

SAINT GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

•Parish Priest:  
Fr. Michael Constantinides

•Chanter:  
Steve Morgan

•Caretaker: Jason Leon

•GOYA Advisors:  
Dr. Vickie Pyevich/  
Anne Kirpatrick

•HOPE/JOY Advisors:  
Pres. Maria Constantinides/  
Candace Elias

•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 Chairperson:  
Kay Coin

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VOLUME 7 ISSUE 7

JULY/AUGUST 2017

# The Trophybearer

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

I was watching a television show on the Discovery Channel that talked about the beginning of life on this planet. Towards the end of the program, after they went over the scientific aspects, the conclusion was made that since the chances of life occurring are so small, there must have been some force unknown guiding the whole process. I was amazed in that they almost gave God credit for the miracle of life. While I was watching the show, it occurred to me that we too believe that God guides His creation down a certain road. God is not an absentee landlord, but rather he plays an active role in the development of his creatures. He is not afraid to show his power when it will benefit us. One such example is found in the Gospel reading where Christ heals the sick servant of the centurion. My brothers and sisters in the Lord, let us take a few moments to see what miracles are and how they play a role in our lives.

Well, what are miracles? Miracles are signs of God's power over nature and corruption. Nature in that it involves the breaking of the bonds of biology and allowing faith and love to govern. Corruption in that He can wipe away all the results of sin which include disease and death.

How do they happen? They happen whenever God acts and, whenever God overrules the laws of nature. So we can say that miracles are the vehicle through which God shows His love to man. What is love? Love is patient and kind. It is not envious, boastful, or proud. In fact love is both selfless and unconditional. Love is the most powerful force in the universe, at once both creative and able to sustain the creation. For this reason out of all the attributes of God, love is the closest that comes to define Him. Everything else about Him stems from love. So when we say that God is life-giving, it is because first He loves. Love is life, so for this reason man who is made in His image and likeness, must also be love.

How often do miracles happen? They happen whenever God wants, but also when faith is present. Miracles are not for the unbeliever, but rather only for the faithful. Can we see miracles today? Yes. God works through the Virgin Mary, the Saints and even us.

How do they affect us in this scientific age? They confirm our faith by making us think about God and His Grace. They bring us closer to Him because they defy our understanding since they are not normal. They also show us the results of a pious life. The centurion asked for God's help. God offers to come to his house, yet the centurion says that this is not necessary. God rewards his faith and heals the servant.

So, we can see that miracles are to be found anywhere God decides to act, which is everywhere. They show us God's power over the natural order, since He created it. They also show God's love by overlooking the corruption that we have caused ourselves due to sin. They confirm the faith of the faithful, even if these faithful are not a visible part of the community by uniting us to him and by showing us the weakness and incompleteness of our nature. Yet they point to what is to come, our reward for being pious. They also condemn those that claim to believe but do not show the fruits of faith that is love. We must always look to what is to come, since that is our goal, in order to fully understand the ultimate miracle, that is, theosis, our becoming God-like. Let us go out into the world and be miraculous. Let us live as though God indeed exists and acts in our lives. Let us not empty the cross of its power by denying God the vehicle to perform miracles, that is our faith. Amen

# July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>4th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	3	4 <b>Independence Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	5 <b>Fast Day</b>	6  6:00 p.m. Chanting Class	7 <b>Fast Day</b>  Rehearsal	8 10:00 a.m. Koliva Class +Sacrament
9 <b>5th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	10	11 <b>Saint Euphemia</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption  6:30 p.m. Festival Committee Meeting in the Green Room	12 <b>Fast Day</b>	13	14 <b>Fast Day</b>	15 <b>Saint Kyriakos</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption
16 <b>Sunday of the Holy Fathers</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	17 <b>Saint Marina</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption	18	19 <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers at the Church of the Prophet Elias in Dubuque (New Address: 419 N. Grandview Ave.)	20 <b>The Prophet Elias</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Prophet Elias in Dubuque 6:00 p.m. Chanting Class	21 <b>Fast Day</b>	22 <b>St. Mary Magdalene</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption
23 <b>7th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	24	25 6:30 p.m. Festival Committee Meeting in the Green Room	26 <b>Saint Paraskeve of Rome</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption  <b>Evening Meal</b>	27 <b>Saint Panteleimon</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption  10:15 a.m. Senior Citizen Group event	28 <b>Fast Day</b>	29
30 <b>8th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy +Sacrament	31					

## August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <b>Fast of the Dormition Begins</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	2 <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	3 <b>Fast Day</b>  6:00 p.m. Chanting Class	4 <b>Fast Day</b>	5 <b>Wine and Oil allowed</b>
6 <b>The Transfiguration of the Lord Fish, Wine and Oil allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy	7 <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	8 <b>Fast Day</b>  6:30 p.m. Festival Committee Meeting in the Green Room	9 <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	10 <b>Fast Day</b>	11 <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Paraklesis	12 <b>Wine and Oil allowed</b>
13 <b>10th Sunday of Matthew Wine and Oil allowed</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	14 <b>The Eve of the Dormition of the Theotokos</b>  6:00 p.m. Great Vespers at Assumption Church	15 <b>The Dormition of the Theotokos</b>  9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Assumption	16 <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	17   6:00 p.m. Chanting Class	18 <b>Fast Day</b>	19 +Sacrament +Sacrament  5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Assumption Dinner Dance
20 <b>11th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	21	22   6:30 p.m. Festival Committee Meeting in the Green Room	23 <b>Fast Day</b>   <b>Evening Meal</b>	24 10:00 a.m. Senior Citizen Group event	25 <b>Fast Day</b>	26
27 <b>12th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	28	29 <b>The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist Fast Day</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy	30 <b>Fast Day</b>	31 6:00 p.m. Chanting Class		

