



The Trophybearer

SEPTEMBER 2013

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- Office Secretary:
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- Philoptochos President:
- Sunday School Director: Dn Paul Speed
- Youth Director:
Deacon Paul Speed

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ANSWERING THE CALL

As I was thinking about what to write for this month's article I remembered a sermon given by a priest I served under on the Theotokos. He spoke about the greatest act the Theotokos did for humanity was answering the call of God. So I wondered about how many times we have not answered God's call. God calls to us everyday, but often times we are so caught up with what we are doing we do not hear Him, or simply choose to ignore Him.

There are examples all through the old and New Testament about God calling people to action with many answering the call and also those ignoring the call. One of the classic examples for heeding the call of God is found with Moses. In the book of Exodus, we see God use Moses to bring His people out of bondage in Israel. Moses puts his faith in the Lord and does what is asked of him, and he is remembered as one of the saviors of Israel. Can anyone forget another man who heeding God's call to him, and answered the Lord even though he was mocked by almost everyone he knew. I am speaking about none other than Noah. I really believe we get a feel for how Noah must have felt in the modern day movie "Evan Almighty". Where God asks a US Congressman to build an ark for Him, and we get to see the comedic antics that ensue. But needless to say, Noah continued on building the Ark, thus heeding the call of God. Now that I have brought up to examples of people heeding the call of God, I am going to bring up one example of someone ignoring God's Call. We all know Jonah and his fateful encounter with a whale. God called Jonah to do a certain task, but out of fear he decided to run away and hide from God, and we all know what happened next.

The point I am making is simple, I hear so often how people only wish God would let them know what to do, or how to proceed. But what they do not realize is God is answering their questions, but we just are not listening for the answers. Everyone expects some kind of grandiose event, like a booming voice calling down from the heavens, or a vision to show us the way. But I believe it is a lot like a painting I saw a long time ago, where it showed Jesus knocking on a door with no door knob. Then as I read about this painting it spoke how this was Christ knocking on the door of our hearts, but He could not just open the door, but we had to open it and let Him come inside. It was subtle, and it is just like this that God is calmly speaking to us everyday.

So take comfort in the fact the God is always with us, helping us along our path whenever we need Him. He watches over us, and protects us, never allowing anything to happen to us that we cannot handle. But even with all this, it must be our choice to let Him in, to do His work. Now the only question that remains to be asked, will we let Him in?



Fr. Christodoulos Margellos

You are cordially invited to



Opa! 2 days of food, dancing & fun!

Friday, Sept. 20—11:00 a.m.—11:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21—11:00 a.m.—11:00 p.m.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

At the corner of 30th Street and 31st Avenue in Rock Island

Call 786-8163 for more information

Admission \$2

Kids under 12 admitted free!

Sponsored by:



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September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Ecclesiastical New Year Orthros: 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.	2	3	4 Religious Education 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7 Cutting Souvlakia 9:00 a.m. Great Vespers: 5:00 p.m.
8 Nativity of the Theotokos Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Begins	9 Souvlakia Skewering 9:00 a.m. Festival Meeting 6:30 p.m.	10 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	11 Religious Education 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Holy Cross Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.
15 Sunday After Holy Cross Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.	16 Making Dolmades 9:00 a.m.	17	18 Philoptochos packaging day: 9:00 a.m.	19	20 GREEK FEST GREEK FEST GREEK FEST	21 GREEK FEST GREEK FEST GREEK FEST
22 1st Sunday of Luke Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.	23	24	25 Religious Education 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 a.m.	26 St. John the Theologian Orthros: 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.	27	28 Great Vespers: 5:00 p.m.
29 2nd Sunday of Luke Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.	30					

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Parish Council Minutes

9 July 2013

Members Present: Dennis Spurgetis, Mary Rankin, Gus Pappas, Joe Burmeister, Harry S. Coin, Steve Eckert, and Mike Patramanis

Guest: Alexa Florence

Call to order: Council President Dennis S. called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Father Christodoulos led the council in prayer.

