

SAINT GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

•Parish Priest: Fr. Michael
Constantinides

•Caretaker: Jason Leon

•GOYA Advisors: Dr. Vicky
Pyeich/Anne Kirpatrick

•HOPE/JOY Advisors: Pres.
Maria Constantinides/
Candice Elias

•Outreach and Evangelism
Chair: Angela Spurgetis

•Parish Council President:
Mary Rankin

•Philoptochos President:
Susan Coin

•Prayer Ministry: Gus
Pappas

•Sunday School Director:
Deacon Paul Speed

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The Trophybearer

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2015

PASTORAL MESSAGE

I was watching a television show on the Discovery Channel that talked about the beginning of life on this planet. Towards the end of the program, after they went over the scientific aspects, the conclusion was made that since the chances of life occurring are so small, there must have been some force unknown guiding the whole process. I was amazed in that they almost gave God credit for the miracle of life. While I was watching the show, it occurred to me that we too believe that God guides His creation down a certain road. God is not an absentee landlord, but rather he plays an active role in the development of his creatures. He is not afraid to show his power when it will benefit us. One such example is found in Christ's raising the boy in Nain. My brothers and sisters in the Lord let us take a few moments to see what miracles are and how they play a role in our lives.

What are miracles? Miracles are signs of God's power over nature and corruption. Nature by breaking the bonds of biology and allowing faith and love to govern. Corruption by wiping away all the results of sin which include disease, and death. How do they happen? Miracles happen when God acts; when God overrules laws of nature in order to show His love to man.

What is love? Love is patient, kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud, selfless and above all else unconditional. God is life-giving and creating because first He is a lover. One might say that love is indeed life. In fact, since God himself is love, man, who is made in His image and likeness must love also. God is life-giving because he is love

How often do miracles happen? They happen whenever God wants. Miracles can only happen when faith is present. They are not for the transformation of the unbeliever but for the strengthening of the faithful

Are miracles gone today? Can we see miracles today? The answer is yes. God continues to work. God works through the Virgin Mary, the Saints and especially us.

How do they affect us in this scientific age? They confirm our faith by making us think about God. They bring us closer to Him because by not being normal events they defy our understanding. They shows us the results of pious life. The mother, who was faithful had lost her husband during a period of time that a woman could not make a living without one. And now she lost her son. She had no one to support her. So God acted, rewarded her faith and raised her son; not for the son's sake but for hers. God rewarded her faith!

So, we can see that miracles are to be found anywhere God decides to act, which is everywhere. They show us God's power over the natural order, since He created it. They also show God's love by overlooking the corruption that we have caused ourselves due to sin. They confirm the faith of the faithful, even if these faithful are not a visible part of the community, by uniting us to Him and by showing us the weakness and incompleteness of our nature. Yet they point to what is to come, our reward for being pious. They also condemn those that claim to believe but do not show the fruits of faith, that is love. We must always look to what is to come, since that is our goal, in order to fully understand the ultimate miracle, that is, Theosis, our becoming God-like. Let us go out into the world and be miraculous. Let us live as though God does indeed exists and acts in our lives. Let us not empty the cross of its power by denying God the vehicle to perform miracles, that is our faith. Amen

October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 The Holy Protection of the Theotokos 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
2 2nd Sunday of Luke Choir Appreciation Sunday 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	3	4	5 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	6 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	7 Fast Day	8
9 3rd Sunday of Luke 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	10	11	12 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	13 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	14 Fast Day	15 HOPE/JOY event
16 Sunday of the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	17	18 Saint Luke the Evangelist 9:00 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	19 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	20 10:00 p.m. Senior Outing to the Dan Nagle Walnut Pioneer Village and Olde Saint Ann's Church 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	21 Fast Day	22
23 6th Sunday of Luke 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	24	25	26 Fast Day Feast Day of Saint Demetrios Name Day of Archbishop Demetrios Name Day of Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy No Morning Orthodox Study Forum	27 Metropolitan's Name Day Dinner: Chicago No Evening Orthodox Study Forum	28 Fast Day	29
30 6th Sunday of Luke 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	31					

The Council Connection

A Few Words about the Festival....