# Epistle Readers

**Sunday, July 2, 2017**

**4th Sunday of Matthew**

Loukia Constantinides

**Sunday, July 9, 2017**

**5th Sunday of Matthew**

Kay Coin

**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

**Sunday of the Holy Fathers**

Mary Rankin

**Sunday, July 23, 2017**

**7th Sunday of Matthew**

Ethan Kirkpatrick

**Sunday, July 30, 2017**

**8th Sunday of Matthew**

Stephanie Elias

**Sunday, August 6, 2017**

**The Transfiguration of our Lord**

Angela Spurgetis

**Sunday, August 13, 2017**

**10th Sunday of Matthew**

Loukia Constantinides

**Sunday, August 20, 2017**

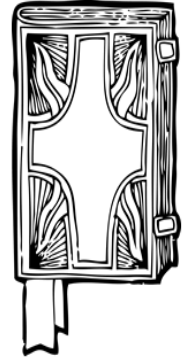
**11th Sunday of Matthew**

Isabella Elias

**Sunday, August 27, 2017**

**12th Sunday of Matthew**

Kay Coin



“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, July 2, 2017**

Joe Burmeister  
Mary Kay Eckert  
Mary Rankin  
Ken Stiegel

**Sunday, July 9, 2017**

Mike Patramanis  
Brad Crosson  
Mariellen Crosson  
Ted Pitsoulakis

**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

John Mekus  
Nick Coin  
Dennis Spurgetis  
Diane Spurgetis

**Sunday, July 23, 2017**

Joe Burmeister,  
Mary Kay Eckert  
Mary Rankin  
Ken Stiegel

**Sunday, July 30, 2017**

Mike Patramanis  
Brad Crosson  
Mariellen Crosson  
Ted Pitsoulakis

**Sunday, August 6, 2016**

John Mekus  
Nick Coin  
Dennis Spurgetis  
Diane Spurgetis

**Sunday, August 13, 2017**

Joe Burmeister,  
Mary Kay Eckert  
Mary Rankin  
Ken Stiegel

**Sunday, August 20, 2017**

Mike Patramanis  
Brad Crosson  
Mariellen Crosson  
Ted Pitsoulakis

**Sunday, August 27, 2017**

John Mekus  
Nick Coin  
Dennis Spurgetis  
Diane Spurgetis

## Coffee Hour Hosts for July/August 2017

**Sunday, July 2, 2017**

**hosted by:**

Nancy N. Coin

**Sunday, July 9, 2017**

**hosted by:**

John and Pat Andrews

**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

**hosted by:**

Doug and Patti Kenyon

**Sunday, July 23, 2017**

**hosted by:**

Open

**Sunday, July 30, 2017**

**hosted by:**

Crosson Family

**Sunday, August 6, 2017**

**hosted by:**

Lina Assaf and Bassam Azar

**Sunday, August 13, 2017**

**hosted by:**

Family of Janice Smirles

**Sunday, August 20, 2017**

**hosted by:**

Open

**Sunday, August 27, 2017**

**hosted by:**

Open



**Fellowship  
and fun!**

## *The Council Connection*

**Good News:** Last summer in the July/August edition of *The Trophybearer*, the Council Connection article addressed financial issues facing the parish and asked for parishioner suggestions to address the concerns. Working together to follow the mission of Christ's Holy Church, the parish has initiated several steps to improve the financial standing of the parish.

First of all, the stewardship committee set a goal of stewards increasing pledges by a total of \$20,000.00. Thanks to the generosity of the St. George community prayerfully working together, this goal has been met.

In addition, a plan has been set up to direct \$20,000.00 annually from Foundation Fund earnings to be used by

the parish if needed to meet expenses. Procedures were followed to adhere to the Foundation Fund rules.

The festival broke records last year for attendance and the Festival Account is now at a healthy level. We thank all of the volunteers who made it happen and hope they will all return for this year's festival September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>!

Also, Stan Coin and Dimitri Papageorgiou proposed a fundraising idea of making the wine tasting held at the Festival into a separate event, which sponsors, parishioners, and people of the community can enjoy in a larger venue than the green room.

The date for the wine tasting has been set for Saturday, October 21. A super-snazzy poster has been de-

signed for the event and tickets will be available soon and also will be sold at the Festival. This should be a fun event and tickets would make lovely gifts.

Finally, the best way to grow our church family is for each of us to become faithful participants in the life of the church. Speaking personally, I miss all of you when I miss Divine Liturgy or an event. Likewise, when you are away, I truly miss you and look forward to your return! Your gifts of your treasure are blessings to the church, but please don't withhold your presence! It is the greatest gift.

Yours in Christ,

*Mary Rankin*

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

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

## Community News

### PASTORAL NOTES:

•Father Michael will be away from the Parish from Sunday July 9, following the Divine Liturgy until Saturday July 29. In the event of an emergency please telephone Father Tom Alatzakis at (847) 927-3333.

•The fast of the Dormition of the Theotokos begins on Tuesday August 1 and continues through and including Monday August 14, 2017.

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish council will meet on Wednesday, August 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Green room.

### STEWARDSHIP

Please help support the ministries of our Parish by submitting your annual Stewardship pledge. Your commitment helps contribute to the financial support of our Church.

### 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 or even a card!

Emily Caras

Helen Corelis

Stella Cudworth

Elaine Froumis

Pat Grevas

Christina Nikas

Judy Pappas

Jim Patton

Xenia Patton

Effie Skafidas

Gordon Smith

Helen Smith

Jim Tsagaris

## Senior Ministry

## Parish Family News

**The beginning of love of money is the pretext of almsgiving, and the end of it is hatred of the poor. So long as he is collecting he is charitable, but when the money is in hand he tightens his grip.**

**St. John Climacus, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent," STEP 16: On Love of Money, or Avarice**

### July

On Thursday July 27th we will go to Vander veer Park in Davenport for a guided tour of their conservatory and weather permitting their outdoor flower garden. We will meet at church at 10:00 a.m. and arrive at the park at 10:30 a.m. Those wishing to meet us at the park may do so at that time. Cost is \$5.00 per person. We will then go to the "Greatest Grains Restaurant" a few blocks away for a "Dutch-treat" lunch and a look at their store. Please RSVP to Kay Coin at 309-786-0240 if you plan to attend so reservations could be made.

