

**SAINT GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr. Michael**  
**Constantinides**

**Chanter: Deacon**  
**Paul Speed**

**Caretaker:**  
**Jason Leon**

**GOYA Advisors:**  
**Dr. Vickie Pyevich/**  
**Anne Kirpatrick**

**HOPE/JOY Advi-**  
**sors:**  
**Pres. Maria Con-**  
**stantinides/**  
**Candace Elias**

**After Church**  
**Club: Loukia**  
**Constantinides**

**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**

**Senior Ministry:**  
**Kay Coin**



**VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4**

# The Trophybearer

**APRIL 2018**

## **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 had as its theme self-denial. By denying our sinful and diseased fallen human nature, we can follow Christ from death to life.

The fourth Sunday had as its theme our approach to God through asceticism or the struggle against our fallen or corrupted nature as depicted in both the life and the writings of Saint John the author of the Ladder of Divine Ascent.

The final Sunday of Great Lent had as its theme humility and repentance as can be found in the life of Saint Mary of Egypt.

My brothers and sisters in the Lord let us finish the course off the fast with joy. Let us remember the example of Saint Mary, that no matter how much we have strayed, we can and should return to God. Let us also remember to work hard on our relationship with God even though it will be difficult and fraught with hardships keeping in mind what he will tell us on Holy Thursday night, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

## April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	<b>2</b> <b>Holy Monday</b> <b>Fast Day</b>    7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	<b>3</b> <b>Holy Tuesday</b> <b>Fast Day</b>    7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	<b>4</b> <b>Holy Wednesday</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 3:30 p.m. Holy Unction  7:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Thursday with anoint- ing of Holy Unction	<b>5</b> <b>Holy Thursday</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy  7:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Friday	<b>6</b> <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	<b>7</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy   11:00 p.m. Resurrection Orthros and Divine Liturgy
<b>8</b> <b>Holy Pascha</b> <b>Fast Free</b> 11:00 a.m. Agape Vespers No Sunday School classes Family Worship Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt following the Agape Vespers Pot-Luck Paschal Meal	<b>9</b> <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Fast Free</b> Tour	<b>12</b> <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Feast Day of the</b> <b>Life-giving Font of the</b> <b>Theotokos</b> <b>Fast Free</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Assumption Church	<b>14</b> <b>Fast Free</b> + Sacrament
<b>15</b> <b>Sunday of Thomas</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion <b>Parish Outdoor Clean-</b> <b>up day following the</b> <b>Divine Liturgy</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>   6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	<b>18</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	<b>19</b>   6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	<b>20</b> <b>Fast Day</b> Tour	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Sunday of the Myrrh-</b> <b>bearing Women</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion following the Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Great Ves- pers for the Feast of our Patronal Saint George	<b>23</b> <b>Feast Day of Saint</b> <b>George the Great</b> <b>Martyr</b> <b>Fast Free</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy Luncheon to follow	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Feast Day of Saint</b> <b>Mark the Evangelist</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy a Assumption Church No Morning Orthodox Study Forum	<b>26</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	<b>27</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 am. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	<b>30</b>					
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <b>METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO CLERGY</b>  <b>RETREAT APRIL 30-MAY 3</b> </div>						

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### An Invitation to Give to Parish

(and Catch Some Fresh Air, Too!)

As parishioners, we have heard the adage numerous times that stewardship consists of time, talent and treasure. The Parish Council decided at its March meeting to schedule a spring clean-up to prune bushes, weed as needed and get the grounds in good shape for the warmer weather ahead.

Give whatever time you can....beginning following the Divine Liturgy (a dress down day, dress for work), after work, we'll fire up a grill for some brats and after some fellowship, finish any odds and ends that are remaining.

**When:** Sunday, April 15 beginning at following the Divine Liturgy.

**Who:** Everyone....kids can pick up sticks, church elders can point out weeds to be pulled!

**Where:** St George in Rock Island

**Notes:** Bring garden tools (rakes, pruners, etc.), garden gloves, sunscreen, and some great tunes that motivates you!

**Prepare to Have Fun and Laugh a Lot!!!!**

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

God came to them and asked, "Have you eaten the fruit?" They had. Adam blamed Eve for eating the fruit and Eve blamed the serpent. God ordered them to leave the Garden forever and work for...