The St. George parish was truly blessed with two beautiful days and thousands of visitors to its 2016 version of "Our Big Fat Greek Festival"!

We were able to extend our hospitality, fellowship, and faith to the community through our food, drink, entertainment, cheerful service and church tours. Although lines were long, those who waited in them were jovial and frequently commented on how happy they were that the parish was having such a successful event!

Another frequently heard comment was what a great group of youth the parish has! Our younger parishioners were seen volunteering in a wide variety of capacities over the weekend. The parish is very proud of its youth for really stepping up to the plate and dedicating

long and tiring hours to the festival and doing it with enthusiasm and smiling faces!

Thanks to everyone who contributed time, talent and treasure to making the 2016 Festival the most successful one to date!

Upcoming opportunities for Involvement:

The Fall General Assembly will be held on Sunday, November 6, following Divine Liturgy. For those of you who equate General Assemblies with the enthusiasm of getting a root canal done, rest assured that it is not a painful experience at all!

The assemblies are congenial, and there will be sandwiches available to keep hunger at bay! We will also ask some of the older youth if they might be willing to entertain the younger children in one of the classrooms during the assembly so

that parents can attend undistracted. Financial reports will be reviewed (festival figures will be revealed!) and audit and nominating committees will be selected.

In the age of computer monitors and keyboards, Father Michael required a larger work surface in his office to accommodate the electronics as well as having space to counsel his flock. A lovely used desk with a side return for communications equipment was located. Please consider donating to this purchase and contact Father Michael or Mary Rankin if you are interested in doing so!

Yours in Christ,

Mary Rankin

Mary Rankin
Parish Council President

Serving on the Council is an honor! If anyone is interested in serving please see Mary Rankin or Father Michael

Epistle Readers

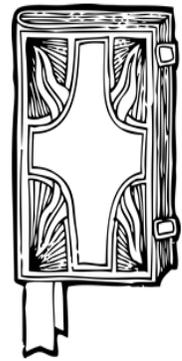
**Sunday,
October 2, 2016**
2nd Sunday of Luke
Alexa Florence

**Sunday,
October 16, 2016**
Fathers of the Seventh
Ecumenical Council
Loukia Constantinides

**Sunday,
October 30, 2016**
5th Sunday of Luke
Michael Pyevich

**Sunday,
October 9, 2016**
3rd Sunday of Luke
Kay Coin

**Sunday, October 23,
2016 6th Sunday of Luke**
Mike Gust



“O Lord, open my lips and
my mouth shall show forth
your praise!”

Anyone interested in being
an epistle reader should
contact the church office!

Parish Council Sunday Duty

**Sunday, October 2,
2016**
Dale Allison
Brad Crosson,
Mariellen Crosson
Mike Patramanis

**Sunday, October 16,
2016**
Joe Burmeister,
Mary Kay Eckert
Mary Rankin
Ken Stiegel

**Sunday, October 30,
2016**
Joe Burmeister,
Mary Kay Eckert
Mary Rankin
Ken Stiegel

**Sunday, October 9,
2016**
John Mekus,
Dennis Spurgetis,
Diane Spurgetis
Mary Rankin

**Sunday, October 23,
2016**
Dale Allison
Brad Crosson,
Mariellen Crosson
Mike Patramanis

**Monthly
Pastoral Visits**

Shut-in: 12

**Hospital
Calls: 8**

**Please keep
the sick and
the shut-ins
in your
prayers!**

Coffee Hour Hosts for July/August 2016

**Sunday, October 2,
2016**
hosted by:
Angela Spurgetis
**Sunday,
October 9, 2016**
hosted by:
The Elias Family

**Sunday, October 16,
2016**
hosted by:
Open
**Sunday, October 23,
2016**
hosted by:
Open

**Sunday, October 30,
2016**
hosted by:
Diane Breckon



**Fellowship
and fun!**

Community News

CHOIR NEWS

Sunday October 2, 2016, we recognize those women and men who have heard and responded to the Lord's invitation to be church musicians: that is, parish chanters and choir singers. As church musicians, these people represent the laity in the liturgical dialogue of our worship services. In glory to God, the Holy Trinity, they commit themselves to learning the hymns of our Orthodox faith, understanding the sequence of our liturgical worship, and actively offering their prayers in song to enhance the beauty of our worship. We ask each of them, and our congregation as well, to be mindful of the special ministry they fulfill in singing the hymns of our faith and leading us to worship.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council October meeting will be on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Green room.

