

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 Constani-
tinides/Candace Elias
- After Church Club:
Loukia Constanti-
nides
- Outreach and Evan-
gelism Chair: Angela
Spurgetis
- Parish Council
President: Mary Ran-
kin
- Philoptochos Presi-
dent: Susan Coin
- Prayer Ministry: Gus
Pappas
- Sunday School Di-
rector: Deacon Paul
Speed
- Senior Ministry: Kay
Coin



VOLUME 8 ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 2018

The Trophybearer

PASTORAL MESSAGE

We have reached a month in which we celebrate many great Saints. Two of which are close to our hearts, Saint Nicholas and Saint Spyridon. Both these saints were part of the First Ecumenical Council which met in Nicaea in 325 A.D. Both Saints speak to us about the Christ that was incarnate. They both describe the nature of our Salvation. They do this with their words as well as their actions.

Their example is one that we are called to follow. In this day of selfishness and utter faithlessness it is indeed difficult to see what they saw and know what they experienced. When these saints celebrated this great feast, they first came together to worship the Lord who was born in the manger, then they celebrated with their families and friends. They realized that the celebration of the Birth of our Lord involves both the liturgical celebration as well as the fellowship celebrations that they had.

Nowadays, many of us ignore the liturgical celebration entirely. Many believe that while they indeed wish that they could come to Church but they must stay home to prepare. When we do this we run into the danger of forgetting what God Himself has done for us. We forget that God became man so that man can become gods. We forget that only our faith believes that their God became man, not simply taking the form but actually becoming man like us.

How many of us even contemplate this mystery of the Incarnate Christ? When we come together to celebrate Christmas, what do we celebrate? Do we spend a minute thinking of the miracle that occurred for us and for our sakes, or do we simply rejoice in each other's company?

Let us not take out the meaning of the celebration. Let us come together as a Church family to worship at Orthros and the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day, and then celebrate together with our families. In this way we can say with the hymnographer, "Christ is born glorify Him!"

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Fish, Oil and wine allowed 12:00 noon Philoptochos Pastitsio Luncheon
2 14th Sunday of Luke Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion Stewardship Sunday	3 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	4 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	5 Eve of Saint Nicholas Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum 6:00 p.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy at the Church of Saint Nicholas in Davenport, IA	6 The Feast Day of Saint Nicholas Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	7 Fast Day	8
9 10th Sunday of Luke Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed Parish Council Elections 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	10 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	11 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	12 Feastday of Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George 10:30 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	13 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	14 Fast Day	15 Feast Day of Saint Eleutherios Oil and Wine Allowed 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church
16 11th Sunday of Luke Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	17 Fast Day	18 Fast Day 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	19 Fast Day 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	20 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	21 Fast Day	22 Oil and Wine Allowed
23 Sunday before the Nativity Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion Sunday School Christmas Pageant	24 Christmas Eve Strict Fast 8:30 a.m. Royal Hours at Assumption Church (Father Tom will be doing the Vesperal Liturgy then) 4:00 p.m. Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil at Saint George Church	25 The Birth according to the flesh of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy	26 Fast Free No Orthodox Study Forum	27 Feastday of Saint Stephen the First Martyr Fast Free 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George No Orthodox Study Forum	28 Fast Free	29 Fast Free
30 Sunday after the Nativity Fast Free 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Family Worship Only!	31 Fast Free					

Epistle Readers

Sunday, December 2, 2018

14th Sunday of Luke

Alexa Florence

Sunday, December 9, 2018

10th Sunday of Luke

Ethan Kirkpatrick

Sunday, December 16, 2018

11th Sunday of Luke

Isabella Elias

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Sunday before the Nativity

Angela Spurgetis

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Sunday after the Nativity

Scot Johnson

Coffee Hour Hosts for December 2018

Sunday, December 2, 2018 hosted by: The Winters and Karoules families

Sunday, December 9, 2018 hosted by:

AJ and Pat Andrews

Sunday December 16, 2018 hosted by:

Lina Assaf

Sunday, December 23, 2018 hosted by: Scott and Alexa Florence in honor of George and Nancy's 60th Anniversary.

Sunday, December 30, 2018 hosted by: Diane Breckon

Parish Council Sunday Duty

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Brad Crosson,

Mariellen Crosson

Doug Kenyon

Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Nick Coin,

John Mekus,

Dennis Spurgetis,

Diane Spurgetis

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Joe Burmeister,

Mary Kay Eckert

Gus Pappas

Mary Rankin

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Brad Crosson,

Mariellen Crosson

Doug Kenyon

Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Nick Coin,

John Mekus,

Dennis Spurgetis,

Diane Spurgetis

Parish Registry

WEDDING

Hillary Thompson and Joseph Burmeister were united in the Sacrament of Holy Marriage on November 24, 2018 and the sponsor was Candice Kalman.

Funerals

The servant of God, Effie Skafidas, fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on November 2, 2018

The servant of God, Jim Patten, fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on November 26, 2018

Memorials for December

December 2, 2018

Jennie M.

