

SAINT GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

- Parish Priest:  
Fr. Michael  
Constantinides
- Caretaker: Jason Leon
- GOYA Advisors:  
Dr. Vicky Pyevich/  
Anne Kirpatrick
- HOPE/JOY Advisors:  
Pres. Maria Constanti-  
nides/Candice Elias
- Outreach and Evangel-  
ism Chair: Angela  
Spurgetis
- Parish Council Presi-  
dent: Mary Rankin
- Philoptochos Presi-  
dent: Susan Matos
- Prayer Ministry: Gus  
Pappas
- Sunday School Direc-  
tor: Deacon Paul  
Speed

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VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

# The Trophybearer

APRIL 2016

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

Did any of you ever stop to think about the awesome feast that is quickly approaching? Did any of you ever feel that when Pascha comes you are not fully prepared? By prepared, I mean that we are in a correct state of spiritual preparedness not whether we have the right outfit or whether the lamb will be good this year or over cooked. The Church, in her love and wisdom, makes an effort to prepare us for this feast by giving us themes to concentrate on every Sunday during Lent. The first Sunday had as its theme the triumph of the correct faith. In other words, those who believe correctly will be victorious even if they are down for a while. The second Sunday had as its theme the energies or actions of God. God acted to heal the paralyzed man and through the healing brought him to a closer relationship with Himself, a relationship based on participation. Christ forgave the sinner and the sinner began to live a life of forgiveness. The third Sunday is no exception. My brothers and sisters in the Lord, the themes of the Third Sunday of Lent are self-denial and repentance. Let us take a few moments to discuss these themes and see how they can be applied to our lives.

*"Whoever desires to come after me let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."* Self-denial is the message given to the disciples. The Disciples lead people of God, yet since the disciples are part of the people of God, and there are no special rules for the leaders versus those who are led, the message indeed is for all of us. What should we deny? Not the good things, but sin, or more specifically the predisposition towards sin and the evil passions and desires associated with it. In other words, we should put to death the old man since the old man is separated from God, from his fellow man and thus lives in death. The old man died in baptism, yet we resurrect the old man when we sin. We must get rid of him. This must be voluntary. God does not force us, but calls us to good things and not evil, to life and not punishment. Yet since man is free to choose, there are ramifications to his choice. The Christian life is not a bowl of cherries, in fact St. John Chrysostom tells us, "for although it be in my power, as Son of God, to hinder you from having any trial at all of those hardships, yet such is not my will for your sake, that you may yourself contribute something and be more approved." So, God does not smooth everything over for us or remove trials and tribulations. With this verse, God explains the cost of discipleship which is self-denial, the carrying of one's cross (suffering) and obedience to Christ.

*"Let us come boldly to the throne of grace for help in time of need".* St. Paul calls us to repentance, to metanoia that is a change of mind. This change is a real change and not going through motions. Why? Because we fall short of God's calling. Man is called to grow in image and likeness to become an imitator of God's life. C. S. Lewis tells us in his book "The Screwtape Letters" "He (God) really wants to fill the universe with a lot of...little replicas of himself—creatures whose life, on a miniature scale will be like...His... (He)...really wants a world of beings united to Him but still distinct." We decided to do things our way and must do things God's way. When? Now because after death is too late, and we do not know the time of our death. In this life Christ grants mercy and grace. In the next life He grants judgment. Christ can forgive easily because he is both the Son of God and thus has the authority to forgive sins, and the Son of Man who was tempted like us and thus talks the talk and walks the walk.

How do we apply this to our lives? First through prayer, which is communication with God thus linking us to both the Church and our fellow man through God. It is an important element to being a Christian since it makes us realize that we are not alone and that there are others besides us. Second through fasting this restores the relationship between body and soul, and between God, our fellow man and nature. Thirdly through the reception of Holy Communion. Holy Communion brings us into union with God and His saints, makes us part of Christ and energizes us. In fact, it is the defining characteristic of a Christian.

So we can see then that Christ calls us to follow him. To truly follow him we must deny ourselves. More accurately, we must deny the part of ourselves that was added on, that is sin. Having severed our evil dispositions we may approach the great mercy seat of Christ and be cleansed of our stains. This becomes easier knowing that Christ is indeed one of us and underwent temptation. He lived the life that he calls us to live and for that, reason can be merciful, because he knows how tough that life is. We approach the seat of mercy by using the tools that he provided us. Let us then not overlook this great mercy that is given us to approach the mercy seat of Christ. For we know not the day or the hour of our death. Let us not approach too late or we may find the mercy seat a judgment seat instead. Let us use the rest of the fast, which is at its halfway point, to thoroughly prepare ourselves for the joy of the Resurrection of our Lord. Amen