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. and Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. So bring your Bibles, your questions and your friends as we continue our Orthodox Study Forum.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Have you remembered to help the needy and hungry? Please bring in a contribution of food to the church. They are still running dangerously short.

A new desk was purchased for Father Michael's office for approximately \$800.00, and donations are needed to off-set the cost. All those who wish can donate what they can. We thank you in advance for your generosity!

HOSPITAL VISITS

If you or a family member are in the hospital, please call the office. Ever since the change in the privacy laws, hospitals are reluctant to call churches. Please call us so that we can avoid missing our parishioners in their time of need.

REACHING OUT

In an attempt to reach out to former parishioners of St. George we are asking all members to please call the church office with any former members who have fallen away from the church. Fr. Michael will then reach out to them. Please if you have anybody in mind please call the church office or speak with Fr. Michael



Our Saint George Parish Community

PRAYERS FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- Helen Corelis
- Stella Cudworth
- Elaine Froumis
- Pat Grevas
- Judy Pappas
- Jim Patton
- Xenia Patton
- Effie Skafidas
- Janice Smirles
- Gordon Smith
- Helen Smith
- Jim Tsagaris

Sunday School News

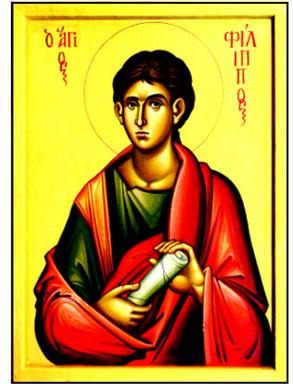
Sunday School got off to a great start on Sunday School Sundaes. Students and teachers who were in class that Sunday were treated to ice cream sundaes to celebrate the beginning of the year.

We can plan in advance that there will be no class on Christmas or New Year's Day, which are Sundays this year.

Typically there is no formal Sunday School on the Sunday following Thanksgiving, but this year we will have a special treat; for any child wanting to do a Thanksgiving activity, we will have one (and treats) in the 3-5 grade room. The children will have the opportunity to make a Thanksgiving-related craft to take home and

enjoy some treats.

As always, we want to urge parents, grandparents, and all interested parties to make every effort to get our young people to church and Sunday School. The precious thing we can pass down to the next generation is our faith. See you all Sunday.



St. Philip the Deacon is the patron saint of Religious Education. He was an inspired evangelist and teacher whose missionary work brought a multitude of new believers to Christ in Samaria and other cities, along the coast of Palestine

HOPE/JOY NEWS

We hope everyone had a smooth start to the school year. The summer seemed to fly by!

A great big thank you goes out to all the kids who came and helped at the festival. It was great seeing the youth of our church working and representing Saint George! Great job kids!

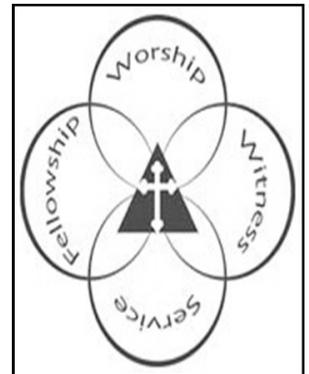
We had our first outing in September. We played miniature golf at Lincoln's Trail in Rock Island. Thank you to all who attended. We all had a great time.

We plan on visiting a pumpkin farm on October 15th. Check your emails for the details soon.

Remember, all kids be-

tween the ages of 3-12 are encouraged to join in the fun.

Please feel free to contact Presbytera Maria at presmariazoe@aol.com or Candace Elias at elas4130@yahoo.com with any questions.