### August

On Thursday, August 24th we will go to the newly built Rock Island Police Department for a guided tour of their new facility. We will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and proceed to the police department by 10:30 a.m. Those wishing to meet us there at that time. Lunch will be a "Dutch-treat" affair at the "Coffee and Pancake House" restaurant in downtown Rock Island. Please RSVP to Kay Coin at 309-786-0240 if you plan to attend so reservations could be made.

•Father Thomas and the esteemed Parish Council of the Assumption Church wish to express their thanks to all of the Saint George faithful that worked and supported their festival!

•Congratulations to Ben Florence who earned the rank of Eagle Scout! May God bless all of his endeavors!

•Congratulations to James Davis and Kirsten Speed on their engagement! May God grant them a long life together!

## 2017 Stewards

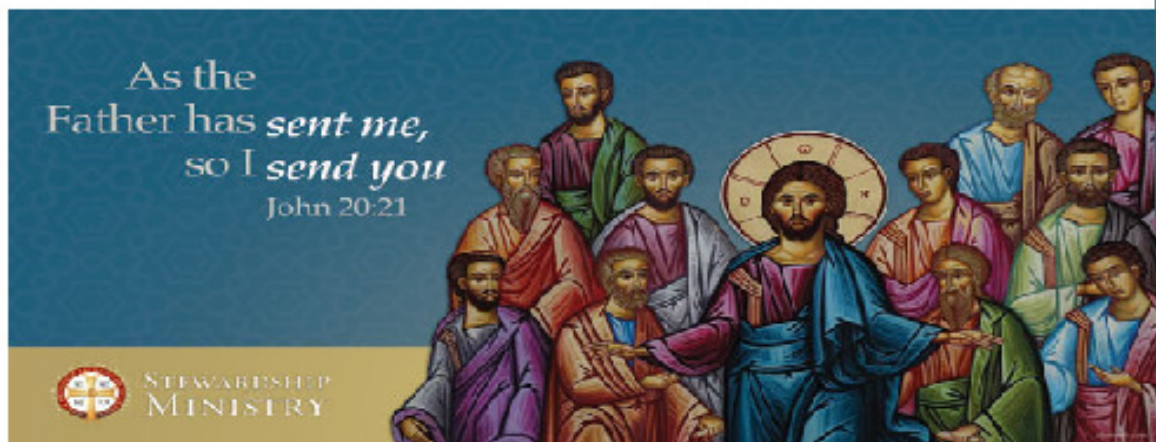
Fr. Michael and Pres. Maria Constantinides	Steve and Mary Kay Eckert	Steve Morgan	Diana Spurgetis
Father Chris and Pres. Stavroula Matos	Dan and Mari Elias	Kenneth and Pam Mott	Nick and Fran Spurgetis
Deacon Paul and Diaconissa Romilie Speed	Maurice and Sue Elias	Richard and Marguerite Nelson	John and Martha Stratton
Jorg and Sema Alias	Tony and Candace Elias	Anthony and Marianne Nichols	Marge Stratton
Ray and Connie Allen	Sam and Caitlin Eliopoulos	Pauline Nichols	James and Elizabeth Teros
Dale and JoElaine Allison	Andrea Faulhaber	Chris and Joanne Pappas	Veronica Tolescu
Jeff and Elaine Amidon	Scott and Alexa Florence	Judy Pappas	Gus and Virginia Tripilas
John and Pat Andrews	Hilary and Tony Frakes	Timothy Pappas	Ellen Tsagaris and Dino Milani
Tom and Jenny Bakeris	Elaine Froumis	George and Alexia Patramanis	James Tsagaris
Ben and Georgena Barnes	George Gnatovich	Mike and Vickie Patramanis	Gafo Tuku
Pascal Booras	Mike Gust	Angela Perantinos	Ted Vlahos
Frances Bourboulas	Pete and Arlene Gust	Ted and Georgjean Pitsoulakis	Gena and Eric Voss
Diane Breckon	Tim and Kathy Joannides	Demetrios Pliakos	Frank Vretis
Elaine Burmeister	Scot and Adrienne Johnson	Ann Polillo	Bill and Diane Whitehead
Joe Burmeister	Candice Kalman	Mike and Vickie Pyevich	Kim and Mary Winters
John and Darcy Callas	Georgia Kalomas	Mary Rankin	Kulla Wiss
Peter and Becky Caras	Louis and Amanda Kantzavelos	Jovanka Rastovic	Marina Yokas-Reese
Carol Chickris	George and Diane Karoules	David Ray	John and Joanne Zaimis
George and Nancy Coin	Chris and Lennice Kavalieros	Daniel and Jessica Sheridan	Connie and Russ Zeroth
Harry G. and Susan Coin	Ermioni Keber	Effie Skafidas	
Nick and Nancy Coin	Doug and Patti Kenyon	Frank and Mary Jane Skafidas	
Stan and Kay Coin	Deborah Kutsunis	Janice Smirles	
John and Shan Corelis	Ted and Debbie Kutsunis	Gordon and Helen Smith	
Anthony Corelis	Von Lillios	Randy and Christine Smith	
Helen Corelis	Tasso and Francie Liras	Angela Spurgetis	
Brad and Mariellen Crosson	Dena Manta	Colette Spurgetis	
Cleo Dalamaggas	Manny and Tracy Mathews	Dennis and Nancy Spurgetis	
Angeline Douglas	Nancy Mathews		
Jayme Eckert	John and Linnea Mekus		
	Helen Moorhead		

