

THE TROPHYBEARER

Pastoral Thoughts

As we gather in this season of Thanksgiving, our hearts are drawn to the words of the Apostle Paul:

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

This single verse holds the heart of our Christian life — gratitude not only for all things, but in all things. It is easy to give thanks when life is peaceful, when our tables are complete, and when we are surrounded by those we love. But the Apostle reminds us that true thanksgiving is not seasonal or conditional — it is a way of life, a continual offering of our hearts to God, whether in joy or in sorrow.

The very center of Orthodox worship is the Divine Liturgy, and the word "Eucharist" itself means thanksgiving. Every time we come to the Liturgy, we stand before the Lord to give thanks — not only for the blessings we see, but for His love, His mercy, and the gift of eternal life that He has bestowed upon us through His Son.

Before we receive Holy Communion, we hear the priest pray: "We give thanks unto Thee also for this ministry, which Thou hast deigned to accept from our hands, even though there stand before Thee thousands of Archangels and tens of thousands of Angels."

Our thanksgiving is not a social custom — it is an act of worship. It is our participation in the heavenly thanksgiving of the angels and saints. Every Liturgy is a Thanksgiving Day, a reminder that gratitude is not merely a feeling, but a spiritual offering.

The saints teach us that gratitude transforms suffering. When St. John Chrysostom was exiled unjustly, his last recorded words were: "Glory to God for all things." These were not the words of a man who had an easy life, but of one who had found peace in Christ — peace that the world cannot give or take away.

When we give thanks in hardship, we declare our faith that God's love is greater than our pain. We affirm that even when we do not understand His plan, we trust that He is working for our salvation.

Gratitude is a form of humility — it acknowledges that everything good we have is a gift, not an entitlement. As St. Isaac the Syrian wrote, "A thankful heart is a vessel of grace." The more we give thanks, the more grace we receive, because gratitude opens the soul to the presence of God.

True thanksgiving also moves us outward — to generosity and compassion. When we realize how richly we have been blessed, we cannot help but share with those in need. After receiving the Eucharist, early Christians would bring food to the poor and visit the sick. Their thanksgiving became love in action.

In this way, our celebration of Thanksgiving is not complete until it bears fruit in mercy — feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, forgiving one another, and giving of ourselves to those who have less.

Let us thank God not only for the food on our tables, but for the faith in our hearts, for the cross and the resurrection, for the Church, for one another, and for the hope of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Let us remember the words of the Divine Liturgy: "Let us give thanks unto the Lord." And the people respond: "It is meet and right."

Yes, it is meet and right — it is fitting and righteous — to give thanks always, in all things, and for all people.

May our lives become a continual Eucharist — a continual thanksgiving — so that, with the saints, we may forever glorify the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



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PARISH NEWS

Epistle Readers for November

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

Sunday, November 2, 2025: 5th Sunday of Luke: Alexa Florence

Sunday, November 9, 2025: 7th Sunday of Luke: Kim Eastland

Sunday, November 16, 2025: Saint Matthew the Evangelist: Aletheia Hadjis

Sunday, November 23, 2025: 9th Sunday of Luke: Harry Coin

Sunday, November 30, 2025: Saint Andrew: Mary Rankin

Evening Meal Volunteers

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 FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 2, 2025: Kim Eastland, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, and Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday, November 9, 2025: Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and Pete Hadjis

Sunday, November 16, 2025: Kathy Begyn, Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis, and Mary Rankin

Sunday, November 23, 2025: Kim Eastland, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, and Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday, November 30, 2025: Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and Pete Hadjis

FALL ASSEMBLY NOTICE

On Sunday, November 23, 2025, 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 2025 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.

PROSPHORA MAKERS

Sunday, November 2, 2025:
Open

Sunday, November 9, 2025:
Adrienne Johnson

Sunday, November 16, 2025:
Open

Sunday, November 23, 2025:
Open

Sunday, November 30, 2025:
Open

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

November 2, 2025:
Marge Stratton
November 9, 2025:
Elizabeth and James
Teros

November 16, 2025:
Vickie Patramanis
November 23, 2025:
Mary Rankin
November 30, 2025:
Connie Zeroth

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Cosmas and Damianos the Holy Unmercenaries and their mother Theodota (November 1)

These Saints were from Asia (that is, Asia Minor). After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother, Theodota, reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue, and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike; because of this, they are called "Unmercenaries." And thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace.

Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & the other Bodiless Powers: Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, & Barachiel (November 8)

All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, - sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Esaias 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honoring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty." The number of Angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of ten thousands attended upon Him -(Dan. 7:10). But all of them are divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist (November 16)

This Apostle, who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel first in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man, one of the symbolic living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1.10), which, as Saint Irenaeus writes, is a symbol of our Savior's Incarnation.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (November 21)

According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.

Stylianos the Monk of Paphlagonia (November 26)

St. Stylianos was from Paphlagonia, living in the latter 6th century and early 7th century. He loved the Lord Jesus Christ with his whole heart and lived in strict asceticism. When he fell asleep in the Lord, his face shone like the sun, and an angel appeared to take his soul to Glory. His prayers have worked many miracles, both during his earthly life and since. He is of special help to children who are ill and to childless couples. He is known as a protector of orphans.

Andrew the First-Called Apostle (November 30)











This Saint was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1.29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Savior, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.

Scout Wreath Sales

Fresh greenery delivered to you at
St. George around Thanksgiving!!
Taking orders at St. George on
October 12th & November 2nd!



Scout: Nicolina Pappas, Troop 1199 (all-girl Boy Scout Troop)

	<p>Decorated Balsam Fir Wreath</p> <p>One of our most popular items, the Balsam Fir Wreath is made from fresh, fragrant and long-lasting Northern Balsam Fir. Decorations include 3 white tipped pine cones with 4 red holly berries per cone for 25 inch wreaths and 5 larger cones and holly berries for 36 inch wreaths.</p> <p>25 inch - \$31.00 36 inch - \$46.00</p>
	<p>Premier Wreath - Voyageur</p> <p>The 25 inch Voyageur Wreath is made from a balsam fir and white cedar base. It's decorated with natural pine cones with attached berries, red crab apples and a red and gold metallic bow.</p> <p>\$43.00</p>
	<p>Premier Wreath - Itasca</p> <p>The 25 inch Itasca Wreath is made from a balsam fir and white cedar base. It's decorated with 3 clusters of white-tipped cones and red crab apples, along with a festive plaid bow.</p> <p>\$43.00</p>
	<p>Balsam Door Swag</p> <p>Door swags are charming additions to your home during the holiday season. The Balsam Door Swag is made with a balsam fir base, with white cedar and red pine layered on top of the base. Decorations consist of 2 white-tipped pine cones and a velvet waterproof bow. The Balsam Door Swag is about 24-26 inches long.</p> <p>\$31.00</p>
	<p>Holiday Centerpiece</p> <p>The elegant Holiday Centerpiece is made with a long-lasting fir base and mixed greens in a high-quality basket. The greens are set in a floral oasis that can be watered for continuous enjoyment throughout the holiday season.</p> <p>\$41.00</p>
	<p>Mailbox Swag</p> <p>The Mailbox Swag decoration will add curb appeal to any home. It's assembled on a sturdy frame of balsam fir boughs and decorated with white-tipped pine cones and a multi-loop red velvet pull bow. Mailbox Swags are easy to attach to almost any mailbox and come individually packaged with assembly instructions. About 34 - 36 inches.</p> <p>\$36.00</p>
	<p>Holiday Cross</p> <p>The Holiday Cross has a balsam fir base with white cedar accents. It is perfect for the person looking for a true Christmas decoration. It is decorated with a 4-loop red velvet button bow and a cluster of white-tipped pine cones. When displayed with an optional gravestone, it makes a perfect grave site decoration.</p> <p>\$41.00</p>
	<p>Natural Balsam Garland - 25 ft</p> <p>The natural Balsam Garland has a black poly twine core that the boughs are secured to by our dedicated workers using a machine designed by Evergreen's founder. It is an excellent product for both indoor and outdoor decorating projects, and can be used almost anywhere. It's ideal for both home and commercial applications.</p> <p>\$41.00</p>
	<p>Gravestand</p> <p>The 36 inch green metal Gravestand is perfect for displaying one of our natural Christmas decorations on a loved one's gravesite.</p> <p>\$10.00</p>
	<p>Door Hanger</p> <p>The gold metal Door Hanger will hold your holiday wreaths and decorations securely in place. Simply hang over your door and hang decoration for easy display.</p> <p>\$5.00</p>