Minutes: The council approved the minutes of the June meeting.

Special Report: Alexa F. presented plans for the Green Room kitchen area renovation, which include new cabinets, countertop, refrigerator, microwave, sink and floor tiles. Harry C. moved and Gus P. seconded to approve the plans. After discussion, the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Gus P. reviewed the current report and noted that a transfer of funds will not be needed at this time but possibly in August. He also noticed that the budget is not shown in the financial reports after he furnished a copy to the accounting firm. He will check into this matter. There was a question about what line item reflects the deposit of the funds for the Green Room kitchen remodel project. Gus P. will ask Candice K. about this. Harry C. moved and Joe B. seconded to approve the report. The council approved the motion.

Foundation Report: Foundation chairman Steve E. reported the current fund balance as of today is \$506,425, a decrease of \$9,110.75 or approximately 4% since last month's meeting. The foundation committee met on June 17 (see attached minutes) and discussed a variety of topics to include current and future needs of the parish, risk appetite of the committee and the role of committee members. The committee approved the following recommendation:

"Subject to Board approval, the current cash balance, plus all monies in excess of \$500,000 at time of transfer, plus \$12,000 shall be transferred into a separate non fee oriented FDIC insured account at American Bank and Trust Company. It was further moved that this should take place annually on the 10th day of January each year hereafter. The account shall remain as an asset of the Foundation."

Gus P. moved and Mary R. seconded to approve the committee's recommendation. The motion was approved.

Building and Grounds: In the absence of the chairman, there was no report.

Stewardship: Mary R. reported that as of July 8, \$86,462.00 has been contributed to the parish as stewardship contributions.

Youth Report: Father Christodoulos reported the following:

The trip to Six Flags is scheduled for July 23.

Sunday School will begin on September 8. Registration will be held on August 25, Sept. 1 and 8.

Father's Report: Jason Leon, church custodian, has suggested that a credit card be obtained so that when items need to be purchased, the parish could take advantage of lower prices sometimes offered at big box stores, etc. Gus P. will coordinate getting a VISA card for the parish.

Father would like to rehang the icons from the old parish that are currently in the Sunday school rooms and place them where they are more readily available to the entire parish.

Deacon Paul's ordination portrait is framed and needs to be hung.

There was no old or new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Father Christodoulos ended the meeting with a prayer.

SEPTEMBER 2013 SERVICE SCHEDULE/HOLY WEEK

Sunday, September 1st	Ecclesiastical New Year	Orthros: 8:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, September 7th	Great Vespers	Vespers: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 8th	Nativity of the Theotokos Sunday before Holy Cross	Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, September 14th	Elevation of the Holy Cross	Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, September 15th	Sunday after Holy Cross	Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, September 22nd	First Sunday of Luke	Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, September 26th	St. John the Theologian	Orthros: 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, September 28th	Great Vespers	Vespers: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 29th	2nd Sunday of Luke	Orthros: 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS: On Sunday September 8th. The Sunday school is set up to teach our children about their Orthodox Faith. It is important to teach our youth so that our Church can continue to flourish. It is through our teachers dedicated work that we find success, but if parents do not take the education of their children and make it a priority, no matter our efforts it will fail. So dedicate yourselves to have your children here every week and on time, so that we can continue on the great tradition of our Sunday school program here at St. George.

YOUTH OUTING TO MICHAEL'S FUN WORLD: We will be having a youth outing at Michael's Fun World in Davenport on Sunday, September 29th from 2:00—6:00 p.m. They have a ton to do and is good for both children young and old. From go karting, mini golf, bouncy house, laser tag, batting cages and children's maze there is something for everyone. They have many different packages to choose from, for a variety of different costs. They do have a great all around package that includes a bit of everything for \$20. We will also have pizza and chicken wings for everyone as a thank you for all our parish youth helping during the Greek fest the food will be covered by the Church. So please call the Fr. Christodoulos at 309-786-8163 to R.S.V.P.