Fr. Michael Constantinides, Parish Priest

## April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<sup>1</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Third Salutations	<sup>2</sup> <b>Oil and Wine allowed</b>
<sup>3</sup> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Veneration of the Holy Cross</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b> <b>Spring Assembly</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion 5:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Vespers	<sup>4</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>  6:00 p.m. Great Compline	<sup>5</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>	<sup>6</sup> <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum  5:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy at the Assumption Church	<sup>7</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>  6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	<sup>8</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Fourth Salutations	<sup>9</sup> <b>Oil and Wine allowed</b>
<sup>10</sup> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Saint John Climacus</b> <b>Oil and Wine allowed</b> 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes following Holy Communion 5:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Vespers	<sup>11</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>  6:00 p.m. Great Compline	<sup>12</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	<sup>13</sup> <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum  5:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy	<sup>14</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>  6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	<sup>15</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. The Akathyst Hymn	<sup>16</sup> <b>Oil and Wine allowed</b> 10:00 a.m. Tour  1:00 p.m. Hope/Joy Prospora Making
<sup>17</sup> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Saint Mary of Egypt</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes following Holy Communion	<sup>18</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>	<sup>19</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>	<sup>20</sup> <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum  5:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy at the Assumption Church	<sup>21</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>  6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	<sup>22</sup> <b>Fast Day</b>	<sup>23</sup> <b>Saturday of Lazarus</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy Sunday School Communion Breakfast followed by the making of Palm Crosses
<sup>24</sup> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service at Assumption Church	<sup>25</sup> <b>Holy Monday</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	<sup>26</sup> <b>Holy Tuesday</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	<sup>27</sup> <b>Holy Wednesday</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 3:30 p.m. Holy Unction  Evening Meal 7:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Thursday with anointing of Holy Unction	<sup>28</sup> <b>Holy Thursday</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy  7:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Friday	<sup>29</sup> <b>Holy Friday</b> <b>Fast Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 9:00 a.m. Royal Hours  3:00 p.m. Apokathelosis 7:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Saturday	<sup>30</sup> <b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Vespers Divine Liturgy  11:00 p.m. Resurrection Orthros and Divine Liturgy

## *The Council Connection*

### **Spring General Assembly: April 3**

Please plan now to attend the Spring General Assembly on Sunday, April 3, 2016, immediately following coffee hour. This will be an important meeting to examine the future needs of the parish.

### **Mardi Gras Report**

The recent Mardi Gras was well attended and the council sends out many thanks to those who made it a success. First of all, we are happy that so many of our brothers and sisters from the Assumption Parish in East Moline were in attendance, and we thank them for their support and fellowship!

Thanks also to the tireless culinary efforts of Collette Spurgetis and Tom Bakeris in their days-long preparation of the yummy kapama sauce! (Apologies to everyone who wanted to purchase some the next morning....it was all consumed at the event!) They

were joined by Jimmie Pliakos (and his son Stephen and daughters Libby and Nina) for preparations on Friday and Saturday. Thanks to Ted and Deb Kutsunis for setting up and manning the bar, to Nancy Spurgetis for the striking decorations, to Mike Gust and Tony Bakeris for their help in the kitchen, and for all of the parishioners who bought tickets and brought friends to the event.

Also thank you to the parishioners who contributed their time and talents to the auction: John Stratton donated a number of exquisite paintings. Tom Bakeris and Jimmie Pliakos donated provisions and preparation for two lamb roasts. Martha Stratton bid on and won the box seats for a Bandits game and then donated them to the St. George Youth Groups. Angela Perantinos crocheted and donated two beautiful doilies. Dimitri Papageorgiou contributed a perennially favorite auction item of a wine tasting event. Marge Stratton donated a lovely

Lladro figurine that Joe Burmeister was eager to snap up! Thanks to all of our donors and bidders!

### **Note of Thanks to Mike Gust:**

Over the past six or seven months, we have been blessed with Mike's contributions of time and talent in completing a number of projects for the parish. His most recent "good deed" was putting in new tile behind the bar area....something the health inspector will be happy to see! Thanks so much for your service, Mike!

