

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 Advisors: Pres. Maria Constantinides/ 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

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VOLUME 6 ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 2017

The Trophybearer

PASTORAL MESSAGE

December 25, Christmas Day, is the Feastday that rejoices in the greatest gift offered to humankind - God humbles Himself and takes on flesh, it is the Incarnation of the Son of God, so that you and I may be saved. In commemoration of this day, we exchange gifts with one another.

Contemplating the icon of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we realize the great love that God offers to His people through His Son. God loves us so much that He has sent His Son to show us a new way of life. The Birth of Christ is a celebration of joy, for we have been granted eternal life.

The truth that God became man and entered into history is seen in the icon of the Nativity. Wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger is the Christ Child. All the details of the icon relate to the Lord's presence among us. The icon of the Nativity calls us to praise and glorify the Birth of Christ.

Orthodox Church Iconography and Hymnology teach us wonderful lessons about Stewardship. The following hymn, taken from the Vespers of the Nativity, invites us to recognize the offerings made in celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We sing: "What shall we bring to You, O Christ, Who, for our sake, was born on earth as man? Every creature brings thanks to You: Angels their songs; the heavens a star; Wise Men gifts; Shepherds amazement; the earth a cave; the wilderness a manger; but we - the Virgin Mother."

All creation has acknowledged the Birth of the Redeemer of Humankind through the act of Stewardship. We, too, must offer our Time, Talents, and Treasure so that His Church may truly glorify Him and confess: Christ is Born!

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Fast Day ¹	Fish, Oil and wine allowed ² 12:00 noon Philoptochos Pastisio Luncheon
³ 14th Sunday of Luke Parish Council Elections Fish, Oil and wine allowed 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	⁴ Fish, Oil and wine allowed Evening Meal	⁵ Eve of Saint of Nicholas Myra Fish, Oil and wine allowed 6:00 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy at the Church of Saint Nicholas in Davenport, IA	⁶ Saint Nicholas of Myra Fish, Oil and wine allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George	⁷ Fish, Oil and wine allowed 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	⁸ Fast Day	⁹ Fish, Oil and wine allowed
¹⁰ 10th Sunday of Luke Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	¹¹ Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	¹² Feastday of Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church	¹³ Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	¹⁴ Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	¹⁵ Feast Day of Saint Eleutherios Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church	¹⁶
¹⁷ 11th Sunday of Luke Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	¹⁸ Fast Day	¹⁹ Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	²⁰ Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	²¹ Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	²² Fast Day	²³
²⁴ Sunday before the Nativity Eve of the Nativity Oil and Wine allowed 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion Sunday School Christmas Pageant	²⁵ The Nativity of the Lord Fast Free 8:30a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy	²⁶ Fast Free	²⁷ Feastday of Saint Stephen the First Martyr Fast Free 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George	²⁸ Fast Free	²⁹ Fast Free	³⁰ Fast Free
³¹ Sunday before Theophany Fast Free 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Family Worship Only!						

The Council Connection

As the parish enters more deeply into the Fast of the Nativity, it becomes hard to hold onto a quiet place in one's soul to take time to pray and become closer to God because of the holiday demands of American society. Many feel burned out by the time the Feast of the Nativity arrives!

Sometimes parishioners feel a sense of burnout in their church life, too, due to a variety of reasons. One of the reasons I would like to address today relates to stewardship, but not in the financial sense. Each of us is asked to give of our selves in time, talent, and treasure. For a parish of our size, we do a pretty good job of giving of our time and treasure. But one area that we might want to fine

tune is recognizing and using the talents the Holy Spirit gives us.

Often we are assigned a task or volunteer to do work for the Church that is not best suited to the gifts Our Father gave to us individually. A person who loves to sing with joy and is in the choir is a great match! A person who serves through obligation in a task in which he/she does not have a burning of the fire of the Holy Spirit, will burn out. For example, if you are a person who tends to have a flair for putting people at ease, perhaps a position with the outreach committee would be up your alley. Likewise, if you hate being in the kitchen at home, perhaps preparing prosforo is not a good match, but helping with Sunday School

would make your fire burn brighter.