WESTERN METROPOLIS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: In February of 2014 the Western Metropolis Basketball tourney will be going on. This year we would like to try and get a couple of teams together. We have some people interested in the Y.A.L men's team and we hope to get a J.O.Y team as well as a G.O.Y.A. boy's team. Fr. Christodoulos should be getting some information soon on the dates. This years tournament will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in February. Please let Fr. Christodoulos know if your children are interested.

ALTAR BOY SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

On Sunday, September 8th, 2013: Team 2 Nikolas Jacobs, Alek Jacobs, John T. Jones, John Mott, Michael Pyevich, Ben Florence, Peter Matos, Ian Matos.

On Sunday, September 15th, 2013: Team 1 Gabriel Florence, Ethan Kirkpatrick, Andrew Leon, Jorge Elias, Zack Elias, Gabriel Elias, Tomas Elias.

On Sunday, September 22, 2013: Team 2 Nikolas Jacobs, Alek Jacobs, John T. Jones, John Mott, Michael Pyevich, Ben Florence, Peter Matos, Ian Matos.

On Sunday, September 29th, 2013: Team 1 Gabriel Florence, Ethan Kirkpatrick, Andrew Leon, Jorge Elias, Zack Elias, Gabriel Elias, Tomas Elias.

On Sunday, October 6th, 2013: Team 2 Nikolas Jacobs, Alek Jacobs, John T. Jones, John Mott, Michael Pyevich, Ben Florence, Peter Matos, Ian Matos.

September 2013 Parish Council Sunday Duty List

-Names in Parenthesis indicate team member to arrive by 9:30 a.m.

On Sunday, September 8th, 2013 members on duty: (Angela Spurgetis, Steve Eckert), Ted Kutsunis, Mary Rankin.

On Sunday, September 15th, 2013 members on duty: (Gus Pappas), Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis.

On Sunday, September 22nd, 2013 members on duty: (Vickie Pyevich, Tom Bakeris), Harry S. Coin, Mike Patramanis.

On Sunday, September 29th, 2013 members on duty: (Mary Rankin, Ted Kutsunis), Angela Spurgetis, Steve Eckert.

On Sunday, October 6th, 2013 members on duty: (Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis), Gus Pappas.

READERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

On Sunday, September 8th, 2013: Alexa Florence

On Sunday, September 15th, 2013: Steve Eckert.

On Sunday, September 22nd, 2013: Colleen Matos.

On Sunday, September 29th, 2013: Kay Coin.

On Sunday, October 6th, 2013: Alexa Florence.

Coffee Hour Hosts for September 2013

On Sunday, September 8th, 2013 Coffee hour will be hosted by: Becky Caras & Paula Coin.

On Sunday, September 15th, 2013 Coffee hour will be hosted by: Helen Moorhead & Marge Stratton.

On Sunday, September 22nd, 2013 Coffee hour will be hosted by: Alexandra Gnatovich.

On Sunday, September 29th, 2013 Coffee hour will be hosted by: Family of Constantine "Dick" Spurgetis.

On Sunday, October 6th, 2013 Coffee hour will be hosted by: Stan & Kay Coin.



YOUTH CORNER!



67

Saints' Names

Can you find all of the 21 listed names of saints hidden in the grid below?

Words may run forwards or backwards, either horizontally, diagonally or vertically, but always in a straight, uninterrupted line.



ALBERT

ANDREA

ATHANASIUS

AUGUSTUS

AUSTELL

BERNARD

CHRISTINA

DOMINIC

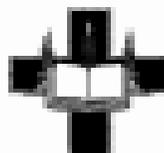
DUNSTAN

FERGUS

HEILER

IGNATIUS

JEROME



MONICA

NAZAIRE

NICHOLAS

SMITHIN

URSANE

VALENTINE

WINIFRED

XAVIER

St. George Stewardship Notes

"I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit"



Prayer, Sacrifice, and Mercy or Time, Talent, and Treasure?