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

**Please contact the  
church office if you  
would like a pledge  
card sent to you or fill  
out a pledge card in the  
Narthex where they  
are available on the  
round information  
table.**



# St. George Stewardship Notes



## QUICK FACTS

(as of  
June 23, 2017)

**\$141,130.20 =**  
Amount pledged for 2017  
by 105 households

**\$90,578.91 =**  
Amount given to 2017  
stewardship since Jan. 1

**\$1,344.00 =**  
Average pledge per  
household at this date

**\$263,855.00 =**  
Amount needed for the  
ministries of  
St. George Parish for 2017

## Preventing Traditional Summer Cash Flow Concerns

Our Saint George Parish requires \$22,000.00 in income every month to meet its ongoing expenses. These expenses include payroll obligations, heating and cooling bills, supplies, our commitment to the Archdiocese so that we can continue to have a system for ordained priests and a national presence and ministry, printing and postage costs, maintenance of property, and a myriad of other things.

During summer months, the parish traditionally experiences lower giving due to vacations, school being out, etc. The parish council finds it difficult to pay \$22,000.00 worth of bills with an average income of \$5,000 to \$6,000 during these months.

We ask that parishioners not forget their beloved parish in the excitement of traveling and pursuing summer plans and continue their financial support throughout the next few months!



## Evening Meal Volunteers

July 26-Chris and Randy Smith  
 August 23-Nancy G. Coin and Dena Manta  
 September 27-Kathy Farrell and Adrian Johnson  
 October 28-Mary and Bill Rankin

## Parish Registry

### **40-Day Blessing**

Isaiah the son of Dominique and Emily Nunn was churching on June 18, 2017

### **Baptisms**

The servant of God Matthew, son of Brock and Andrea Faulhaber was Baptized into the Orthodox Faith on June 17, 2017 and the sponsor was Marina Johnson.

The servant of God Victor, son of Nicholas Gnatchovich and Andrea Day was Baptized into the Orthodox Faith on June 17, 2017 and the sponsor was Anthony Corelis.

### **Funeral**

The servant of God, Patricia Hansen, fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on May 30, 2017

## Memorials July/August

### **July 2, 2017**

Patricia Hansen  
 (40 Days)

### **August 19, 2017**

Janice Smirles  
 (6 months)

### **July 9, 2017**

His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago  
 (40 Days)

## Prosphora Baking Schedule July/August

**Sunday, July 2, 2017**

**Patti and Doug Kenyon**

**Sunday, July 9, 2017**

**Diakonissa Romilie**

**Sunday, July 16, 2017**

**Dena Manta**

**Sunday, July 26, 2017**

**Georgene Pitsoulakis**

**Sunday, July 30, 2017**

**Open**

**Sunday, August 6, 2017**

**Lina Assaf and Bassam Azar**

**Sunday, August 13, 2017**

**Mary Kay Eckert**

**Sunday, August 20, 2017**

**Presbytera Maria**

**Sunday, August 27, 2017**

**Open**

## Name Lists for Paraklesis

**List the first (Baptismal) names of your living loved ones**

[illegible]

Saint George Greek Orthodox Church  
2930 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

## SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL, HOPE/JOY AND GOYA REGISTRATION FORM

Family Last Name	Mother's First Name	Father's First Name
Address	City	Zip Code
1 <sup>st</sup> Number to call	2 <sup>nd</sup> Number to call	Best email for communications

### SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION

FIRST NAMES	PATRON SAINT	BIRTHDAY (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

#### HOPE/JOY

Child's Name
_____
_____
_____
_____

#### GOYA

Child's Name
_____
_____
_____
_____

	GRADE IN SCHOOL				
First Names	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
1. _____					
2. _____					
3. _____					
4. _____					
5. _____					





You are invited to brunch and a workshop to learn to make

# KOLIVA

SATURDAY, JULY 8; 10 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.



The Koliva is being made for Metropolitan Iakovos's 40-day memorial on Sunday, July 9.



## HANDS ON EXPERIENCE!

Parishioners will share tips on preparing the wheat, mixing ingredients, and assembling the final product while enjoying brunch and fellowship together. If you would like to attend this session, please contact Mary Rankin at [mbarton83@aol.com](mailto:mbarton83@aol.com) or 563-263-2341.





## Festival Volunteers Needed!

### Plan now for a great time of fun and fellowship!

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

Please plan to work as many shifts as possible!

Sign up forms will be mailed and also available at the church in mid-July.

Or contact Mary Rankin (Cell phone: 563-263-2341 or email: [mbarton83@aol.com](mailto:mbarton83@aol.com))

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

September 8 & 9



## SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2930 31st Avenue  
Rock Island, Illinois 61201  
309-786-8163

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017  
5:00 - 7:30 P.M.

## OUR BIG FAT GREEK WINE TASTING



Authentic Greek Appetizers

\$30 per person  
Buy in advance  
2 tickets \$50

Over 35 wines  
Sponsored and presented by  
Dimitri Papageorgiou and  
Dimitri Wine & Spirits, Inc.



## Martyr Lucy (Loukia) of Rome (July 6)

The Holy Martyrs Lucy (Lucia) the Virgin, Rexius, Antoninus, Lucian, Isidore, Dion, Diodorus, Cutonius, Arnosus, Capicus and Satyrus:

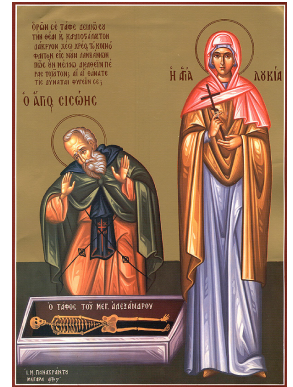
Saint Lucy, a native of the Italian district of Campania, from the time of her youth dedicated herself to God and lived in an austere and chaste manner. While still quite young, she was taken captive and carried off into a foreign land by Rexius, who had the title of Vicarius (a substitute for a dead or absent provincial governor). Rexius at first tried to compel Saint Lucy to sacrifice to idols but, she remained firm in her faith and was ready to accept

torture for the sake of Christ. Rexius was inspired with profound respect for her and even permitted her and her servants the use of a separate house, where they lived in solitude, spending their time in unceasing prayer. Whenever he left to go on military campaigns, Rexius reverently asked for Saint Lucy's prayers, and he returned victorious.