There are many tasks in the parish that await your talents, such as help with newsletter mailings, planning fellowship activities, assisting our fellow parishioners in times of need, and many more. Please talk with Father Mike and Deacon Paul as well as the various mission chairs and council members about discovering and utilizing the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that our parish is a happy hive of busy bees and burnout is not a problem!

Yours in Christ,

Mary Rankin

M a r y R a n k i n
Parish Council President

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

Epistle Readers

December 3, 2017
14th Sunday of Luke
Alexa Florence

Sunday,
December 10, 2017
10th Sunday of Luke
Scot Johnson

Sunday,
December 17, 2017
11th Sunday of Luke
Stephanie Elias

Sunday,
December 24, 2017
The Sunday before the
Nativity
Michael Pyevich

Sunday,
December 31, 2017
The Sunday before
Theophany
Ethan Kirkpatrick



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

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

Parish Council Sunday Duty

Sunday,
December 3, 2017
Brad Crosson,
Mariellen Crosson
Mike Patramanis
Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday,
December 17, 2017
Joe Burmeister,
Mary Kay Eckert
Mary Rankin
Ken Stiegel

Sunday,
December 31, 2017
Nick Coin
John Mekus,
Dennis Spurgetis,
Diane Spurgetis

Sunday,
December 10, 2017
Nick Coin
John Mekus,
Dennis Spurgetis,
Diane Spurgetis

Sunday,
December 24, 2017
Brad Crosson,
Mariellen Crosson
Mike Patramanis
Ted Pitsoulakis

Coffee Hour Hosts for December 2017

Sunday, December 3, 2017
hosted by:
Mary and Kim Winters/
George and Diane
Karoules

Sunday, December 10, 2017
hosted by:
Jenny and Tom Bakeris
Sunday, December 17, 2017
hosted by:
Open

Sunday, December 24, 2017
hosted by:
Mary Kay Eckert
Sunday, December 31, 2017
Open



Fellowship
and fun!

Community News

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Parish Council elections will be held on Sunday, December 3. Please remember to cast your vote.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Will be on Tuesday, December 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Green room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

•On Sunday, December 17th following the Divine Liturgy our Sunday School

will be having practice for their Christmas Pageant Program, all students should be present.

•On Sunday, December 24th our Sunday School will be having their Christmas Program following the Divine Liturgy.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

On behalf of Fr. Michael, Deacon Paul and the Parish Council we want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and may the

blessings of our Lord be with you all!

DONATION OPPORTUNITY

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



Our Saint George Parish Community

EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS December 4, 2017

Fr. Michael,
Presbytera Maria
and family

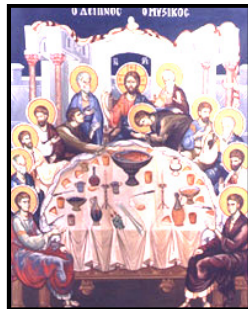
Anyone interested in participating in this worthwhile ministry should contact Dena Manta at 332-1684.

The Church
is a palace...

For the King of Kings. This explains the extensive use of royal colors: gold, blue and white. The fact that the Church is the palace of God's presence gives expression to our faith that even now earth is changed into heaven whenever the Eucharist is celebrated and divine grace is received.

Prospora Baking Schedule

- Sunday, December 3rd, 2017: Open
- Sunday, December 10th, 2017: Open
- Sunday, December 17th, 2017: Georgjean Pitsoulakis
- Sunday, December 24th, 2017: Mary Kay Eckert
- Sunday, December 31st, 2017: Presbytera Maria



The Sacraments of the Church

Parish Registry

40-Day Blessing

Samuel the son of Nick and Alexa Gnatovich was churched on November 15, 2017

Funeral

The servant of God, Jim Tsagaris, fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on November 20, 2017