Yours in Christ,

*Mary Rankin*

Mary Rankin  
Parish Council President

**Serving on  
the Parish  
Council is a  
sacred  
opportunity!  
If you wish  
to serve  
please  
contact  
Father  
Michael or  
Mary  
Rankin!**

# Epistle Readers

**Sunday,  
April 3, 2016  
Third Sunday of Lent**  
Alexa Florence

**Sunday,  
April 17, 2016  
Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
Loukia Constantinides

**Sunday,  
April 10, 2016  
Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
Ethan Kirpatrick

**Sunday,  
April 24, 2016  
Palm Sunday**  
Michael Pyevich

## Parish Council Sunday Duty

**Sunday,  
April 3, 2016**  
Joe Burmeister,  
Mary Kay Eckert  
Mary Rankin  
Ken Stiegel

**Sunday,  
April 10, 2016**  
Dale Allison  
Brad Crosson,  
Mariellen Crosson  
Mike Patramanis

**Sunday,  
April 17, 2016**  
John Mekus,  
Dennis Spurgetis,  
Diane Spurgetis  
Mary Rankin

**Sunday,  
April 24, 2016**  
Joe Burmeister,  
Mary Kay Eckert  
Mary Rankin  
Ken Stiegel

## Coffee Hour Hosts for March 2016

**Sunday,  
April 3, 2016  
hosted by:**  
Alexa Florence and Dena Manta

**Sunday, Sunday,  
April 10, 2016  
hosted by:**  
Open

**Sunday,  
April 17, 2016  
hosted by:**  
The Winters

**Sunday,  
April 24, 2016  
hosted by:**  
Open



"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!

### EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

**April 27– Mike and  
Nancy Avgenackis**

**May 25– Nick and  
Nancy Coin**

**June 22– Alexa  
Florence and  
Susan Coin**

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



**Fellowship  
and fun!**

**Monthly Pastoral  
Visits**

**Shut-in: 9**

**Hospital  
Calls: 3**

**House  
Blessings: 1**

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

**Memorials/  
Trisagia**

**April 3,  
2016**

**Trisagia**

**Peter P.  
Booras**

**20 years**

**Angela D.  
Booras**

**9 years**

## Community News

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Will be meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Green room.

### PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY WITH LENTEN MEAL TO FOLLOW

It is customary that on Wednesdays during the Lenten season we have what is known as a Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. It is a beautiful service and an opportunity to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ to help strengthen us during our ascetical struggle of fasting. We are continuing the tradition of alternating with Assumption Parish each week on holding this service. It is one of the most difficult services to chant and this way we can do it together as one church in Christ. Also following these services at both parishes we will have a little Lenten dinner offered. Along with the dinner we will have a small Lenten Lecture Series. All are welcome to join us and learn a little more about our faith.

### SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS

Every Sunday evening during Great Lent at 5:00 p.m. we will be having Lenten Vespers. Please join us for these special Lenten services

### MONDAY COMPLINE SERVICES

Every Monday during Great and Holy Lent at 6:00 p.m. we will be having Great Compline Services. All are invited.

### METROPOLIS NEWS

Please reserve the date for

your family!

The Metropolis of Chicago  
Family Synaxis Lenten  
Retreat

"Family and Forgiveness"

Retreat Leader: Peli Galiti,  
M.Ed, Ph.D.

Saturday, April 2, 2016

St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox  
Church

12307 S Ridgeland Ave, Palos  
Heights, IL 60463

[www.gocfamilysynaxis.org](http://www.gocfamilysynaxis.org)

### ALTAR BOY NEWS

On Saturday April 23, 2016 following the Divine Liturgy we will have an Altar Boy meeting to prepare for Holy Week. Join us!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On Saturday April 23, 2016 all students are invited to join our Sunday School Teachers in making Palm Crosses following the Divine Liturgy.

### PALM SUNDAY

Please join Father Michael and the Esteemed Parish Council in welcoming His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos to our Parish Family as he leads us in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday. May God grant him many years of health and joy to guide His Church

### MYROPHORES

During the Lamentations service on Holy Friday night we again will be having the young girls serving as Myrophores, anyone's daughter who is interested in doing this please contact Mary Rankin 563-263-2341 or Collette Spurgetis.

### HOLY FRIDAY EPITAPHIO PROCESSION

On Holy Friday night we will once again be doing our procession of the Epitaphion around the church. We are need of volunteers who would like to help carry the Epitaphion during part of the procession. Anyone interested please see Scot Johnson for more information.

### CALLING ALL READERS

Any parishioners who are able to read a foreign language and would enjoy reading the Gospel at the AGAPE Vespers on Pascha, May 1, please contact Father Michael.

### PASCHA LAMB ROAST AND POTLUCK

On Sunday, May 1st following the Agape Vespers our parish will be hosting it's Pascha Pot Luck beginning at around 12:30 p.m. We will have an Easter egg hunt for the kids and we will be serving Lamb as well as what ever else is brought on that day. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

### FEASTDAY CELEBRATION AND LUNCHEON

On Monday, May 2nd we will celebrate our Parish feast day. We will have Orthros at 8:30 a.m. with Liturgy to follow at 10:00 a.m. Following Divine Liturgy we will have a luncheon provided for all in attendance. We will serve Chicken, rice and traditional Greek green beans. Please join us as we celebrate are Patronal Feast day of St. George.