Joannides

(40 Days)

James Tsagaris

(1 Year)

December 9, 2018

Kenneth

Stiegel

(1 Year)

PRAYERS FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Emily Caras

Helen Corelis

Stella

Cudworth

Jennie Elbers

Judy Pappas

Xenia Patten

Gordon Smith

Helen Smith

Irene Theodore

Prospora Baking Schedule

Sunday, December 2, 2018:

Mary Kay Eckert

Sunday,

December 9, 2018:

Patti Kenyon

Sunday

December 16,

2018:

Randy and Chris

Smith

Sunday,

December 23,

2018:

Georgjean

Pitsoulakis

Sunday,

December 30,

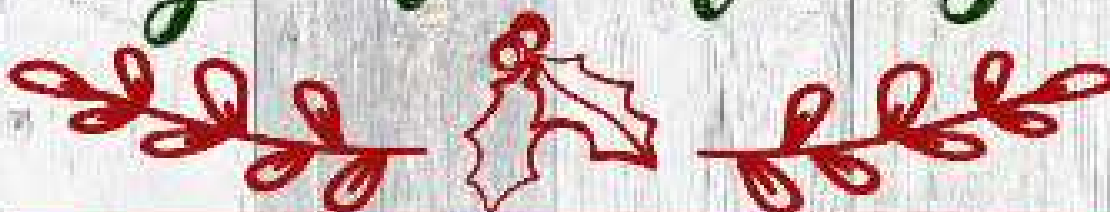
2018:

Lina Assaf

Metropolis News

On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael, the Philoptochos Board & the Young Adult League of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago cordially invite you to attend the annual metropolis

Christmas Open House



DECEMBER
16
2018

Saint Demetrios
Greek Orthodox Church
2727 West Winona Street
Chicago, Illinois 60625

4-8PM

see reverse for
recommended
charities
for donations



Parking on site; additional parking at Swedish Covenant Hospital & Budlong Public School

Metropolis News

Donations

This year, Metropolitan Nathanael invites you to join our new tradition of bringing a gift for those less fortunate. Gifts can include any of the following items:

Gifts for Infants (0-2)

diapers
wet wipes
new infant onesies
new infant clothing

Gifts for Children (2-18)

new/gently used coats
new children's clothing
new shoes
new socks
crayons
non-perishable foods

Gifts for College Students

new notebooks
pens/pencils
new folders
new twin bedding
new twin sheets
new twin mattress pads

Gifts listed above will be separated and donated to the following institutions:

- Cradles to Crayons
- Operation Warm
- College Bound Opportunities (CBO)
- Youth & Opportunity United (Y.O.U)
- Northwestern Settlement
- Martha and Mary Maternity House
- Project Mexico's Santa's Helpers

To find gifts for Project Mexico's "Santa's Helpers" program visit <https://bit.ly/2PWooBL> and select gifts to donate

Parish News



HOPE/JOY

We are collecting Coats,
Jackets, Gloves, Mittens,
Hats & Scarves for the less
fortunate...

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

Habakkuk the Prophet (December 2)

This Prophet, whose name means "loving embrace," is eighth in order of the minor Prophets. His homeland and tribe are not recorded in the Divine Scriptures; according to some, he was of the tribe of Simeon. He prophesied in the years of Joachim, who is also called Jehonias, before the Babylonian captivity of the Jewish People, which took place 599 years before

Christ. When Nabuchodonosor came to take the Israelites captive, Habakkuk fled to Ostrakine, and after Jerusalem was destroyed and the Chaldeans departed, Habakkuk returned and cultivated his field. Once he made some pottage and was about to take it to the reapers in the field. An Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and carried him with the pottage to Babylon to

feed Daniel in the lions' den, then brought him back to Judea (Bel and the Dragon, 33-39): His book of prophecy is divided into three chapters; the third chapter is also used as the Fourth Ode of the Psalter. His holy relics were found in Palestine during the reign of Emperor Theodosius the Great, through a revelation to Zebennus, Bishop of Eleutheropolis (Sozomen, ., Book VII, 29).

Barbara the Great Martyr (December 4)

Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian. She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in

his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron too. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by

Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.

Dionysius of Zakynthos (December 17)

The holy hierarch, Saint Dionysius, who was born and reared on Zakynthos, was the son of pious and wealthy parents, Mocius and Paulina by name. In his youth he entered the ancient monastery of the Strophada Islands, which lie south of Zakynthos, and there he donned the monastic habit. Later, he was appointed Archbishop of Aegina, and adorned its throne for a considerable time. Thereafter he returned to his homeland. One incident in his life especially re-

veals to what virtue he attained. A man came to him in desperation, witnessing that he had committed a murder, and was being pursued by the slain man's family. He asked Saint Dionysius to give him refuge. The Saint agreed to this, upon learning that it was his own brother whom the man had slain, he said nothing, but concealing the agony of his grief, hid him. When the Saint's kinsmen arrived at the monastery, he told them that the Murderer had gone by

such and such a way. When they had departed, he admonished the man concerning the gravity of his sin, instructed him in repentance, and sent him off in peace having forgiven him his brother's murder. According to local tradition, this man later returned and became a monk at this same monastery. Saint Dionysius reposed in peace in 1621, leaving behind his sacred and incorrupt relics as a treasure for his fellow citizens.