Memorials/Trisagia for December

December 3, 2017

Metropolitan Iakovos: 6 Months

Katherine Karoules: 3 Years

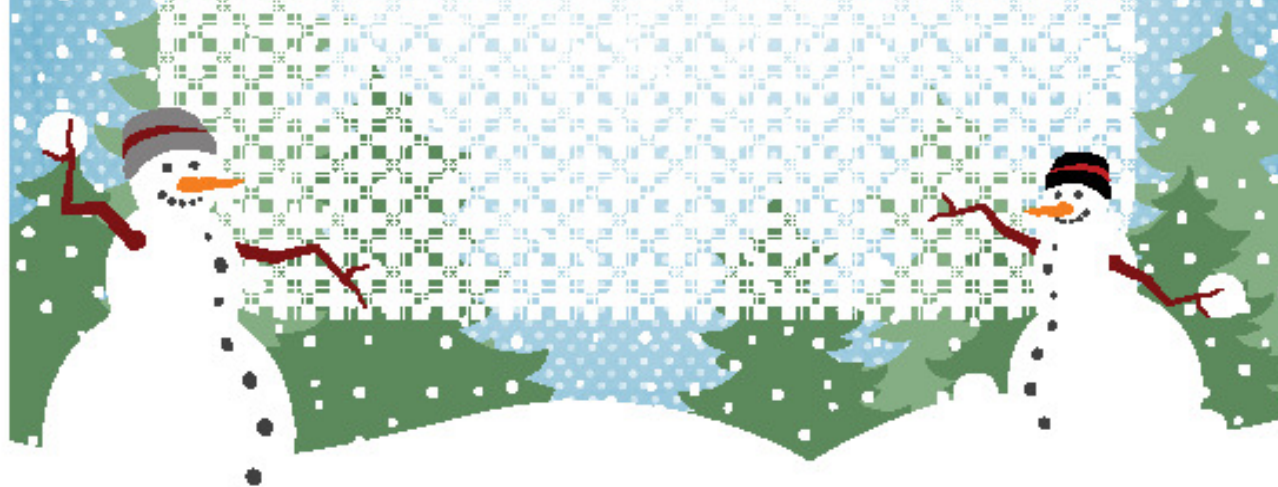
Parish Happenings

Saint George HOPE/JOY

HAT, SCARF, GLOVE TREE

We are collecting hats, gloves and scarves
for the less fortunate...

If you would like to donate, please place on
the Christmas tree outside the Narthex



Parish Happenings



Hope/Joy

Christmas Store

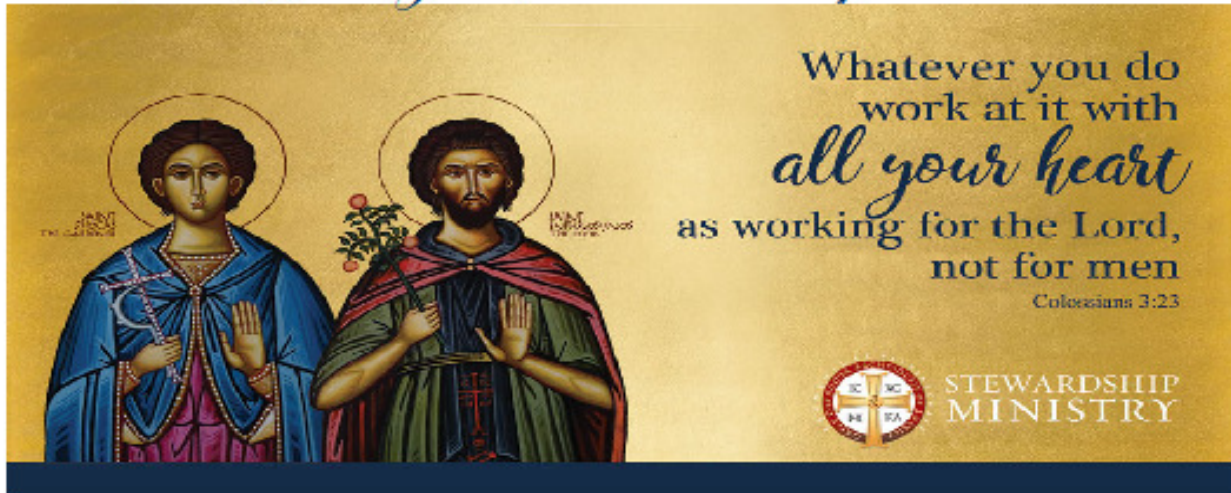
*Join us after Liturgy
Sunday, December 10, 2017*