Cross out the odd number letters. List the remaining letters in the spaces below to complete the sentence.

A=7 F=5 K=21  
B=19 G=24 L=6  
C=2 H=18 M=10  
D=23 I=12 N=9  
E=13 J=26 O=16  
P=4 U=22 Z=8  
Q=25 V=17  
R=11 W=20  
S=1 X=15  
T=14 Y=3

### THEIR LIVING

2 t	5 f	6 h	7 s
9 n	10 e	12 I	11 v
13 h	1 q	15 f	4 r
8 l	6 I	3 r	18 v
5 f	14 I	21 y	25 v
20 n	27 c	31 j	2 g

Always reminded of how they had disobeyed God, Adam and Eve taught their children to respect and love God. Cain and Abel were taught to make...

To complete the sentence, use this chart to decode the following:

### S A C R I F I C E S

I 7 2 I I I 2 5 I 2 2 I 3 I

### T O

14 16

### S H O W T H A N K

I 18 16 20 14 18 7 9 21

### F U L N E S S

5 22 6 9 13 I I

## Epistle Readers

**Sunday,  
April 1, 2018  
Palm Sunday**  
Alexa Florence

**Sunday,  
April 8, 2018  
Pascha**  
Loukia Constantinides

**Sunday,  
April 15, 2018  
Sunday of Thomas**

Angela Spurgetis

**Sunday,  
April 22, 2018  
Sunday of the Myrrh-  
bearing Women**  
Ethan Kirkpatrick

**Sunday, April 29, 2018  
Sunday of the Samaritan  
Woman**  
Scot Johnson

## Parish Council Sunday Duty

<b>Sunday, April 1, 2018</b> Joe Burmeister, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas and Mary Rankin	<b>Sunday, April 22, 2018</b> Nick Coin, John Mekus, Dennis Spurgetis and Diana Spurgetis
<b>Sunday, April 8, 2018</b> <b>All Groups</b>	<b>Sunday, April 29, 2018</b> Joe Burmeister, Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas and Mary Rankin
<b>Sunday, April 15, 2018</b> Brad Crosson, Mariellen Crosson, Doug Kenyon and Ted Pitsoulakis	

## Coffee Hour Hosts for April 2018

<b>Sunday, April 1, 2018</b> hosted by: <b>Open</b>	<b>Sunday, April 22, 2018</b> hosted by: <b>Open</b>
<b>Sunday, April 8 2018</b> <b>No Coffee Hour/Paschal</b> <b>Pot Luck</b>	<b>Sunday, April 29, 2018</b> <b>Veronica Tolescu</b>
<b>Sunday, April 15, 2018</b> hosted by: <b>Open</b>	

## 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.

Emily Caras  
Helen Corelis  
Stella Cudworth  
Elaine Froumis  
Pat Grevas  
Judy Pappas  
Jim Patton  
Xenia Patton  
Effie Skafidas  
Gordon Smith  
Helen Smith

## Prosphora Baking Schedule

**Sunday, April 1,  
2018:**  
**Presbytera Maria**

**Sunday, April 8,  
2018:**  
**Collette Spurgetis**

**Sunday, April 15,  
2018:**  
**Lina Assaf**

**Sunday, April 22,  
2018:**  
**Open**

**Sunday, April 29,  
2018**  
**Lina Assaf**

## EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

**April 25, 2018**

**Elizabeth and Jim Teros**

**May 23, 2018**

**Nick and Nancy Coin**

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

## Parish Happenings

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus image of numerous colorful Easter eggs in shades of blue, green, yellow, pink, and purple. On the left side, there is a vertical strip showing a closer, sharper view of several eggs.

# **SAINT GEORGE SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Sunday, April 8, 2018**

**Immediately Following Agape Vespers  
(which begins at 11:00 a.m.)**

**On the Church Grounds  
(weather permitting)**

**All ages welcome!  
Join us for some Easter Fun!**

**For more information call The Church Office  
309-786-8163**



# Parish Happenings

## 2018 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*



## Parish Happenings

# SAINT GEORGE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



On Sunday, April 22, 2018 we will be celebrating Great Vespers for the feast day of Saint George at 6:00 p.m.

