams of colored paper for Sunday bulletins
- Packages of address labels (size 1" x 2 5/8")

Safety Equipment

Carbon Monoxide detectors

Coffee Hour/Kitchen supplies:

- 8 oz. Styrofoam cups
- Dessert size paper plates
- Paper towels
- Packages of bar mops or towels (Sam's Club has a variety of these)
- Banquet size disposable tablecloths

Restroom Supplies:

- Toilet paper
- Liquid hand soap (small bottles)

Thank you for supporting this effort last year! If you would like your expenditures noted on your end-of-year statement, please enclose copies of your receipts with a note of explanation in an envelope to Mary Rankin and place it on the desk in the main office.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Fast Free	2 Fast Free 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum	3 Fast Free 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	4 Fast Free	5 Fast Free	6 Fast Free
7 Sunday of All-Saints 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	8 Fast of the Apostles Begins Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted	9 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	10 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 6:30 p.m. Great Vespers for the Apostle Bartholomew @ Holy Apostles in Westchester, IL	11 The Feast of the Apostle Bartholomew Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted Name day of our Patriarch Bartholomew Name day of our Metropolitan Nathanael 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago	12 Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Women's Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	13 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted
14 2nd Sunday of Matthew Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Honoring of Graduates	15 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted	16 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted	17 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	18 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted	19 Fast Day	20 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted
21 3rd Sunday of Matthew Father's Day Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	22 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted	23 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum	24 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) Evening Meal	25 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted	26 Fast Day	27 Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted
28 4th Sunday of Matthew Fish, Wine, and Oil Permitted 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	29 Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul	30 Synaxis of the Holy Apostles	1	2		

ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY LAITY CONGRESS