*Please bring \$5.00 to shop at our
Hope/Joy Store. Kids will shop, wrap
and donate a gift to children in need.*

*Donation items for the store would be greatly
appreciated. Gifts should be for children
between the ages of 3-12. Some suggestions
would be board games, toys, fashion scarves,
hair clips, nail polish, sports items and such.*

Stewardship News

St. George Stewardship Notes



QUICK FACTS
(as of November 26, 2017)

\$147,100.20 =
Amount pledged for 2017
by 108 households

\$131,663.00 =
Amount given to 2017
stewardship since Jan. 1

\$1,362.00 =
Average pledge per
household at this date

\$263,855 =
Amount needed for the
ministries of
St. George Parish for 2017

Archdiocese Announces 2018 Stewardship Campaign Theme

The theme for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign is "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...." (Colossians 3:23)

As mentioned in the Council Connection column, matching our God-given talents to the various ministries of the parish makes for a community that can further our holy mission. As you receive 2018 stewardship brochures and pledge cards shortly in the mail, please consider what you will give in time and talent, as well as treasure.

**Thank you to our generous
2017 stewards!**

Parish Happenings

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos Society
Annual Holiday Bake Sale
 December 9, 2017 • 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Fellowship Hall, 4900 Kennedy Drive, East Moline, Illinois
ORDER FORM



Name: _____ Date: _____
 Street Address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Item	Quantity	Price	Total
Baklava		\$15 per Tray (9 Strips)	
Melomacaroni Honey-Dipped Spice Cookies		\$12 per Dozen	
Kourambietes Powdered Sugar Cookies		\$12 per Dozen	
Koulourakia Butter Twist Cookies		\$6 per Dozen	
Paximathia Greek Biscotti		\$6 per Dozen	
Tropitakia Cheese Puffs		\$15 per 2 Dozen	
Spanakopitakia Spinach Puffs		\$15 per 2 Dozen	
Combination 1 Dozen Spanakopitakia 1 Dozen Tropitakia		\$15 per 2 Dozen	
Galaktobouriko Greek Custard. <i>Sai profarouci</i>		\$10 per Tray	
Ouzo Cake		\$4 Each	
Tsouraki Sweet Bread		\$6 per loaf	
Homemade Greek Bread		\$6 per Loaf	
Gift Box Assortment 400 cookies, 2 Breads, 200kouskoude, 100kourambietes		\$12 per Box	

Order Taken By: _____ Total Due: _____

ADVANCE ORDERS taken through **December 1st.**
 Advance Order Pick up on Friday, December 8, 3-5 pm or Saturday, December 9, 9 am - 12 pm
OPEN SALES on Saturday, December 9, 9 am - 12 pm.

To place an order, please call:
 Peter/Sue Lingris 309-762-0760, Celia Lubbers 309-236-2301 or Diane Lamacki 309-269-5536
 Email: assumptionbakesale@gmail.com

The Prophet Habakkuk (December 2)

The Holy Prophet Habakkuk, the eighth of the Twelve Minor Prophets, was descended from the Tribe of Simeon, and he prophesied around 650 B.C.

The Prophet Habakkuk foresaw the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, the Babylonian Captivity and the later return of the captives to their native land. During the war with the Babylonians the prophet withdrew to Arabia, where the following miracle

occurred. When he was bringing dinner to the reapers, he met an angel of the Lord, and instantly by the strength of his spirit he was transported to Babylon, where at the time the Prophet Daniel was languishing in prison. The food intended for the reapers assuaged the hunger of the exhausted Prophet Daniel (Dan. 14:33-37).

After the end of the war with the Babylonians, the Prophet

Habakkuk returned to his homeland and died at a great old age. His relics were found at the time of Emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450), together with the relics of the Prophet Micah (August 14).

The Fourth Ode of the Psalter ("O Lord, I have heard thy report, and was afraid...") is based on Habakkuk 3:2-19.