After 20 years Saint Lucy, having learned that the emperor Diocletian had begun a persecution against Christians, entreated Rexius to send her back to Italy. She wanted to glorify the Lord together with her fellow country-

men. Rexius, under the influence of Saint Lucy, had already accepted Christianity by this time, and even longed for martyrdom. Leaving behind his retinue and family, he went to Rome with Saint Lucy. The Roman prefect Aelius sentenced them to be beheaded with a sword. After them the holy martyrs Antoninus, Lucian, Isidore, Dion, Diodorus, Cutonis, Arnosus, Capicus and Satyrus were also beheaded. In all, twenty-four martyrs suffered with Saints Lucy and Rexius.

This Saint Lucy should not be confused with the Virgin Martyr Lucy of Syracuse (December 13).



Martyr Lucy (Loukia) of Rome

## The Seven Holy Maccabee Martyrs (August 1)

The seven holy Maccabee martyrs Abim, Antonius, Gurias, Eleazar, Eusebonus, Alimus and Marcellus, their mother Solomonica and their teacher Eleazar suffered in the year 166 before Christ under the impious Syrian king Antiochus IV Epiphanes. This foolish ruler loved pagan and Hellenistic customs, and held Jewish customs in contempt. He did everything possible to turn people from the Law of Moses and from their covenant with God. He desecrated the Temple of the Lord, placed a statue of the pagan god Zeus there, and forced the Jews to worship it. Many people abandoned the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but there were also those who continued to believe that the Savior would come.

A ninety-year-old elder, the scribe and teacher Eleazar, was brought to trial for his faithfulness to the Mosaic Law. He suffered tortures and died at Jerusalem.

The disciples of Saint Eleazar, the seven Maccabee brothers and

their mother Solomonica, also displayed great courage. They were brought to trial in Antioch by King Antiochus Epiphanes. They fearlessly acknowledged themselves as followers of the True God, and refused to eat pig's flesh, which was forbidden by the Law.

The eldest brother acted as spokesmen for the rest, saying that they preferred to die rather than break the Law. He was subjected to fierce tortures in sight of his brothers and their mother. His tongue was cut out, he was scalped, and his hands and feet were cut off. Then a cauldron and a large frying pan were heated, and the first brother was thrown into the frying pan, and he died.

The next five brothers were tortured one after the other. The seventh and youngest brother was the last one left alive. Antiochus suggested to Saint Solomonica to persuade the boy to obey him, so that her last son at least would be spared. Instead, the brave mother

told him to imitate the courage of his brothers.

The child upbraided the king and was tortured even more cruelly than his brothers had been. After all her seven children had died, Saint Solomonica, stood over their bodies, raised up her hands in prayer to God and died.

The martyric death of the Maccabee brothers inspired Judas Maccabeus, and he led a revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes. With God's help, he gained the victory, and then purified the Temple at Jerusalem. He also threw down the altars which the pagans had set up in the streets. All these events are related in the Second Book of Maccabees (Ch. 8-10).

Various Fathers of the Church preached sermons on the seven Maccabees, including Saint Cyprian of Carthage, Saint Ambrose of Milan, Saint Gregory Nazianzus and Saint John Chrysostom.



The Seven Holy Maccabee Martyrs

## 7 Holy Youths “Seven Sleepers” of Ephesus (Continued)



### The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus

The Seven Youths of Ephesus: Maximilian, Iamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodianus (Constantine) and Antoninus, lived in the third century. Saint Maximilian was the son of the Ephesus city administrator, and the other six youths were sons of illustrious citizens of Ephesus. The youths were friends from childhood, and all were in military service together.

When the emperor Decius (249-251) arrived in Ephesus, he commanded all the citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. Torture and death awaited anyone who disobeyed. The seven youths were denounced by informants, and were summoned to reply to the charges. Appearing before the emperor, the young men confessed their faith in Christ.

Their military belts and insignia were quickly taken from them. Decius permitted them to go free, however, hoping that they would change their minds while he was off on a military campaign. The youths fled from the city and hid in a cave on Mount Ochlon, where they passed their time in prayer, preparing for martyrdom.

The youngest of them, Saint Iamblicus, dressed as a beggar

and went into the city to buy bread. On one of his excursions into the city, he heard that the emperor had returned and was looking for them. Saint Maximilian urged his companions to come out of the cave and present themselves for trial.

Learning where the young men were hidden, the emperor ordered that the entrance of the cave be sealed with stones so that the saints would perish from hunger and thirst. Two of the dignitaries at the blocked entrance to the cave were secret Christians. Desiring to preserve the memory of the saints, they placed in the cave a sealed container containing two metal plaques. On them were inscribed the names of the seven youths and the details of their suffering and death.

The Lord placed the youths into a miraculous sleep lasting almost two centuries. In the meantime, the persecutions against Christians had ceased. During the reign of the holy emperor Theodosius the Younger (408-450) there were heretics who denied that there would be a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them said, “How can there be a resurrection of the dead when there will be neither soul nor body, since they are disintegrated?” Others affirmed, “The souls alone will have a restoration, since it would be impossible for bodies to arise and live after a thousand years, when even their dust would not remain.” Therefore, the Lord revealed the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead and of the future life through His seven saints.

The owner of the land on which Mount Ochlon was situated, discovered the stone construction, and his workers opened up the entrance to the cave. The Lord had kept the youths alive, and they awoke from their sleep, unaware that almost two hundred years had passed. Their bodies and clothing were completely undecayed.