The Four Circles of Youth Ministry:
Worship
Witness
Fellowship
Service

EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS
 October 26-Mary and Bill Rankin

November 23- Jim and Elizabeth Teros

December 28—Open

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

Memorials:

**October 2,
2016:**

**Theodore
Bagatelas-
40 days**

**Anne Allen-
40 days**

**Mary Kalomas:
31 years**

**Chuck Allen:
50 years**

**October 9,
2016:**

**Fahima Elias-
3 years**

**Chokri Elias:
15 years**

Senior Ministry

The St. George Senior Citizen Group outing to the Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village and Olde St. Ann's Church has been rescheduled. It will be on Thursday, October 20th. We will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and arrive at the Village about 10:45 a.m. Those who live in Iowa can meet us at the village at 10:45 a.m. located next to (but not in) Scott County Park. The site manager, Deb-

orah Leistikaw, will give us a guided tour. Cost is \$2.00 per person. Following the tour, we will meet in the village "Soda Fountain" for a "dutch-treat" box lunch (\$8.50 per person) where you can also order a float, soda or a banana split. Please RSVP to Kay Coin (309-786-0240) if you plan to attend. It should be a beautiful autumn outing.

This is our last event for 2016. I want to thank everyone who participated in our outings. I hope you have enjoyed them and we'll see you all again next spring.

Many thanks to my co-chairman, Nancy Avgenackis, who is leaving the area. She has been my right hand man and we will all miss her and wish her well in her new home.

Parish Registry

40-Day Blessing

Charles the son of Jessica and Daniel Sheridan was churched on September 25, 2016

Baptism

The servant of God Sophia, daughter of Melissa and Kyle Darling was Baptized into the Orthodox Faith on September 3, 2016 and the sponsor was John Diamantis.



The Sacraments of the Church

Festival Donors

Stan & Kay Coin	Stern Beverage	Mike & Vickie Patramanis
American Bank & Trust Co.	Quad Cities USA Family Restaurant	Dr. Gyros/Doc's Inn
The Law Centre Ltd	Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home	Van Hoe Funeral Home
Pappas, Davidson, O'Connor & Fildes, P.C.	Sanitary Cleaners	The Family Restaurant
Mike and Vickie Pyevich, Mikey & Dena	James & Elizabeth Teros	First Midwest Bank
Theo's Java Club Cafe	Bill & Mary Rankin	Paul & Christine Bagatelas
George & Nancy Coin	QC Auto Service	Dale & Joelaine Allison
Joannides Family Foundation	George's Classic Cleaners	Hammar & Associates
Esterdahl Mortuary & Crematory, Ltd.	Tom Bakeris Roofing	Karoules Family
Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Co, LLC-CPAs	Peter & Becky Caras	Nick & Fran Spurgetis
LCV Greek & Mediterranean Grocery	Cathy Coin	Anthony & Marianne Nichols
Gus & Kerri Pappas	Ben Farrar & Co.	Cleo Dalamaggas
	Friendship Manor	Xenotronics Company
	Scot, Adrienne, Marina & Bill Johnson	Collette Spurgetis

**Please
patronize
our very
generous
donors!**

Notification of the Fall Parish Assembly on Sunday November 6, 2016

Dear St. George Stewards,

On Sunday, November 6th, 2016, 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 2015 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.