The following is an excerpt from an article by Ronald L. Conte, Jr. and presents an alternative way to think of stewardship...

Prayer is the first and most important duty and joy of every faithful follower of Jesus Christ. With prayer you can obtain guidance from God, participate in God's Providence over the lives of others, obtain the strength to do good and avoid evil, and pour out a myriad of blessings, both tangible and mystical, upon the whole world. Prayer is true treasure and there is where your heart should be. Whoever loves God prays.

Sacrifice is the second and next most important duty and joy of every beloved child of God. Christ offered the ultimate Sacrifice to God--His own prayerful suffering and death on the Cross. We poor imitators of Christ ought to make little sacrifices and practice self-denial in all aspects of our lives. Prayer and Sacrifice combined are a powerful force in the world.

Mercy is essential to the life of every sinner who hopes to obtain sufficient mercy from God to eventually enter into Eternal Life. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." (Mt 5:7). We can practice mercy for others by forgiving injury and insult, by doing good to those who do harm us, and by praying and sacrificing for those in need, be they friend or foe. We can practice being merciful through the spiritual and the temporal works of mercy. The practice of mercy includes offering our time and talents to those in spiritual or physical need. It also includes giving alms. The giving of alms can be in the form of material goods, such as food or clothing, or in the form of money.

Giving money is only one way to give alms. And giving alms is only one part of being merciful. Giving of your time and talents is another way to be merciful and is also a kind of alms-giving. But the most important way to be merciful is by being kind and forgiving and patient to others, and by praying and sacrificing for others. Time, Talent, and Alms are only small part of the Stewardship of Mercy. And the true definition of Stewardship must include Prayer and Sacrifice.

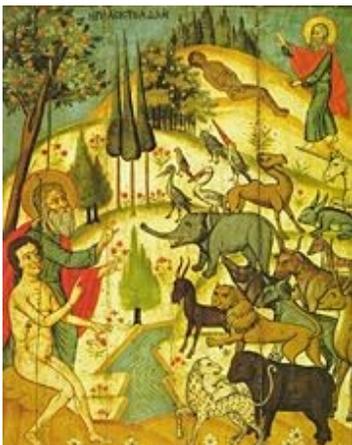
QUICK FACTS (as of Aug. 29)

\$98,664 =
Stewardship
contributed to date

\$134,117.00 =
Amount pledged by
117 households

\$1,146.30 =
Average pledge per
household at this date

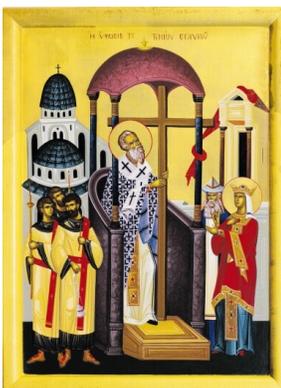
\$242,454 =
Amount needed for the
2013 ministries of
St. George Parish



ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR: For the maintenance of their armed forces, the Roman emperors decreed that their subjects in every district should be taxed every year. This same decree was reissued every fifteen years, since the Roman soldiers were obliged to serve for fifteen years. At the end of each fifteen-year period, an assessment was made of what economic changes had taken place, and a new tax was decreed, which was to be paid over the span of the fifteen years. This imperial decree, which was issued before the season of winter, was named Indictio, that is, Definitio, or Order. This name was adopted by the emperors in Constantinople also. At other times, the latter also used the term Epinemesis, that is, Distribution (Dianome). It is commonly held that Saint Constantine the Great introduced the Indiction decrees in A.D. 312, after he beheld the sign of the Cross in heaven and vanquished Maxentius and was proclaimed Emperor in the West. Some, however (and this seems more likely), ascribe the institution of the Indiction to Augustus Caesar, three years before the birth of Christ. Those who hold this view offer as proof the papal bull issued in A.D. 781 which is dated thus: Anno IV, Indictionis LIII -that is, the fourth year of the fifty-third Indiction.

