

THE TROPHYBEARER

Pastoral Thoughts

Fall is here or at least will be at the time you receive this. Meteorologists use September 1 as the beginning of meteorological fall (but weren't we just in the 90s this week) and traditional fall based on the equinox begins on the 22nd of September this year.

Here in the temperate zones, our weather provides us with ready-made metaphors for those artistically inclined. Winter is the time for death, as the vegetation dies, the migratory birds leave, and some of the remaining animals hibernate. Spring is a metaphor for things new, for rebirth, as the plants sprout and bloom, the birds return, and the world greens and becomes redolent with the smell of fresh flowers.

Summer is the metaphor for the full growth of life, the riotous display of colors, growth of the crops to maturity and the joy of being in nature. Fall is a well-used metaphor for the slowing down of life, for the hint of the icy winds to come and death. The beautiful colors are a visual joy but also a last fling of life before the cold and the gray returns.

But the cycle of the seasons can also be a metaphor for a never-ending cycle, a treadmill that none can escape. Through the circle, around and around, until we end; the cycle never does. It can feel like a trap.

The writer of Ecclesiastes felt that latter mood. He writes, "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecc. 1:9) There is a sense in which he was correct. There was nothing new under the sun.

However, that cycle was changed forever with the incarnation of Christ. Life is going somewhere now beyond the cycle, to eternity. The world changed forever when the only begotten Son stepped into time and humanity, to break the cycle of sin and misery and show us the way out. Christ, as is written in the Apocalypse, 'makes all things new'. Take a moment this week, a moment of quiet every day, and deeply think about what changed for the world, and for you, with this shattering of the cycles. The Creator of all things came down to live as we do so that we might, by adoption and grace, live as He lives.

It is a profound idea, moving, humbling and joyful. We are not trapped in this cycle of changeless change, one year after another, until we die. Christ, by His incarnation, death and resurrection, broke all of that. For that, all honor and thanks and praise is due Him.

Sometimes we look at that resurrection as the first day of a completely new time and world. We should. Sometimes we look on it as the exclamation point, the final seal, of the first week. That is also true. Either way, it is an event that should cause us to pause, to think, to praise, and to thank.



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PARISH NEWS

Epistle Readers for October

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

Sunday, October 5, 2025: 2nd Sunday of Luke: Harry Coin

Sunday, October 12, 2025: Sunday of the Fathers: Alexa Florence

Sunday, October 19, 2025: 3rd Sunday of Luke: Mary Rankin

Sunday, October 26, 2025: 6th Sunday of Luke: Kim Eastland

Evening Meal Volunteers

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 FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, October 5, 2025: Kathy Begyn, Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis, and Mary Rankin

Sunday, October 12, 2025: Kim Eastland, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, and Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday, October 19, 2025: Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and Pete Hadjis

Sunday, October 26, 2025: Kathy Begyn, Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis, and Mary Rankin

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, October 5, 2025:
Open

Sunday, October 12, 2025:
Open

Sunday, October 19, 2025:
Open

Sunday, October 26, 2025:
Open

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

October 5, 2025: Randy
and Chris Smith

October 12, 2025: Bill
and Penny McGimpsey,

October 19, 2025:
Angela and Jon
Spurgetis

October 26, 2025:
Dennis and Nancy
Spurgetis

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8)

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Church celebrates the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Nazareth, Galilee. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without a child, since St Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God, everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna, even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts. Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child that the Lord might give them to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore, the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast days at the Temple in Jerusalem, the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim, in deep grief, went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but instead she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that God heard their prayers, and that a most blessed daughter, Mary, would be born to them, through whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue, and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

The Exaltation of the Cross (September 14)

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem, as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord, have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and, after bringing it to Constantinople, escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Rest from labour. A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be.

St. George Philoptochos



BAKLAVA SALE

Pre-Order Form

Large Pan (13x20)

Or Half a Pan(13x9)

Name:

Ph#:

Email:

Large Pan _____ X (\$100) =

Half Pan _____ X \$50) =

- ☐ Pay by Check (make out to St. George Philoptochos)



Georgian Philoptochos
@stgeorgephiloptochos



venmo

2021/10/10 10:10 AM

- ☐ Pay by Venmo (Scan QR code to the left)
- ☐ Pay by Cash ____ paid

Final Orders MUST be in by Sunday, October 12th

****Please turn in forms to Mary Winters or the church office (Philoptochos mailbox). Forms may be emailed as well to Mary Winters at wintersmaryc1@gmail.com. Contact #563-726-2880**

Pick Up Days (at St. George in Rock Island):

- ❖ Saturday, November 15th 9AM-Noon AND Sunday, November 16th Noon-2pm

Save the Date!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Annual Drive-Thru Food Fest
at
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
4900 Kennedy Dr., East Moline IL

Homemade Greek food and pastries including:

Greek chicken dinner
Pastitsio (Greek lasagna)
Spinach pie
Baklava
Gyros
Greek salads
...and more!

Pre-order only. Stay tuned for further info!

Orders will open on October 7!





BE A PART OF SOMETHING

BIGGER

St. George Greek Orthodox Church Blood Drive

Sunday, October 5th

Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm

Location: St. George Greek Orthodox Church - Gold Room

**To book your appointment, scan the QR code below or visit
www.bloodcenter.org.**

Last Day To Donate Elsewhere: 8/10/25



Rewards grow in value as you give
throughout each year! Details at
bloodcenter.org/rewards.



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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 OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 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	2 No Book Study	3 Fast Day	4
5 2nd Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes following Holy Communion Blood Drive	6	7 7:00 p.m. Zoom Orthodox Study Forum	8 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	9 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras both "in-person" and Zoom	10 Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	11
12 The Sunday of the Fathers 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy <i>Sunday School</i> <i>Classes following Holy Communion</i>	13	14 7:00 p.m. Zoom Orthodox Study Forum	15 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	16 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras both "in-person" and Zoom	17 Fast Day	18
19 3rd Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes begin following Holy Communion	20	21 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	22 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	23 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras both "in-person" and Zoom	24 Fast Day	25
26 6th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes following Holy Communion	27	28 The Holy Protection of the Theotokos 8:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George 7:00 p.m. Zoom Orthodox Study Forum	29 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	30 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Elements of Faith: An Introduction to Orthodox Theology by Christos Yannaras both "in-person" and Zoom	31 Fast Day	