## Our Saint George Parish Community

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Have we taken for granted our health? Some of our members who are no longer able to come to church would always appreciate a phone call just to say hello.

Anne Allen

Ted Bagatelas

Helen Corelis

Stella Cudworth

Elaine Froumis

Judy Pappas

Jim Patton

Xenia Patton

Janice Smirles

Pat Grevas

Jim Tsagaris



## Sunday School News

*In children we have a great charge committed to us. Let us bestow great care upon them, and do everything that the Evil One may not rob us of them."*

*St. John Chrysostom, Homilies on 1st Timothy.*

I want thank the parents, grandparents and other family members and friends who have been so diligent in getting our young people

to Sunday School every Sunday. We are having a good year.

Now we are deep into Great Lent, it is all more the more important to have our children in church. Our Sunday worship aims us unfailingly to Holy Week, and Pascha. For those who can, a variety of evening services will provide more opportunities to worship

and learn our way deeper into the Faith. Our lessons plans provided by the Metropolis will be pointing toward Pascha as well, and we look forward to seeing our children at Sunday School.



**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

### Notification of the Spring General Assembly on April 3, 2016

Dear St. George Stewards,

On Sunday, April 3, 2016, following the fellowship and coffee hour, we will be convening our Spring 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 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.

### 2016 SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

OPENING PRAYER

AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL REPORT

PRIEST REPORT

MARDI GRAS REPORT

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

FESTIVAL REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSING PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT

## HOPE/JOY NEWS

We are very excited to get our St. George children involved in our HOPE/JOY group.

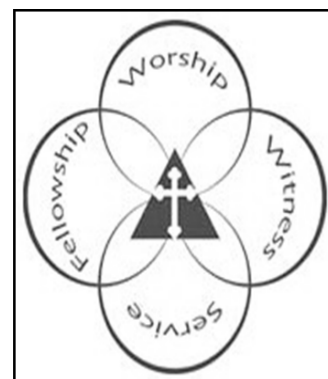
If you have children between the ages of 3-12 and want them to make lifetime friendships, have fun and learn about their faith, then this is the group to be in!

We plan to have monthly meetings with a fun activ-

ity, some time with Fr. Michael and fellowship with their friends.

Our first meeting will be in April and we plan on teaching the kids how to make Prosphoro. They will each get to make their own Prosphoro that will be used in the Divine Liturgy. Please look for the flyer for this event soon.

Please feel free to contact Presbyteria Maria at [pres-mariazoe@aol.com](mailto:pres-mariazoe@aol.com) or Candace Elias at [eli-as4130@yahoo.com](mailto:eli-as4130@yahoo.com) with any questions.



## Goya News

We hope all of you enjoyed our warm March weather! March was a quiet month for the youth but we do look forward to more activities as we enter Spring.

GOYA will be once again hosting Good Friday Luminaries. They will be lighting the path with the luminaries around the church with the names of loved ones who have

passed on and for wishes for the health of family and friends.

Our GOYANS will personalize each candle-lit bag (Lambada) with † **In the Memory of...** or † **For the Health of...** The bags will be lined around the church along the path of the Epitaphion. Cost is a free will donation. The youth will be collecting your infor-

mation after Church services during the month of April. Also look for luminary forms in the bulletin.

All youth 13 years and up are welcomed to join any of our GOYA activities. Look forward to the start of Great Lent!

Vickie Pyevich

Anne Kirkpatrick

GOYA Advisors

## The Four Circles of Youth Ministry: Worship Witness Fellowship Service

## Outreach and Evangelism

We had our initial meeting with good ideas presented for reaching parishioners we have not seen in a while, and to introduce ourselves to those outside of our church community.

Hosting a blood drive, cooking classes, notices

for college campuses and radio stations of our activities, volunteering at community events, presentations by Fr. Michael, and inviting friends to church were a few of the ideas.