Preparing to accept torture, the youths once again asked Saint Iamblicus to buy bread for them in the city. Going toward the city, the youth was astonished to see a cross on the gates. Hearing the name of Jesus Christ freely spoken, he began to doubt that he was approaching his own city.

When he paid for the bread, Iamblicus gave the merchant coins with the image of the emperor Decius on it. He was detained, as someone who might be concealing a horde of old money. They took Saint Iamblicus to the city administrator, who also happened to be the Bishop of Ephesus. Hearing the bewildering answers of the young man, the bishop perceived that God was revealing some sort of mystery through him, and went with other people to the cave.

At the entrance to the cave the bishop found the sealed container and opened it. He read upon the metal plaques the names of the seven youths and the details of the sealing of the cave on the orders of the emperor Decius. Going into the cave and seeing the saints alive, everyone rejoiced and perceived that the Lord, by waking them from their long sleep, was dem-

onstrating to the Church the mystery of the Resurrection of the Dead.

Soon the emperor himself arrived in Ephesus and spoke with the young men in the cave. Then the holy youths, in sight of everyone, lay their heads upon the ground and fell asleep again, this time until the General Resurrection.

The emperor wanted to place each of the youths into a jeweled coffin, but they appeared to him in a dream and said that their bodies were to be left upon the ground in the cave. In the twelfth century the Russian pilgrim Igu-men Daniel saw the holy relics of the seven youths in the cave.

There is a second commemoration of the seven youths on October 22. According to one tradition, which entered into the Russian PROLOGUE (of Saints' Lives), the youths fell asleep for the second time on this day. The Greek MENAION of 1870 says that they first fell asleep on August 4, and woke up on October 22.

There is a prayer of the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus in the GREAT BOOK OF NEEDS (Trebnik) for those who are ill and cannot sleep. The Seven Sleepers are also mentioned in the service for the Church New Year, September 1.

## The Holy Apostle Matthias (August 9)

The Holy Apostle Matthias was born at Bethlehem of the Tribe of Judah. From his early childhood he studied the Law of God under the guidance of Saint Simeon the God-Receiver (February 3).

When the Lord Jesus Christ revealed Himself to the world, Saint Matthias believed in Him as the Messiah, followed constantly after Him and was numbered among the Seventy Apostles, whom the Lord "sent them two by two before His face" (Luke 10:1).

After the Ascension of the Savior, Saint Matthias was chosen by lot to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve Apostles (Acts 1:15-26). After the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Matthias preached the Gospel at Jerusalem and in Judea together with the other Apostles (Acts 6:2, 8:14). From Jerusalem he went with the Apostles Peter and Andrew to Syrian Antioch, and was in the Cappadocian city of Tium and Sinope. Here the Apostle Matthias was locked into prison, from which he was miraculously freed by Saint Andrew the First-Called.

The Apostle Matthias journeyed after this to Amasea, a city on the shore of the sea. During a three year journey of the Apostle Andrew, Saint Matthias was with him at Edessa and Sebaste. According to Church Tradition, he was preaching at Pontine Ethiopia (presently Western Georgia) and Macedonia. He was frequently subjected to deadly peril, but the Lord preserved him to preach the Gospel.

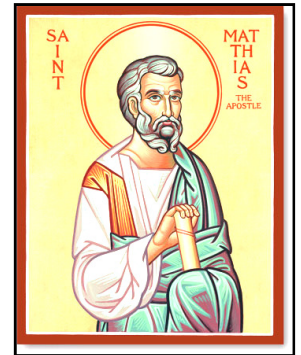
Once, pagans forced the saint to drink a poison potion. He drank it, and not only did he himself remain unharmed, but he also healed other prisoners who had been blinded by the potion. When Saint Matthias left the prison, the pagans searched for him in vain, for he had become invisible to them. Another time, when the pagans had become enraged intending to kill the Apostle, the earth opened up and engulfed them.

The Apostle Matthias returned to Judea and did not cease to enlighten his countrymen with the light of Christ's teachings. He worked great miracles in the Name of the Lord Jesus and he converted a great many to faith in Christ.

The Jewish High Priest Ananias hated Christ and earlier had commanded the Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, to be flung down from the heights of the Temple, and now he ordered that the Apostle Matthias be arrested and brought for judgment before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem.

The impious Ananias uttered a speech in which he blasphemously slandered the Lord. Using the prophecies of the Old Testament, the Apostle Matthias demonstrated that Jesus Christ is the True God, the promised Messiah, the Son of God, Consubstantial and Co-eternal with God the Father. After these words the Apostle Matthias was sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin and stoned.

When Saint Matthias was already dead, the Jews, to hide their malefaction, cut off his head as an enemy of Caesar. (According to several historians, the Apostle Matthias was crucified, and indicate that he instead died at Colchis.) The Apostle Matthias received the martyr's crown of glory in the year 63.



**The Holy Apostle Matthias**

## The Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Laurence of Rome (August 10)

The Martyrs Archdeacon Laurence, Pope Sixtus, Deacons Felicissimus and Agapitos, the Soldier Romanos were citizens of Rome, and suffered in the year 258 under the emperor Valerian (253-259). Holy Pope Sixtus, born at Athens, received

a fine education, preached in Spain and was made bishop in Rome following the martyr's death of Holy Pope Stephen (253-257, commemorated on August 2). These were times when a pope occupying the Roman throne, was known to

choose death for the faith. In a short while Saint Sixtus also was arrested and put in prison together with his deacons Felicissimus and Agapitos.