The Prophet Habakkuk

Saint John of Damascus (December 4)

Saint John of Damascus was born about the year 680 at Damascus, Syria into a Christian family. His father, Sergius Mansur, was a treasurer at the court of the caliph. John had also a foster brother, the orphaned child Cosmas (October 14), whom Sergius had taken into his own home. When the children were growing up, Sergius saw that they received a good education. At the Damascus slave market he ransomed the learned monk Cosmas of Calabria from captivity and entrusted to him the teaching of his children. The boys displayed uncommon ability and readily mastered their courses of the secular and spiritual sciences. After the death of his father, John occupied ministerial posts at court and became the city prefect.

In Constantinople at that time, the heresy of Iconoclasm had arisen and quickly spread, supported by the emperor Leo III the Isaurian (717-741). Rising up in defense of the Orthodox ven-

eration of icons [Iconodoulia], St John wrote three treatises entitled, "Against Those who Revile the Holy Icons." The wise and God-inspired writings of St John enraged the emperor. But since the author was not a Byzantine subject, the emperor was unable to lock him up in prison, or to execute him. The emperor then resorted to slander. A forged letter to the emperor was produced, supposedly from John, in which the Damascus official was supposed to have offered his help to Leo in conquering the Syrian capital.

This letter and another hypocritically flattering note were sent to the Saracen caliph by Leo the Isaurian. The caliph immediately ordered that St John be removed from his post, that his right hand be cut off, and that he be led through the city in chains.

That same evening, they returned the severed hand to St John. The saint pressed it to his

wrist and prayed to the Most Holy Theotokos to heal him so that he could defend the Orthodox Faith and write once again in praise of the Most Pure Virgin and Her Son. After a time, he fell asleep before the icon of the Mother of God. He heard Her voice telling him that he had been healed, and commanding him to toil unceasingly with his restored hand. Upon awakening, he found that his hand had been attached to his arm once more. Only a small red mark around his wrist remained as a sign of the miracle.

St John of Damascus was a theologian and a zealous defender of Orthodoxy. His most important book is the Fount of Knowledge. The third section of this work, "On the Orthodox Faith," is a summary of Orthodox doctrine and a refutation of heresy. Since he was known as a hymnographer, we pray to St John for help in the study of church singing.



Saint John of Damascus

The Holy Martyr Eustratios of Sebaste (December 13)

The Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes (the Five Companions) suffered for Christ under the emperor Diocletian (284-305) at Sebaste, in Armenia.

Among the first Christians imprisoned and undergoing torture at that time was St Auxentius, a presbyter of the Arabian Church. One of those who witnessed the steadfastness of the Christians was the noble military commander St Eustratius, the city prefect of Satalios, and archivist of the province. He was secretly a Christian, and when he openly confessed his faith, he was subjected to torture. They beat him, and put iron sandals studded with sharp nails on his

feet, then forced him to march to the city of Arabrak.

Witnessing the arrival of St Eustratius in Arabrak, one of the common people, St Mardarius, confessed that he was also a Christian like St Eustratius. He was arrested and cast into prison. Holes were drilled in his ankles, and ropes were passed them. He was suspended upside down, then heated nails were hammered into his body. He died a short time later. To him is attributed the prayer "O Master Lord God, Father Almighty ..." (which is read at the end of the Third Hour).

As for St Eugene, they ripped out his tongue, they cut off his hands and feet, and then they

beheaded him with a sword. St Auxentius was also arrested and beheaded. The young soldier St Orestes confessed himself a Christian and stood trial for this "crime." He was sentenced to be stretched out upon a red-hot iron bed, and became frightened when he approached it. Encouraged by St Eustratius, he made the Sign of the Cross and got onto the heated bed, where he surrendered his soul to God.

St Eustratius was sentenced to be burned alive on December 13. As he was being led to his death, he prayed aloud ("I magnify Thee exceedingly, O Lord, for Thou hast regarded my lowliness..."). This prayer is still read at the Saturday Midnight Office.



The Holy Martyr Eustratios

The Prophet Daniel (December 17)



The Prophet Daniel

The Holy Prophet Daniel is the fourth of the major prophets.

In the years following 600 B.C. Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians, the Temple built by Solomon was destroyed, and many of the Israelite people were led away into the Babylo-

nian Captivity. Among the captives were also the illustrious youths Daniel, Ananias, Azarias and Misael.