Mary Rankin

Parish Council President

Fr. Michael Constantinides

Parish Priest

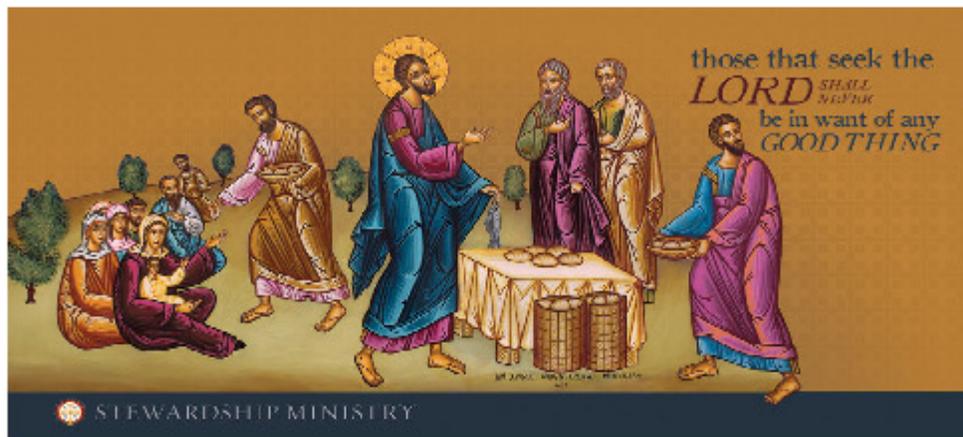
2016 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Sunday, November 6th, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPENING PRAYER
3. STEWARDSHIP REPORT
4. PHILOPTOCHOS REPORT
5. FESTIVAL REPORT
6. 2017 BUDGET
7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE
APPOINTMENT
8. AUDIT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
9. SET DATE FOR BOARD ELECTIONS
10. OLD BUSINESS
11. NEW BUSINESS
12. CLOSING PRAYER
13. ADJOURNMENT

St. George Stewardship Notes

"Those that Seek the Lord Shall Never be in Want of Any Good Thing"



2016

QUICK FACTS

(as of
September 20, 2016)

\$121,025.00 =
Amount pledged for 2016
by 124 households

\$97,947.00 =
Amount given to 2016
stewardship since Jan. 1

\$976.00 =
Average pledge per
household at this date

\$274,893.00 =
Amount needed for the
ministries of
St. George Parish for
2016

2017 Stewardship Campaign

The stewardship ministry of the Archdiocese has chosen the following theme for the 2017 campaign: "As the Father has sent Me, so I Send you" (John 20:21). The application to stewardship of this gospel message is this:

"We are stewards of all God's blessings, including His Gospel Message. We don't bury our blessings in the ground, but as in the parable of the stewards, we strive to multiply our gifts and offer them back to God. As with our financial blessings, so it is with our stewardship of our families, the environment, the Gospel Message and all of God's gifts. "

Information for the 2017 Stewardship Campaign will be sent out with quarterly statements of giving later this month. The campaign will culminate in Stewardship Sunday when we offer our pledge cards at the end of Divine Liturgy on November 13.

Stewardship Sunday: Nov. 13!