We welcome your suggestions and invite you to

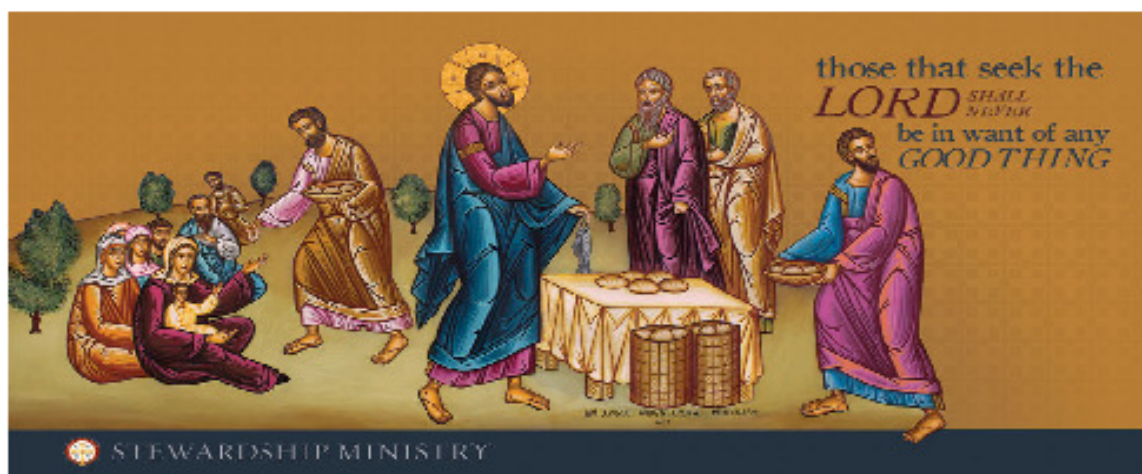
join us in the activities. As Fr. Michael says, "Orthodoxy is the best kept secret around". We are enthused to share Orthodoxy and advance the ministry of our church.

Angela Spurgetis

Outreach Chairperson

# St. George Stewardship Notes

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



## 2016 QUICK FACTS

(as of  
March 21, 2016)

**\$117,380.00 =**  
Amount pledged for 2016  
by 113 households

**\$47,972.00 =**  
Amount given to 2016  
stewardship since Jan. 1

**\$1,039.00 =**  
Average pledge per  
household at this date

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

## 2016 First Quarter Update

Since January 1, the parish has been using a data software program specifically made for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to record individual contributions, including stewardship. This program will provide the parish with useful statistics as well as provide the individual with a more user-friendly quarterly statement. The new format statements will be mailed in early April along with the Holy Week bulletin and the Easter Offering envelope.

Also, a list of current stewards is included in this issue. If there are any mistakes on the list or on the statements, please contact Mary Rankin at 563-263-2341 or at mbarton83@aol.com.

**Percent of 2016 operating budget currently  
pledged: 23%**



## 2016 Stewards

Father and Presbyter Michael  
Constantinides  
Father and Presbyter Chris  
Matos  
Deacon and Deaconess Paul  
Speed  
Ray and Connie Allen  
Dale and JoElaine Allison  
Jeff and Elaine Amidon  
John and Pat Andrews  
Mike and Nancy Avgenackis  
Ted and Karen Bagatelas  
Tom and Jenny Bakeris  
Pascal Booras  
Diane Breckon  
Joe Burmeister  
Hillary Callas  
John and Darcy Callas  
Emily Caras  
Peter and Becky Caras  
Carol Chickris  
George and Nancy Coin  
Harry G. and Susan Coin  
Nick and Nancy Coin  
Stan and Kay Coin  
Helen Corelis  
John and Shan Corelis  
Brad and Mariellen Crosson  
Cleo Dalamaggas  
Angeline Douglas  
Jayme Eckert  
Steve and Mary Kay Eckert  
Daniel and Mari Elias  
Maurice and Sue Elias  
Tony and Candace Elias  
Paul and Kathy Farrell  
Scott and Alexa Florence  
Elaine Froumis

George Gnatovich  
Pete and Arlene Gust  
Vanessa Hayden-Porter  
Nick and Claudette Jannes  
Tim and Kathy Joannides  
Scot and Adrienne Johnson  
Candice Kalman  
Georgia Kalomas  
Louis and Amanda Kantzavelos  
George and Diane Karoulos  
John and Jennifer Kay  
Ermioni Keber  
Quinn and Anne Kirkpatrick  
Deborah Kutsunis  
George and Linda Kutsunis  
Ted and Debra Kutsunis  
Chris and Nikki Lebessis  
Jennifer Lensgraf  
Jason Leon  
Von Lillios  
Darlene Lingris  
Dena Manta  
Emmanuel and Tracy Mathews  
Nancy Mathews  
Peter and Susan Matos  
John and Linnea Mekus  
Helen Moorhead  
Steve Morgan  
Ken and Pam Mott  
Marguerite Nelson  
Anthony and Marianne Nichols  
Pauline Nichols  
Demetrios and Kathy  
Papageorgiou  
Chris Pappas  
Gus and Kerri Pappas  
Judy Pappas  
Mike and Vickie Patramanis