When the holy archdeacon Laurence visited Pope Sixtus,



**The Martyr and Archdeacon Laurence of Rome**



## The Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Laurence of Rome (Continued)

whom they held in prison, he cried out with tears: "Whither art thou gone, father? Why hast thou forsaken thine archdeacon, with whom always thou hast offered the Bloodless Sacrifice? Take thy son with thee, that I may be thy companion in having blood shed for Christ!" Saint Sixtus answered him: "I have not forsaken thee, my son. I am old and go to an easy death, but yet greater sufferings await thee. Know, that after three days upon our death thou shalt follow after me. And now go, take the church treasury and distribute it to the poor and needy Christians." Saint Laurence zealously did the bidding of the holy hierarchy.

Having heard, that Pope Sixtus had been taken to trial with the deacons, Saint Laurence went there so as to witness their deed, and he said to the holy bishop: "Father, I have already fulfilled thy command, and distributed by hand thine treasury; forsake me not!" Hearing something about treasure, soldiers put him under guard, and the other martyrs were beheaded (+6 August 258). The emperor locked up Saint Laurence in prison and ordered the chief jailer Hippolytus to keep watch over him. In prison Saint Laurence with prayer healed the sick gathered together with him and he baptized many.

Astonished by this, Hippolytus himself believed and accepted Baptism from Saint Laurence together with all his household. Soon the archdeacon Laurence was again brought to the em-

peror and commanded to produce the hidden treasure. Saint Laurence answered: "Give me a period of three days, and I shall show thee this treasure". During this time the saint gathered up a crowd of the poor and the sick, who ate only because of the charity of the Church, and bringing them he explained: "Here are the vessels in which is contained the treasure. And everyone, who puts their treasure in these vessels, will receive them in abundance in the Heavenly Kingdom".

After this they gave Saint Laurence over to fierce tortures, urging him to worship idols. The martyr was scourged (with a fine iron flail with sharp needles), they burned his wounds with fire, and struck at him with metal switches. At the time of the martyr's suffering, the soldier Romanos suddenly cried out: "Saint Laurence, I behold a bright youth, who stands about thee healing thy wounds. Beseech thy Lord Christ not to forsake me!" After this they stretched Saint Laurence on a rack and returned him to prison to Hippolytus. Romanos brought there a water pot with water and besought the martyr to baptize him. And immediately after the Baptism of the soldier, he was beheaded (+9 August). When they took Saint Laurence to his final torture, Saint Hippolytus wanted to declare himself a Christian and die together with him, but the confessor said: "Conceal for now thy confession in thy heart."

After some length of time I shall

summon thee, and thou shalt hear and come unto me. Weep not for me, but rather rejoice, for I go to receive a glorious crown of martyrdom." They placed him in an iron cage, under which they set an intense fire, and the flames of the fire flicked towards the body of the martyr. Saint Laurence, glancing at the governor, said: "Here now, you burn only but one side of my body, turn over the other and do my whole body". Dying, he uttered: "I thank Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, that Thou hast accounted me worthy to enter into Thy gates" -- and with these words he gave up the spirit.

Saint Hippolytus took the body of the martyr by night, he wrapped it in a shroud with ointments and gave it over to the priest Justin. Over the relics of the martyr in the home of the widow Kyriaki they made an all-night vigil and Divine Liturgy. All the Christians present partook of the Holy Mysteries and with honor they buried the body of the holy martyr Archdeacon Laurence in a cave on 10 August 258. Saint Hippolytus and other Christians suffered three days after the death of Saint Laurence (13 August), as he had foretold them of this.

**God  
considers  
His own  
self  
constantly  
obligated  
for  
whatever  
charities  
you do to  
your fellow  
men.**

**Saint Basil  
the Great**

## The Prophet Samuel (August 20)

The Prophet Samuel was the fifteenth and last of the Judges of Israel, living more than 1146 years before the Birth of Christ. He was descended from the Tribe of Levi, and was the son of Elkanah from Ramathaim-Zophim of Mount Ephraim. He was born, having been besought from the Lord through the prayers of his mother Hannah (therefore he received the name Samuel, which means "besought from God"). Even before birth, he was dedicated to God. Her song, "My heart exults in the Lord," is the Third Ode of the Old Testament (1 Sam/1 Kings 2:1-10).

When the boy reached the age of three, his mother went with him to Shiloh and in accord with her vow dedicated him to the worship of God. She gave him into the care of the High Priest Eli, who at this time was a judge over Israel. The prophet grew in the fear of God, and at twelve years of age he had a revelation that God would punish the house of the High Priest Eli, because he did not restrain the impiety of his sons. Eli's whole family was wiped

out in a single day.

The prophecy was fulfilled when the Philistines, having slain in battle 30,000 Israelites (among them were also the sons of the High Priest, Hophni and Phinees), gaining victory and capturing the Ark of the Covenant. Hearing this, the High Priest Eli fell backwards from his seat at the gate, and breaking his back, he died. The wife of Phinees, upon hearing what had happened in this very hour, gave birth to a son (Ichabod) and died with the words: "The glory has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God is taken away" (1 Sam/1 Kings 4: 22).

Upon the death of Eli, Samuel became the judge of the nation of Israel. The Ark of God was returned by the Philistines on their own initiative. After returning to God, the Israelites returned to all the cities that the Philistines had taken. In his old age, the Prophet Samuel made his sons Joel and Abiah judges over Israel, but they did not follow the integrity and righteous judgment of their father, since they were motivated

by greed.

Then the elders of Israel, wanting the nation of God to be "like other nations" (1 Sam/1 Kgs 8: 20), demanded of the Prophet Samuel that they have a king. The Prophet Samuel anointed Saul as king, but saw in this a downfall of the people, whom God Himself had governed until this time, announcing His will through His chosen saints. Resigning the position of judge, the Prophet Samuel asked the people if they consented to his continued governance, but no one stepped forward for him.

After denouncing the first king, Saul, for his disobedience to God, the Prophet Samuel anointed David as king. He had offered David asylum, saving him from the pursuit of King Saul. The Prophet Samuel died in extreme old age. His life is recorded in the Bible (1 Sam/1 Kgs; Sirach 46:13-20).