2016 Stewards

Father and Presbyteria Michael Constantinides	Cleo Dalamaggas Angeline Douglas	Tasso and Francie Liras Dena Manta	Randy and Chris Smith Angela Spurgetis
Deacon and Deaconess Paul Speed	Jayne Eckert	Emmanuel and Tracy Mathews Nancy Mathews	Colette Spurgetis Dennis and Nancy Spurgetis
Father and Presbyteria Chris Matos	Steve and Mary Kay Eckert Daniel and Mari Elias	John and Linnea Mekus Helen Moorhead	Diana Spurgetis Mary Spurgetis
Jorge and Basema Alias Anne Allen	Maurice and Sue Elias Tony and Candace Elias	Steve Morgan Ken and Pam Mott	Nick and Fran Spurgetis Ted Spurgetis
Ray and Connie Allen Dale and JoElaine Allison	Scott and Alexa Florence Elaine Froumis	Marguerite Nelson Anthony and Marianne Nichols	John and Despina Stathopoulos
Jeff and Elaine Amidon John and Pat Andrews	George Gnatovich Nick Grevas	Pauline Nichols Demetrios and Kathy Papageorgiou	Ken and Helen Stiegel John and Martha Stratton
Mike and Nancy Avgenackis Paul and Christine Bagatelas	Pat Grevas Theo J. Grevas	Chris Pappas Gus and Kerri Pappas	Marge Stratton James and Elizabeth Teros
Ted and Karen Bagatelas Tom and Jenny Bakeris	Michael Gust Pete and Arlene Gust	Judy Pappas Matt and Lori Pappas	Stephanie Thodos Veronica Tolescu
Benjamin and Georgena Barnes	Gus and Irene Harb Nidal Harb	Nick Pappas George and Alexia Patramanis	Gus and Virginia Tripilas Ellen Tsagaris & Dino Mi- lani
Pascal Booras Frances Bourboulas	Vanessa Hayden-Porter Nick and Claudette Jannes	Mike and Vickie Patramanis Angela Perantinos	James Tsagaris Ted Vlahos
Diane Breckon Spiro Bruskas	Tim and Kathy Joannides Scot and Adrienne Johnson	Marina Pikis Ted and Georgjean Pitsoulakis	Frank Vretis Bill and Diane Whitehead
Joe Burmeister Hillary Callas	Candice Kalman Georgia Kalomas	Demetrios Pliakos Ann Polilo	Kim and Mary Winters Kulla Wiss
John and Darcy Callas Peter Caras	Louis and Amanda Kantzavelos George and Diane Karoules	Mike and Vickie Pyevich Mary Rankin	John and Joanne Zaimis Connie Zeroth
Emily Caras Peter and Becky Caras	John and Jennifer Kay Ermioni Keber	Jovanka Rastovic David Ray	<i>We are deeply grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ for our faithful and committed Stewards.</i>
Maria and Stephen Chiang Carol Chickris	Quinn and Anne Kirkpatrick Deborah Kutsunis	Dennis and Marina (Yokas) Reese	<i>These parishioners have either filled out a pledge card, made a 2016 stewardship contribution, or both as of 09/20/16.</i>
George and Nancy Coin Harry G. and Susan Coin	George and Linda Kutsunis Ted and Debra Kutsunis	Effie Skafidas Frank J. and Mary Jane Skafidas	
Nick and Nancy Coin Stan and Kay Coin	Chris and Nikki Lebessis Jennifer Lensgraf	Tom Skafidas Janice Smirles	
Helen Corelis John and Shan Corelis	Jason Leon Von Lillios	Gordon and Helen Smith	
Brad and Mariellen Crosson	Darlene Lingris		



The Chicago Clergy Syndesmos

Invites you to

THE ANNUAL METROPOLITAN IAKOVOS FEAST DAY DINNER

The Metropolis of Chicago Clergy Syndesmos is hosting the annual Saint Iakovos Feast Day Dinner to honor our Spiritual Father, Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, on the occasion of his Name Day.

This dinner will benefit the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center & the Ministries of the Clergy Syndesmos.

Thursday, October 27th, 2016

Reception at 6pm

Dinner at 7pm

Georgio's Banquets
8800 W. 159th St.
Orland Park, IL 60462
708-403-1100

Reservations:

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
10301 S. Kolmar Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL 60453 | 708-636-5460

All checks payable to:
Clergy Syndesmos
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
2501 South Wolf Road
Westchester, Illinois 60154

Saint Romanos the Melodist (October 1)

Saint Romanos the Melodist was born in the fifth century in the Syrian city of Emesa of Jewish parents. After moving to Constantinople, he became a church sacristan in the temple of Hagia Sophia. The monk spent his nights alone at prayer in a field or in the Blachernae church beyond the city.

St Romanos was not a talented reader or singer. Once, on the eve of the Nativity of Christ, he read the kathisma verses. He read so poorly that another reader had to take his place. The clergy ridiculed Romanos, which devastated him.

On the day of the Nativity, the Mother of God appeared to the grief-stricken youth in a vision while he was praying before her Kyriotissa icon. She gave him a scroll and commanded him to eat it. Thus was he given the gift of understanding, composition, and hymnography.

That evening at the all-night Vigil St Romanos sang, in a wondrous voice, his first Kontakion: "Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One..." All the hymns of St Romanos became known as Kontakia, in reference to the Virgin's scroll. St Ro-

manos was also the first to write in the form of the Oikos, which he incorporated into the all-night Vigil at his places of residence (In Greek, "oikos").

For his zealous service St Romanos was ordained as a deacon and became a teacher of song. Until his death, which occurred about the year 556, the hierodeacon Romanos the Melodist composed nearly a thousand hymns, many of which are still used by Christians to glorify the Lord. About eighty survive.