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon ordered that they be instructed in the Chaldean language and wisdom, and dressed them in finery. Handsome children of princely lineage were often chosen to serve as pages in the palace. For three years, they would be fed from food from the king's table. After this they would be allowed to stand before his throne. Daniel was renamed Baltasar, Ananias was called Shadrach, Misael was called Mishach, and Azarias was known as Abednego. But they, cleaving to their faith, disdained

the extravagance of court, refusing to defile themselves by eating from the king's table and drinking his wine. Instead, they lived on vegetables and water.

The Lord granted them wisdom, and to St Daniel the gift of insight and the interpretation of dreams. The holy Prophet Daniel preserved his faith in the one God and trusted in His almighty help. He surpassed all the Chaldean astrologers and sorcerers in his wisdom, and was made a confidant to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Once, Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream which terrified him (Daniel 2:1-6). He summoned magicians, sorcerers, and

The Prophet Daniel (Continued)

Chaldeans before him to interpret the dream. When they asked him what he had dreamt, the king refused to tell them. He said, "If you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins." The Babylonian wise men protested that no magician or sorcerer could be expected to do this. Only the gods could reveal the dream and its meaning, they told him.

The king ordered all the wise men of Babylon to be executed. When they sought Daniel and his companions to put them to death, Daniel asked that the king's sentence not be carried out. He said that he could tell the king what he dreamt, for it had been revealed to him in a vision. Daniel was brought before the king and was able to reveal not only the content of the dream, but also its prophetic significance. After this, the king elevated Daniel to be ruler of the whole province of Babylon, and the chief of all the wise men.

During these times King Nebuchadnezzar ordered a huge statue to be made in his likeness. It was decreed that when people heard the sound of trumpets and other instruments, they should fall down and worship the golden idol. Because they refused to do this, the three holy youths Ananias, Azarias and Misael were cast into a fiery furnace. The flames shot out over the furnace forty-nine cubits, felling the Chaldeans standing about, but the holy youths walked in the midst of the flames, offering prayer and

psalmody to the Lord (Daniel 3:26-90).

The Angel of the Lord appeared in the furnace and cooled the flames, and the young men remained unharmed. This "Angel of Great Counsel," as he is called in iconography, is identified with the Son of God (Daniel 3:25, Isaiah 9:6). In the first Canon for the Nativity of the Lord (Ode 5), the Church sings: "Thou hast sent us Thine Angel of Great Counsel." The emperor, upon seeing this, commanded them to come out, and was converted to the true God.

Under King Baltasar, St Daniel interpreted a mysterious inscription ("Mane, Thekel, Phares"), which had appeared on the wall of the palace during a banquet (Daniel 5:1-31), foretelling the downfall of the Babylonian kingdom. Under the Persian emperor Darius, St Daniel was slandered by his enemies, and was thrown into a den with hungry lions, but they did not touch him, and he was not harmed. The emperor Darius then rejoiced over Daniel and ordered people throughout his realm to worship the God of Daniel, "since He is the living and eternal God, and His Kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion is forever" (Daniel 6:26).

The holy Prophet Daniel grieved deeply for his people, who then were undergoing righteous chastisement for a multitude of sins and offenses, for transgressing the laws of God, resulting in the grievous Babylonian Captivity and the destruction of Jerusalem: "My God, incline Thine ear and hearken; open Thine eyes

and look upon our desolation and that of Thy city, in which Thy Name is spoken; for we do not make our supplication before Thee because of our own righteousness, but because of Thy great mercy" (Dan 9:18). Because of Daniel's righteous life and his prayers for the people's iniquity, the destiny of the nation of Israel and the fate of all the world was revealed to the holy prophet.

While interpreting the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar, the holy, glorious Prophet Daniel spoke of a great and final kingdom, the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (Dan 2:44). The prophetic vision about the seventy weeks (Dan 9:24-27) speaks about the signs of the First and the Second Comings of the Lord Jesus Christ, and is connected with those events (Daniel 12:1-12).