From this, we can deduce the aforementioned year (3 B.C.) by multiplying the fifty-two complete Indictions by the number of years in each (15), and adding the three years of the fifty-third Indiction. There are three types of Indictions: 1) That which was introduced in the West, and which is called Imperial, or Caesarean, or Constantine, and which begins on the 24th of September; 2) The so-called Papal Indiction, which begins on the 1st of January; and 3) The Constantinopolitan, which was adopted by the Patriarchs of that city after the fall of the Eastern Empire in 1453. This Indiction is indicated in their own hand on the decrees they issue, without the numeration of the fifteen years. This Indiction begins on the 1st of September and is observed with special ceremony in the Church. Since the completion of each year takes place, as it were, with the harvest and gathering of the crops into storehouses, and we begin anew from henceforth the sowing of seed in the earth for the production of future crops, September is considered the beginning of the New Year. The Church also keeps festival this day, beseeching God for fair weather, seasonable rains, and an abundance of the fruits of the earth. The Holy Scriptures (Lev. 23:24-5 and Num. 29:1-2) also testify that the people of Israel celebrated the feast of the Blowing of the Trumpets on this day, offering hymns of thanksgiving. In addition to all the aforesaid, on this feast we also commemorate our Savior's entry into the synagogue in Nazareth, where He was given the book of the Prophet Esaias to read, and He opened it and found the place where it is written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for which cause He hath anointed Me..." (Luke 4:16-30).

It should be noted that to the present day, the Church has always celebrated the beginning of the New Year on September 1. This was the custom in Constantinople until its fall in 1453 and in Russia until the reign of Peter I. September 1 is still festively celebrated as the New Year at the Patriarchate of Constantinople; among the Jews also the New Year, although reckoned according to a moveable calendar, usually falls in September. The service of the Menaion for January 1 is for our Lord's Circumcision and for the memorial of Saint Basil the Great, without any mention of its being the beginning of a new year.



ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: 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, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place. Rest from labor. A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be.

Community News

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS: With many of our new parishioners recently immigrating, we will be offering English as a Second Language classes at St. George. If you are interested or know someone who is please see either Angela Spurgetis or Fr. Christodoulos Margellos for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION: With Sunday school beginning this year on Sunday, September 8th we will be having parents registering their children for Sunday School on Sunday, September 8th following Divine Liturgy. Help us make our Sunday school a top priority.

SOUVLAKI MAKING: On Saturday, September 7th we will need people who would like to volunteer to help cut the souvlaki meat. We will be beginning at 9:00 a.m. and a light lunch will be provided as well. Then on Monday, September 9th we will need people who can help to skewer the souvlakia. This will also be beginning at 9:00 a.m. and a light lunch will again be provided. Come help us as we continue to prepare for the festival.

FESTIVAL MEETING: Our festival meetings will be held on Monday, September 9th All meetings will be held in the Library.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Will be on Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Green room. Also the time is coming for new parish council elections. Please consider being a part of our parish council and help our community move into the future of the Quad Cities.

DOLMADES MAKING: On Monday, September 16th we will be rolling the Dolmades and need as much help as we can get so that it can be done in a prompt manner. We will be starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Gold room. All are welcome to attend.

PHILOPTOCHOS PACKAGING DAY: On Wednesday, September 18th our ladies Philoptochos will be packaging the Baklava as well as myrosing the Kadiropitas. The more help they can get the quicker it will go. If interested please see Nancy Coin. All are welcome to attend.