**Saint Romanos
the Melodist**

Saint Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3)

Saint Dionysius lived originally in the city of Athens. He was raised there and received a classical Greek education. He then went to Egypt, where he studied astronomy at the city of Heliopolis. It was in Heliopolis, along with his friend Apollophonos where he witnessed the solar eclipse that occurred at the moment of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ by Crucifixion. "Either the Creator of all the world now suffers, or this visible world is coming to an end," Dionysius said. Upon his return to Athens from Egypt, he was chosen to be a member of the Areopagus Council (Athenian high court).

When the holy Apostle Paul preached at the place on the Hill of Ares (Acts 17:16-34), Dionysius accepted his salvific proclamation and became a Christian. For three years Saint Dionysius remained a companion of the holy Apostle Paul in preaching the Word of God. Later on, the Apostle Paul selected him as bishop of the city of Athens. And in the year 57 Saint Dionysius was present at the repose of the Most Holy Theotokos.

During the lifetime of the Mother of God, Saint Dionysius had journeyed from Athens to Jerusalem to meet Her. He

wrote to his teacher the Apostle Paul: "I witness by God, that besides the very God Himself, there is nothing else filled with such divine power and grace. No one can fully comprehend what I saw. I confess before God: when I was with John, who shone among the Apostles like the sun in the sky, when I was brought before the countenance of the Most Holy Virgin, I experienced an inexpressible sensation. Before me gleamed a sort of divine radiance which transfixed my spirit. I perceived the fragrance of indescribable aromas and was filled with such delight that my very body became faint,



**Saint Dionysius
the Areopagite**

Saint Dionysius the Areopagite (Continued)

and my spirit could hardly endure these signs and marks of eternal majesty and heavenly power. The grace from her overwhelmed my heart and shook my very spirit. If I did not have in mind your instruction, I should have mistaken Her for the very God. It is impossible to stand before greater blessedness than this which I beheld."

After the death of the Apostle Paul, Saint Dionysius wanted to continue with his work, and therefore went off preaching in the West, accompanied by the Presbyter Rusticus and Deacon Eleutherius. They converted many to Christ at Rome, and then in Germany, and then in Spain. In Gaul, during a persecution against Christians by the pagan authorities, all three confessors were arrested and

thrown into prison. By night Saint Dionysius celebrated the Divine Liturgy with angels of the Lord. In the morning the martyrs were beheaded. According to an old tradition, Saint Dionysius took up his head, proceeded with it to the church and fell down dead there. A pious woman named Catulla buried the relics of the saint.

Spiritual

Ponderings

Saint Luke the Evangelist (October 18)



Saint Luke the Evangelist

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, Saint Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life

(Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied Saint Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's co-workers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, Saint Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits Saint Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. Saint Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. Saint Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63

at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), Saint Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4). He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him (2:19, 51).

In Saint Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance.

Saint Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles at Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the cen-

Quit griping

about your

Church; if it

were

perfect, you

couldn't

belong.

Saint Luke the Evangelist (Continued)

ter of the narrative is the Council of the holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of Saint Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. Perhaps this was during the infa-

mous Crusade of 1204. In 1992, Metropolitan Hieronymus (Jerome) of Thebes requested the Roman Catholic bishop in Thebes to obtain a portion of Saint Luke's relics for the saint's empty sepulchre in the Orthodox cathedral in Thebes.

The Roman Catholic bishop Antonio Mattiazzo of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of Saint Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of Saint Vico in Prague.

The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. In 2001, a tooth found in the coffin was judged to be consistent with the DNA of Syrians living near the area of Antioch dating from 72-416 A.D. The skull in Prague perfectly fit the neck bone of the skeleton. The tooth found in the coffin in Padua was also found to fit the jawbone of the skull.

Bishop Mattiazzo sent a rib from the relics to Metropolitan Hieronymus to be venerated in Saint Luke's original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes.