Angela Perantinos  
Marina Pikis  
Ted and Georgjean Pitsoulakis  
Demetrios Pliakos  
Ann Polillo  
Mike and Vickie Pyevich  
Mary Rankin  
Jovanka Rastovic  
David Ray  
Dennis and Marina Reese  
Effie Skafidas  
Frank J. and Mary Jane Skafidas  
Tom Skafidas  
Janice Smirles  
Gordon and Helen Smith  
Randy and Chris Smith  
Angela Spurgetis  
Colette Spurgetis  
Dennis and Nancy Spurgetis  
Diana Spurgetis  
Mary Spurgetis  
Nick and Fran Spurgetis  
Ken and Helen Stiegel  
John and Martha Stratton  
Marge Stratton  
James and Elizabeth Teros  
Stephanie Thodos  
Veronica Tolescu  
Gus and Virginia Tripilas  
Ellen Tsagaris & Dino Milani  
James Tsagaris  
Frank Vretis  
Bill and Diane Whitehead  
Kim and Mary Winters

*We are deeply  
grateful to our  
Lord Jesus Christ  
for our faithful  
and committed  
Stewards.*

*These  
parishioners have  
either filled out a  
pledge card, made  
a 2016  
stewardship  
contribution, or  
both as of  
03/21/16.*

## Parish Happenings

### DONATIONS for GREAT LENT and HOLY WEEK 2016

If you wish to give anything from our donation list, please call the Church office and speak with Fr. Michael to find out what is available. Thank You for your constant love and support

Palms and Bay Leaves for Palm Sunday: \$400

Flowered Frame Nymphios Icon: \$150

12 Candles for Holy Thursday: \$100

Linen White Bed Sheet for Good Friday: \$20

Clergy Paschal Candles: \$250

Flowered Frame St. George Icon for Feastday of the Church:  
\$150



### Annual Prosphoro Making

DATE: SATURDAY

APRIL 16, 2016

TIME: 1:00PM



*St. George Church*

*Rock Island, IL*

RSVP TO:

PRESBYTERA MARIA:

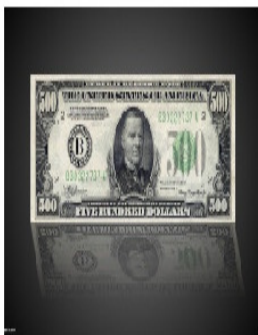
PRESMARIAZOE@AOL.COM

Hope/Joy

## Parish Happenings

### Change for Change Challenge

From Sunday April 3-24, The Philoptochos society is again asking parishioners to help fill a milk jug to benefit a local charity. This year proceeds will go to the *Vera French Community Mental Health Center* which serves over 10,000 adults and children in our community each year through a variety of programs at numerous community locations. The Philoptochos will match the donations up to \$300. So change your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters into something that can help change the lives of those in need.



## PALM CROSS MAKING



Join us on the Saturday of Lazarus

Attend the Divine Liturgy...

Take Communion...

Share a Lenten Breakfast...

and Make Palms!

All Sunday School Students, Teachers, Parents &  
Guests are welcome to attend:

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 23, 2016**

**ORTHROS BEGINS AT**  
**8:30 A.M.**

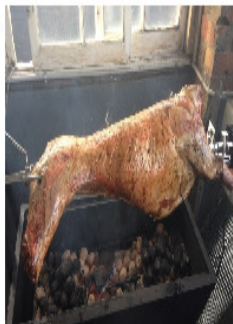
Sponsored by Saint George Sunday Church School

## Parish Happenings

### 2016 Saint George Pascha Potluck Dinner

Come join us following AGAPE Vespers for a wonderful Lamb dinner provided by St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

Everyone brings something along with them and we share in the truest sense of Christians.



Fun for the kids with our annual Easter egg hunt.

Good Music

Fun fellowship

Foods from all around the world.

*Again Join us for the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church annual*

### PASCHA POTLUCK DINNER



## SAINT GEORGE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



On Pascha May 1, 2016 we will be celebrating Great Vespers for the feast day of Saint George in conjunction with the Agape Service at 11:00 a.m.

Following will be our Paschal Pot-Luck

Then on Monday May 2, 2016 we will be celebrating the feast day of The Great Martyr George the Trophybearer with Orthros at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

*Immediately following Divine Liturgy QC USA Family Restaurant is hosting a Luncheon Buffet for all those in attendance.*