Following will be a coffee reception

Then on Monday, April 23, 2018 we will be celebrating the feast day of The Great Martyr George the Trophybearer with Orthros at 8:30 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy

*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.*



# Parish Happenings

## ***St. George Philoptochos Membership Drive 2018***

**Our St. George Philoptochos Society needs you!** Over the years, the good works of our Philoptochos have provided thousands of dollars and numerous hours of humanitarian assistance to our church and community. However, as our membership has declined, so has our positive impact to these much needed organizations. We need your involvement to help restore our unique Orthodox Christian philanthropy to the force of good it once was.

**All women and men in the St. George parish are invited to be members. Meetings are not mandatory and even just a few hours of volunteer time each year has a huge impact.**

***Membership dues are only \$25.00 – (\$15 National, \$8 Metropolis, \$2 Local)***  
(We are happy to provide assistance to anyone in need of help in covering this cost.)

Any questions? Contact Membership Chairs – Susan Coin (563)650-7405 or Cathy Farrell (508)423-0252

**Please complete the form below by April 22, 2018 and send it with your check to:**

Cathy Farrell  
19270 252<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Bettendorf, IA 52722 *or* Drop it off at the Church Office attn: Philoptochos

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Stewardship amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to St. George Philoptochos.



## Palm Sunday (April 1)

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground,

and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

**It is the Day of the Resurrection.**

**Let us be glorious in the splendor of the Festival, and let us embrace one another. Let us say to our**

**Brethren, and to those that hate us, let us forgive all in the**

**Resurrection and let us cry aloud:**

**Christ is risen from the dead, by death he has trampled down upon death and to those in the tombs, He bestows life.**

## Renewal Tuesday: The Commemoration of Saints Raphael, Nicholas, Irene, and the Other Newly-revealed Martyrs of Lesbos (April 10)

On the island of Mytilene (Lesbos in ancient times), near the village of Therme, the villagers had a custom of ascending a certain hill on this day to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the ruins of a small chapel, although no one knew whence the tradition sprang. In the year 1959, certain villagers began seeing persons who spoke to them, first in dreams, then awake, both by day and by night. Through these wondrous appearances, which were given to

many people independently, the holy Martyrs Raphael, Archimandrite of the ancient monastery, and Nicholas, his deacon, together with other Saints who had been martyred on the island, told the villagers the whole account of their martyrdom, which had taken place at the hands of the Moslem Turks ten years after the fall of Constantinople, in 1463. The twelve-year-old Irene had been tortured, then burned alive in a large earthenware jar in the

presence of her parents. On Tuesday of Renewal Week, Saint Raphael had been tied to a tree and his head sawn off through his jaws; Saint Nicholas had died at the sight of this. Although the feast is celebrated today because it is the day of their martyrdom, through the appearances of the Saints as living persons five hundred years after their martyrdom, it is also a singular testimony to the Resurrection of Christ.

## George the Great Martyr and Triumphant (April 23)

George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chiliarch (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honoured for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before

the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally

beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia. His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name. (The translation of the Saint's holy relics to the church in Lydda is commemorated on November 3; Saint Alexandra the Queen, on April 21.)

# Test Your Faith...

## What is the Church?

1. a building where religious services are held
2. the people of God who come together for common worship
3. a parish, headed by the priest and the parish council
4. a social institution

## Who founded the Church?

1. Abraham
2. John the Baptist
3. Jesus Christ
4. Apostles
- .

## Which of the following is not a name for the second person of the Holy Trinity?

1. Logos (Word)
2. The Anointed One
3. Savior
4. Father

## The head of the Orthodox Church is

1. the Metropolitan
2. the priest
3. the Patriarch
4. Jesus Christ

## Who is the Theotokos?

1. the Virgin Mary
2. a princess who first accepted Christianity
3. a Greek Martyr from the fourth century
4. an Orthodox Nun

## Word Search

### Jesus and His family

1. JOACHIM
2. JESUS
3. JOSEPH
4. PETER
5. JAMES
6. ANNA
7. PAUL
8. MARY
9. JOHN
10. JUDE

R D F R T R Y C A

P K U J M H J J P

J A N N A J O H N

N U U J R M S M H

L J D L Y N E U J

P E T E R J P S O

L S J O A C H I M

J U D I S Y E J J

G S Q R E Q K H U