If I won't see you at St. George, please text your order, along with your name and address, to (309)230.7587. Payment (cash, check or Venmo) is due upon delivery.
ASK ME ABOUT OUR SELECTIONS THAT WE CAN DELIVER TO YOUR OUT-OF-TOWN LOVED ONES!!



**ST. GEORGE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**
Rock Island, Illinois



PHILOTOCHOS SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2930 – 31st Avenue, Rock Island, IL

Monday, October 20th, 2025

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

The St. George Philoptochos Society is sponsoring the 2025 Parish Christmas Card. As in previous years, each of us can send our Christmas greetings to all our Church members and friends for a great cause. A beautiful card with all the participants' names is sent to everyone on our mailing list. We hope that everyone will be included in the 2025 Christmas Card. Please send the portion below with your name, clearly printed, as you wish it to appear on the card, along with your generous donation to the Church office; return it to the Philoptochos mailbox on Sundays, or mail it to Alexa Florence (address below). Completed forms and donations must be received by Sunday, December 7th. A portion of the proceeds are used for benevolent projects of the Philoptochos Society. The proceeds of this year's Christmas card will be donated to the following local organizations: The Church of Peace in Rock Island, Ill, more specifically, to their food pantry drive that serves the community with breakfast, lunch, and dinner items along with household items, and The Third PlaceQC- a daytime homeless shelter in Rock Island. In this season of giving, please find it in your heart to give to those less fortunate.

Sincerely,

Georgjean Pitsoulakis, Chairman Philoptochos Christmas Card Committee

- Please email me a change of address and other contact info if you have moved in the past year to georgjean@gmail.com. Thanks!
- Send checks in the mail to St. George or directly to:
Alexa Florence - 1023 Kimberly Ridge Rd, Bettendorf, IA 52722

St. George Philoptochos Society 2025 Parish Christmas Card

NAME(S) (Please print clearly as you would like it to appear on the card)

DONATION: \$ _____ (Checks payable to St. George Philoptochos Society)

Dear St. George Stewards,

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Ted Pitsoulakis
Parish Council President

Fr. Michael Constantinides
Parish Priest

2025 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Sunday, November 23, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

OPENING PRAYER

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FATHER'S REPORT

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

PHILOPTOCHOS REPORT

FESTIVAL REPORT

2026 BUDGET

ELECTION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ELECTION OF ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

2025 NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 5th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes following Holy Communion	3	4	5 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	6	7 Fast Day	8 The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George Baklava Making following the Divine Liturgy
9 7th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy <i>Sunday School</i> <i>Classes following Holy Communion</i>	10	11	12 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. "In-Person" Orthodox Study Forum	13 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras both "in-person" and Zoom	14 Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	15 Fast of the Nativity Begins Fish, wine and oil allowed
16 The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew Fish, wine and oil allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes begin following Holy Communion	17 Fish, wine and oil allowed 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Seminar	18 Fish, wine and oil allowed 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	19 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. "In-Person" Orthodox Study Forum	20 Fish, wine and oil allowed Evening Meal 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras both "in-person" and Zoom	21 The Entrance of the Theotokos Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption	22 Fish, wine and oil allowed
23 9th Sunday of Luke Fish, wine and oil allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes following Holy Communion Fall Assembly following the Divine Liturgy +Sacrament	24 Fish, wine and oil allowed 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Seminar	25 Fish, wine and oil allowed 7:00 p.m. Zoom Orthodox Study Forum	26 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. "In-Person" Orthodox Study Forum	27 Thanksgiving Day Fish, wine and oil allowed	28 Fast Day	29 Fish, wine and oil allowed
30 Saint Andrew the Apostle Fish, wine and oil allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy No Sunday School Classes family worship only!						

METROPOLIS CLERGY-LAITY
ASSEMBLY