In the year 406 A.D. the relics of the Prophet Samuel were transferred from Judea to Constantinople.



**The Prophet Samuel**

## The Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy (August 21)

Saint Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy, was by descent a Hebrew, and he was born in the Syrian city of Edessa. The holy Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy must be distinguished from Saint Jude, also called Thaddeus or Levi (June 19), who was one of the Twelve Apostles.

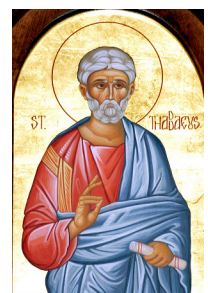
When he came to Jerusalem for a Feastday, he heard the preaching of John the Forerunner. After being baptized by him in the Jordan, he remained in Palestine. He saw the Savior, and became His follower.

He was chosen by the Lord to be one of the Seventy Disciples, whom He sent by twos to preach in the cities and places where He intended to visit (Luke. 10: 1).

After the Ascension of the Savior to Heaven, Saint Thaddeus preached the good news in Syria and Mesopotamia. He came preaching the Gospel to Edessa and he converted King Abgar, the people and the pagan priests to Christ. He backed up his preaching with many miracles (about which Abgar

wrote to the Assyrian emperor Nerses). He established priests there and built up the Edessa Church.

Prince Abgar wanted to reward Saint Thaddeus with rich gifts, but he refused and went preaching to other cities, converting many pagans to the Christian Faith. He went to the city of Beirut to preach, and he founded a church there. It was in this city that he peacefully died in the year 44.



**The Apostle Thaddeus of the Seventy**

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

### About the Church

#### Across

3. The large embroidered cloth depicting Christ laid out in the grave.
9. Three-times holy.
10. There are \_\_\_\_\_ Ecumenical Councils.
11. Orthodox mystical tradition.

#### Down

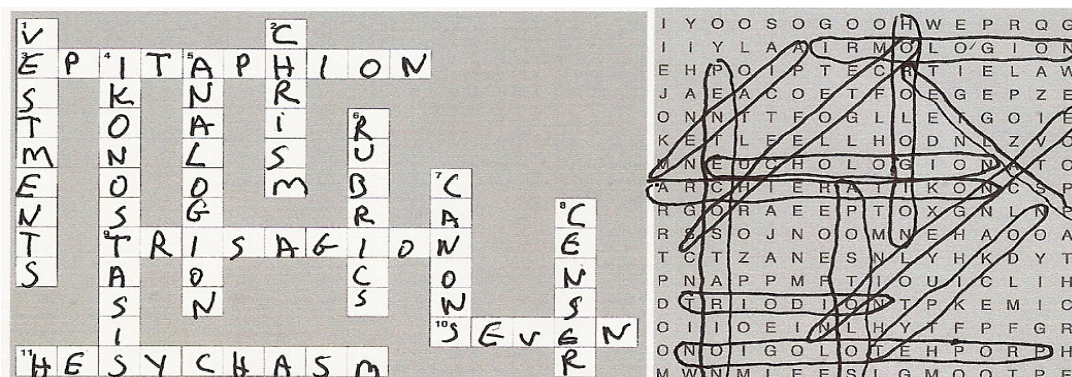
1. The robes and other clerical garb.
2. A scented oil that is blessed

every year on Holy Thursday.

4. The divider, decorated with icons, between the sanctuary and nave in an Orthodox temple..
5. The bookstand on the ambo for supporting the Gospel.
6. The guidelines and rules governing worship and practice.
7. The regulations of the church.
8. For burning incense

### Liturgical Books

- Pentecostarion Menaia  
Prophetologion Typikon  
Archieratikon  
Euchologion  
Hieratikon  
Evangelion  
Irmologion  
Octoechos  
Apostolos  
Triodion  
Psalter



## Thought to Ponder

Blessed is he who is considerate to the needy and the poor. Not even night should interrupt you in your duty of mercy. There should be no delay between your intention and your good deed. Generosity is the one thing that cannot admit of delay. He who does acts of mercy should do so with cheerfulness. The grace of the deed is doubled when it is done with promptness and speed. What is given with a bad grace or against one's will is distasteful

and far from praiseworthy. When we perform an act of kindness we should rejoice and not be sad about it. Let us visit Christ whenever we may, let us care for him, feed him, clothe him, welcome him, honor him, not only at a meal or by anointing him as Mary did, or by giving him gold, frankincense and myrrh, like the Magi.

The Lord of all asks for mercy, not sacrifice and mercy is

greater than myriads of fattened lambs. Let us then show him mercy in the persons of the poor and those who today are lying on the ground, so that when we come to leave this world they may receive us into everlasting dwelling places.

A Sermon by Saint Gregory of Nazianzes



# Test Your Faith...

## The Church's Services

### Across

4. A special service held in the Orthodox Church for the repose of the souls of the dead.
6. The Morning Service, which is combined with the Liturgy.
9. The closing prayers and benediction, including the Apolytikia in Church Service.
10. This hymn is sung after the Gospel reading and during the Great Entrance.

### Down

1. The prayer taught by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, which begins with the phrase "Our Father..."
2. This is another name for the service that precedes the Divine Liturgy.
3. A service held in the evening, which is mainly a Thanksgiving prayer for the closing day and a welcome of the new one to come
5. The main form of worship for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
7. "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us."
8. This service is celebrated in the evening.

## New Testament Books

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Thessalonians | John      |
| Corinthians   | Mark      |
| Philippians   | Luke      |
| Colossians    | Jude      |
| Revelation    | Acts      |
| Galatians     | Ephesians |
| Philemon      |           |
| Timothy       |           |
| Hebrews       |           |
| Matthew       |           |
| Romans        |           |
| James         |           |
| Titus         |           |
| Peter         |           |