*All are invited to join us in celebration of the Great Martyr George.*

*Come and enjoy a day of celebration honoring our Great Saint.*





## Third Sunday of Lent-Veneration of the Holy Cross (April 3)



### The Veneration of the Holy Cross

The third Sunday of Lent marks the middle of the Lenten Season. During the early days of the Christian Church, this forty-day Lenten period was the most solemn period of the church year. All Christians maintained a strict fast. Meat, oil and dairy products were strictly forbidden. It was a period of fasting and prayer. Bible reading was accentuated and every Orthodox Christian performed good works of Christian charity. Many attended "religious retreats" at nearby monasteries and monastic communities. This forty-day period soon became known as a period of self-denial, self-sacrifice and repentance. Christians prepared themselves to suffer the agony undergone by our Savior as he was tempted by the devil in the desert and as he suffered and died upon the Cross of salvation. Since this

very same Cross has been the symbol of victory of good over evil, life over death and eternal life over extinction, the Fathers of the Church saw fit to observe the third Sunday of Lent (the half-way mark in Lent) as "Adoration Sunday of the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ." By pausing during this Holy period of fasting, we receive courage and reassurance of God's continued grace by viewing the Cross of Christ. The service is similar to the feast day celebration of the "Elevation of the Cross" which is held every September 14th in the Orthodox Church. During today's service, the Cross is carried aloft by the Priest and flowers are distributed after the procession. This is symbolical of the beauty of the Resurrection of our Blessed Lord which we await to celebrate with great anticipation. During ancient times in many far away lands the warring Kings, after winning victory on the fields of battle, would invariably dispatch a messenger back to the capital of the country in great haste to inform the people of the great victory and also of the coming triumphant return of the victorious King to the city. In so doing, the people were given the opportunity to

prepare a giant celebration and reception for their leader. In the same way the Church, during the Service of the Adoration of the Holy Cross, has brought forward the Cross of Jesus Christ to remind us of the coming victory of Jesus Christ over death and evil. We are given reassurance of the greatest battle and the most significant victory in all human history - the victory of Jesus Christ over death. The Easter hymn tells us of this victory: "Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death and bestowing life to those in the tombs." This is the message which the mother Church wishes to convey today. The Cross of Jesus Christ has been our symbol of victory for 2000 years. Never lose sight of this - it is ours to share if we but take up arms against the forces of evil that surround us in a materialistic world and labor side by side for a better today and a finer tomorrow for all mankind.

**O Lord and  
Master of my  
life, give me not  
a spirit of sloth,  
despair,  
ambition or  
vain talking.  
But rather a  
spirit of purity,  
humility,  
patience and  
love bestow on  
me Your  
servant.  
Yes, Lord and  
King, grant me  
to see my own  
faults, and not  
to judge my  
brother. For  
You are  
blessed to the  
ages of ages.  
Amen  
Saint Ephraim  
the Syrian**

## Fourth Sunday of Lent-Saint John of the Ladder (April 17)



**Saint John of the Ladder**

The fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to one of the holiest men of the Christian Church. His name was John of the Ladder (Climacus) and he lived during the 6th century. At the age of 16 he left his beloved Palestine, where he was born, and journeyed to what is now known as St. Catherine's monastery at Mt. Sinai in Egypt. This famous monastery is the oldest Christian monastery in the world and has been a place of meditation and prayer since St. Helen first visited the area in the year 329 A.D. For over 1600 years this monastery has been a spiritual haven for thousands of pious monks who came in search of the true spiritual life. Mt. Sinai has always been the scene of Jewish, Moslem and Christian devotion. It was here that Moses first talked with God and received Divine assurance of Jewish liberation from Egyptian bondage. Moses also

received the precious Ten Commandments from atop Mt. Sinai, and the Prophet Elijah found refuge at this sacred spot in the desert from the wicked Queen Jezebel. It was at this magnificent spot on earth that St. John of the Ladder came and lived a life of dedication and prayer as a hermit in the wilderness. He remained for fifty years in a cave, and people from all over the world came to hear his words of wisdom. During the latter part of his life he wrote a famous book of spiritual exercises entitled "The Ladder of Perfection." This is why he became known as St. John of the Ladder. The ladder of which he writes was symbolical of a spiritual ladder leading from earth up into heaven. It consisted of spiritual exercise through which the Christian could reach the highest point of spiritual perfection and thus become a participant in the Kingdom of Heaven. Many monks throughout the world still utilize this tremendous work of St. John in their spiritual meditations. The work itself is considered one of the most inspiring gems of Christian literature.

St. John of the Ladder actually died on March 30th at the age of 86 years. We celebrate his feast day, how-

ever, on the fourth Sunday of Lent during which many of his spiritual exercises are used in many monasteries and Churches throughout Orthodox Christendom.