SUMMER HOURS COME TO AN END: On Sunday September 8th we will be going back to our winter hours as we are beginning Sunday School. Orthros will now begin at 8:30 a.m. with Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. We will have these new hours until the Sunday, June 1st which is the first Sunday following Memorial Day.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASS: Now that summer has drawn to a close our Religious Education classes are starting up again. We began a few weeks ago and are currently working on the Book of Genesis. When we finish Genesis we will begin the book "Wounded by Love" by Elder Prophyrios. Classes meet on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. and again in the evening at 6:30 p.m. Classes run approximately 1 hour and 30 mins. All are welcome to attend and help to enrich their faith.

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. Christodoulos will then reach out to them. Please if you have anybody in mind please call the church office or speak with Fr. Christodoulos

KOLYVA FOR MEMORIALS: As many of us know in order to have a memorial in the Orthodox Church we need to have Kolyva. Because of this we have started offering to make Kolyva for anyone who needs to have one and either does not have time or does not know how to make them. We will charge \$100.00 for a tray and it will be ready for Sundays. Families are welcome to help with the making of the Kolyva as well. At a later date will also offer a class on Kolyva making so that we can teach more people within the community to make Kolyva. For more information on ordering Kolyva contact the church office.

CHANTERS NEEDED: We have been blessed at Saint George over the years to have many people volunteer their time to help with chanting the sacred services of the Church. Our current chanters Chris, Steve and Dn. Paul are doing a great job, but soon, God willing, we will need a few more to help with services. We also hope to be able to add more English to our Orthros services. So anyone who is interested please see Fr. Christodoulos for more details.

EVENING MEAL: For September will be hosted by Randy and Chris Smith.

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.



Festival Volunteers Needed!

Plan now for a great time of fun and fellowship!

Help is needed for all positions, but particularly in the kitchen and serving lines during the evening dinner hours!

Please plan to work as many shifts as possible!

You may sign up at church or by contacting Mary Rankin (home phone: 563-359-0407, cell phone: 563-263-2341 or email: mbarton83@aol.com)

St. George Greek Orthodox Church
"Our Big Fat Greek Festival"

Sept. 20 & 21

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

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Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: 309-786-8163

Fax: 309-786-8188

Priest Email: frchristos@gmail.com

Office Email: stgeorgeoffice@aol.com



The Grace of Almsgiving

Once when I was walking with the saint in the city's square, I saw a man to my right whispering something. Many poor were following him asking for help. And he, acting as if he were shooing them away, he would put in their hands his gift of alms. In this way, he was hiding his almsgiving from the eyes of people. The moment I noticed it, I elbowed the saint to get his attention and told him of the virtue of that man. And he said to me:

"In the eyes of God, he is great. I know him because we've met many times."

After a few days, I asked him specifically about this virtue and he recounted a paradoxical miracle:

"I was a little kid, then," he said, "around twelve-years-old, and I had gone to the church of St. Thomas to pray. I found there an elder teaching the people. Speaking on many things, he also touched upon almsgiving. He said that the person who gives something to the poor, it is as if they are placing it directly into the hand of the Lord. When I heard it, I was befuddled and judged the person of God that he was a liar. Because inside me I said, 'since the Lord is in the heavens at the right of His Father, how can he be found on earth to receive those things we give to the poor?'

But as I was walking and contemplating all that I heard, it happened that I saw a raggedy poor man where on his head - what a miracle! - there stood the image of our Lord Jesus Christ. There, where the poor man was moving along, he met an almsgiver who gave him a piece of bread. The moment that this friend of the poor extended his hand to the beggar, the Lord also extended his hand from the image, Who then took the bread and thanked him. Then the Lord gave the bread to the poor person. Neither the poor man nor the almsgiver noticed anything.

I marveled and believed. From then on I knew that whoever gives to the brethren of whatever they are in need, actually places it in the hands of Christ. This image of Christ I see standing above all poor people and that is why in awe I exercise, as much as I can, the virtue of almsgiving that so pleases the Lord."

~ St. Niphon of Konstantiana