The Holy Apostle James (Iakovos) the brother of the Lord (October 23)

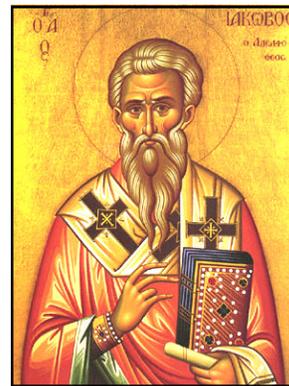
Holy Apostle James, the Brother of God (Adelphotheos) was the son of Righteous Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos (December 26). From his early years James was a Nazarene, a man especially dedicated to God. The Nazarenes vowed to preserve their virginity, to abstain from wine, to refrain from eating meat, and not to cut their hair. The vow of the Nazarenes symbolized a life of holiness and purity, commanded formerly by the Lord for all Israel. When the Savior began to teach the nation about the Kingdom of God, St James believed in Christ and became His apostle. He was chosen as the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

St James presided over the Council of Jerusalem and his word was decisive (Acts 15). In his thirty years as bishop, St James converted many of the Jews to Christianity. Annoyed by this, the Pharisees and the Scribes plotted together to kill St James. They led the saint up on the pinnacle of the Jerusalem Temple and asked what he thought of Jesus. The holy Apostle began to bear witness that Christ is the Messiah, which was not the response the Pharisees were expecting. Greatly angered, the Jewish teachers threw him off the roof. The saint did not die immediately, but gathering his final strength, he prayed to the Lord for his enemies while they were stoning him. St

James' martyrdom occurred about 63 A.D.

The holy Apostle James composed a Divine Liturgy, which formed the basis of the Liturgies of Sts Basil the Great and John Chrysostom. The Church has preserved an Epistle of St James, one of the books of the New Testament.

In 1853, Patriarch Hierotheus of Alexandria sent to Moscow a portion of the relics of St James. The Church distinguishes between the holy Apostle James the Brother of God, and St James the son of Zebedee (April 30) and St James the son of Alphaeus (October 9).



The Holy Apostle James (Iakovos)

The Hieromartyr Zenobius (October 30)

The Hieromartyr Zenobius, Bishop of Aegea, and his sister Zenobia suffered a martyr's death in the year 285 in Cilicia. From childhood they were raised in the holy Christian Faith by their parents, and they led pious and chaste lives. In their mature years, shunning the love of money, they distributed away their inherited wealth giving it to the poor. For his beneficence and holy life the Lord rewarded Zenobius with the gift of healing various maladies. He was also chosen bishop of a Christian community in Cilicia.

As bishop, St Zenobius zeal-

ously spread the Christian Faith among the pagans. When the emperor Diocletian (284-305) began a persecution against Christians, Bishop Zenobius was the first one arrested and brought to trial to the governor Licius. "I shall only speak briefly with you," said Licius to the saint, "for I propose to grant you life if you worship our gods, or death, if you do not." The saint answered, "This present life without Christ is death. It is better that I prepare to endure the present torment for my Creator, and then with Him live eternally, than to renounce Him for the sake of the present life, and then be tormented

eternally in Hades."

By order of Licius, they nailed him to a cross and began the torture. The bishop's sister, seeing him suffering, wanted to stop it. She bravely confessed her own faith in Christ before the governor, therefore, she also was tortured.

By the power of the Lord they remained alive after being placed on a red-hot iron bed, and then in a boiling kettle. The saints were then beheaded. The priest Hermogenes secretly buried the bodies of the martyrs in a single grave.

St Zenobius is invoked by those suffering from breast cancer.

He who gives alms in imitation of God does not discriminate between the wicked and the virtuous, the just and the unjust, when providing for men's bodily needs.

St. Maximos the Confessor (First Century on Love no. 24)

Answers To Last Month's Test Your Faith...

Popular New Testament Verses

I

Across

1. But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of _____.
3. _____ goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.
6. A land flowing with milk and _____.
9. Do not throw your _____ before swine.
10. The Lord is my _____, I shall not want.

Down

1. To every thing there is a _____, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
4. They will beat their _____ into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.
5. Am I my brother's _____?
7. Your _____ is a lamp unto my feet.
8. For _____ you are and unto _____ shall you return

CHURCH ROLES II:

- Archimandrite
- Archdeacon
- Chancellor
- Catechumen
- Archbishop
- Presbyter
- Acolyte
- Exarch