St. John of the Ladder spent over 70 years in the desert of Mt. Sinai. He is considered by the Fathers of the Church to be one of the "holiest" ascetics (hermits) of Christianity. Many thousands of people traveled for many days over rough land through the wilderness of Mt. Sinai in search of this holy man. Many miracles were attributed to St. John of the Ladder, and his wonderful words of Faith brought salvation to thousands who came to seek his aid. St. John loved the monastery of Mt. Sinai, but he preferred the wilderness. He lived by himself in a cave and ate very little. He was a spiritual giant who brought glory to the Christian Church during an age when the world was filled with anxiety and confusion. Since we all make up the living body of Christ in the Church, it was with the example of St. John that all Christians gained divine grace and the Lord's blessings. Our world today is in dire need of more men such as St. John Climacus.

**“Open the  
gates of  
repentance  
to me, O  
Giver of  
Life, for my  
spirit rises  
early in the  
morning to  
your holy  
temple,  
bearing a  
temple of  
the body all  
defiled. But  
as you are  
full of pity,  
cleanse it by  
your  
compassion  
ate mercy.”  
Triodion  
Ideomelon.**

## Answers to Last Month's "Test Your Faith..."

As Jesus' trial proceeded, Judas became troubled. He was sorry for what he had done and was hoping Jesus would free Himself by some miracle.

Use this chart to decode the following sentence:

A=9    K=6    U=1  
B=26   L=10   V=22  
C=23   M=17   W=7  
D=21   N=14   X=8  
E=24   O=11   Y=5  
F=18   P=19   Z=8  
G=15   Q=4  
H=16   R=20  
I=12   S=3  
J=2    T=25

26 1 25 2 24 3 1 3

7 9 3

9 10 10 11 7 12 14 15

16 12 17 3

24 10 18 25 11 26 24

16 24 10 19

10 24 3 3 12 14

25 16 24 12 20

9 14 21 3

**Solution: BUT JESUS WAS ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE HELPLESS IN THEIR HANDS.**

When Jesus was finished speaking, He was lifted up into heaven. The disciples watched until Jesus disappeared. They knew that Jesus was really the Christ, the Savior, the ...

Cross out all the letters that appear 4 times only. List the remaining letters in the spaces below to complete the sentence.

<del>E</del>	<del>S</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>
<del>O</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>R</del>	<del>A</del>
<del>N</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>O</del>	<del>X</del>
<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>W</del>	<del>X</del>
<del>E</del>	<del>F</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>
<del>X</del>	<del>G</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>
<del>X</del>	<del>A</del>	<del>R</del>	<del>E</del>
<del>O</del>	<del>W</del>	<del>W</del>	<del>X</del>
<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>W</del>	<del>X</del>
<del>D</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>	<del>X</del>

**SON OF GOD!**

## Thought to Ponder

Just as the poor should give thanks to God and return rich love to those who assist them, so all the more should the wealthy give thanks, for through God's providence they are able to perform acts of charity and so are saved both in this age and in the

age to be. For without the poor they cannot save their souls or flee the temptations of wealth.

*St. Simeon  
the New Theologian*

**Look at all the earth supplies in summer and in autumn! Every Christian, especially the priest, ought to imitate God's bountifulness. Let your table be open to everybody, like the table of the Lord. The avaricious is God's enemy.**  
**St. John of Kronstadt**

# Test Your Faith...

## Word Puzzle

Fill in the spaces above the numbers with the letters from the code.

— — — — —  
1 7 10 13 12 1

— — — — —  
2 8 11 14 3 7 15 2

— — — — —  
3 7 12 4 8 11 10 3

— — — — —  
4 9 15 8

— — — — —  
5 7 15 12 14 15

— — — — —  
6 8 5 9

— — — — —  
3 4 15 10 1 12 10 7

—  
13

— — — — —  
1 5 14 15 13 7

— — — — —  
7 2 8 1 12 8 11 10

## Code

1=s 6=r 11=l  
2=p 7=a 12=t  
3=c 8=o 13=n  
4=h 9=e 14=y  
5=m 10=i 15=r

## Word Puzzle

Fill in the spaces above the numbers with the letters from the code. All number 1's are "E".

— — — — —  
2 3 4 5 6 1 7 2

— — — — —  
8 6 5

— — — — —  
9 10 5 6 1 11 9 12 7

—:  
13

— — — — —  
6 1 11 6 9 10 9 7 7

— — — — —  
9 11 15

— — — — —  
4 1 11 2 7 7 16 9 5

— — — — —  
11 3 7 14 2 16 13 3 12

— — — — —  
14 16

— — — — —  
1 15 15 17 18 5 11 2 7

—  
7

— — — — —  
6 3 19 1 5 6 1 7 2

— — — — —  
8 6 5

— — — — —  
9 10 7 2 10 1

1=E 6=H 11=W 16=N  
2=I 7=L 12=R 17=B  
3=A 8=G 13=D 18=U  
4=M 9=O 14=K 19=V  
5=T 10=F 15=S