St Daniel interceded for his people before King Cyrus, who esteemed him highly, and who decreed freedom for the Israelite people. Daniel himself and his fellows Ananias, Azarias and Misael, all survived into old age, but died in captivity. According to the testimony of St Cyril of Alexandria (June 9), Sts Ananias, Azarias and Misael were beheaded on orders of the Persian emperor Chambyses.

St Daniel and the three holy youths are also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, and on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers (Sunday before the Nativity).

A Butter Ball Turkey Company set up a hot line to answer consumer questions about preparing holiday turkeys. One woman called to inquire about cooking a turkey that been in her freezer for twenty three years!!! The operator told her it might be safe if the freezer had been kept below 0 degrees the entire time. But the operator warned the woman that, even it were safe, the flavor had probably deteriorated, and she wouldn't recommend eating it. The caller replied, "That's what I thought. We'll just give it to the church."

Thoughts to Ponder

THE SECRET OF CEASELESS PRAYER

The Bible urges us to pray without ceasing. To pray, however, is not just to commune with God verbally. To pray is also to visit the sick and help the poor. Prayer is a Stewardship of the total person dedicated to knowing, loving and serving God. The following story from the Desert Fathers illustrates the point:

"Once some Euchites came to visit Abba Lucius in the Enaton, near Alexandria. When he asked them what type of work they did, they replied, "We never lift a finger to do manual labor; in-

stead we pray without ceasing, in accordance with the Apostle's command." The Elder said to them, "Don't you eat, then?" "We do," they assured him. "When you are eating, who prays in your place?" No answer. He asked them another question: "When you are sleeping, who keeps up your prayers?" They could give him no answer. Then he went on: "I beg your pardon, but you do not do what you say you do. Let me show you how I manage to pray always even when I busy myself at manual labor. I sit down with my supply of palm fronds soaking beside me and as I weave them together I

say, with God's help, 'Have mercy on me, O God, according to your great goodness, and wipe out my transgressions according to your abundant mercy' (Ps. 51:1). Tell me, is this not a prayer?" They assured him that it was. Then he said: "By working and praying like this all day long, I can complete around sixteen baskets. I give away two of these to any beggar who comes to my door. I make my living from the rest. And the man who has received the gift of two baskets prays for me while I am eating and sleeping. That is how, by God's grace, I manage to pray without ceasing.'

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

The book of the Acts of the Apostles tells us how the first Christians lived and worshiped God. Mark True or False after the following sentences:

TRUE OR FALSE

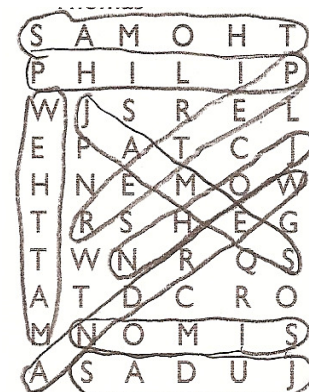
1. The First Christians "were of one heart and soul" **True**
2. They shared everything they had. **True**
3. They had their worship gatherings only in the Temple of Solomon. **False**
4. The Feast of Love (Agape) was a part of their worship. **True**
5. The Feast of Love was a Jew-

ish custom that the Christians kept. **True**

6. They Kept the Sabbath as the most important day of their worship. **False**

Below are some of the names of the disciples. Can you find them in this puzzle?

Andrew – James – John – Judas – Matthew – Peter – Philip – Simon – Thomas



Test Your Faith...

God sent the archangel Gabriel to visit a young woman named Mary in the city of Nazareth.

Use the chart to decode the message

8 1 12 16 15 1 13 4

9 5 1

5 4 3 14 10 8 1 12

12 16 1

2 1 12 11 4 9 14 4

12

9 1 8 4 3 7 10 13

4 11 6

- 1=A 9=N
- 2=C 10=O
- 3=D 11=P
- 4=E 12=R
- 5=G 13=S
- 6=H 14=T

7=J 15=W

8=M 16=Y

For the next forty days after His rise from death, Jesus talked with _____.

Answer these clues correctly and place the numbered letters in the spaces below to discover the missing words.

He betrayed Jesus.

4 6

You wear it on you head.

1

A clock goes _____ - tock.

5 7

First, _____, third.

3 10

The 4th month of the year.

8 2 9

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10