

SAINT GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

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

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# The Trophybearer

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

The other day I watched a television show about the building of the Hoover Dam. This marvel was the brain child of one man, which was made possible by the co-working of three companies, and was completed by countless workers. It is indeed amazing to see such work being done. While I was watching this program, I realized that our salvation was also completed in a similar way. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ grants us the salvation of new life. The Grace and Descent of the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to participate in this salvation. The saints of the Church tell us by their words and show us by their action the way to this salvation. This month, as the final feast of the Paschal period, we celebrate all those who lived the life that the Resurrected Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit calls us to live. Let us take a few moments to look at who these saints are, what qualities they have, and how we can enter their ranks.

Who are the Saints? They come from various occupations. Some were Emperors, Patriarchs, Bishops, Priests, Clergy and Laity. The Saints were from all walks of life. There are also different kinds of saints. Some were martyrs, fathers, mothers, righteous, elders, hierarchs, theologians. We can thus see that anyone can be a saint.

What are some of the qualities of the Saints? The Saints are people of faith. They believe enough to both witness and die for the faith. They are a people of persecution, both physical and psychological. Physical since they were fed to lions, burnt at the stake, killed by the sword and even crucified. Psychological since they were abandoned by love ones and persecuted by loved ones. They gave everything of themselves to both God and their fellow man. To God, because they did not live lives of pleasure, but lived like God and became God-like. They followed God's example and cared for all men including persecutors, yet they put nothing in front of God. To their fellow man, by loving him and by trying to bring him into relationship with God. They sold all they had and gave to the poor. By living good lives they brought God's mercy to His people, peace to the Church and God's compassion to men.

What is their reward? Glory in that they became gods by grace, achieving the goal of humanity by being joined to the Resurrection of Christ thus having life eternal. In other words, they received a hundredfold what they lost.

How can we become saints? First, through frequent, if not constant prayer which is conversation with God, both corporate and personal. Second, by receiving Holy Communion often, which is the food for the whole person and the medicine of immortality. Third, by fasting which cleanses the body and the soul by showing the mastery of the soul over the body. Fourth, by alms giving, giving our excess to the poor is like giving to Christ himself. Finally through our witness, which shows others what it is to be a Christian. We must act as though Christ is present and live as Christ did even when it is difficult. We must act this way to Christians and non-Christians alike.

So, we can see that on this final feast we venerate those people who have incorporated the Resurrection into their lives. They gave of themselves to the point that others could see Christ in their lives. Some were killed while others bore witness to old age. Their example to us is timeless. All generations who live as they live will be rewarded by being first in the Kingdom of Heaven. We can be like them only when we live like them. My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, the time of the saints is not over. The Church constantly renews herself through present day saints. We can become saints as well by living as God calls us to live. By giving of ourselves in prayer and almsgiving, by restoring the balance within us with fasting and Holy communion, by bearing witness to this new life to others, we can inherit the rewards promised to us by Christ and hear him say, "Well done O good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your Lord." Amen

## June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>Fast Day</b>	2	3 <b>Fast Day</b>	4 +Sacrament
				6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum Dinner @ Quad Cities USA	Rehearsal	
5 <b>Sunday of the Blind Man</b> <b>Summer Hours Begin!</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	6	7	8 <b>Fast Day</b>  Tour	9 <b>The Ascension of our Lord</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy	10 <b>Fast Day</b>	11
					<b>Greek Fest:</b> Assumption June 10-12 June 10: 3p.m.-11p.m. June 11: 11 a.m.– 11p.m. June 12: 11: a.m.—3p.m.	
12 <b>Sunday of the Father's of the First Ecumenical Council</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	13	14	15 <b>Fast Day</b>	16	17 <b>Fast Day</b>	18 <b>Saturday of Souls</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
		7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting				
19 <b>Sunday of Pentecost</b> <b>Fast Free</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	20 <b>Fast Free</b>	21 <b>Fast Free</b>	22 <b>Fast Free</b>  Evening Meal	23 <b>Fast Free</b> 10:30 a.m. Senior event at the Putnam Museum	24 <b>Fast Free</b>	25 <b>Fast Free</b>
				6:00 p.m. Philoptochos June Party at the home of Susan Coin		
26 <b>Sunday of All Saints</b> 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	27 <b>Fast of the Apostles Begins</b> <b>Fish, Wine and Oil allowed</b>	28 <b>Fish, Wine and Oil allowed</b>	29 <b>Saints Peter and Paul</b> <b>Fish, Wine and Oil allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy	30		

## *The Council Connection*

### **Here are a few ideas for assisting our parish and its ministries:**

Recently Cleo Dalamag-gas and Veronica Tolescu volunteered to reorganize the kitchen cupboards and closet in the green room. In the bustle of Sunday morning coffee hours, things get shuffled around which makes it difficult for the next person to find supplies. To assist them, the parish asks for a few donations (possibly things parish-ioners have duplicates at home to donate or can pick up at a dollar store):

- Sturdy folding stepstool for reaching top shelves
- Dessert-size plates and napkins
- Paper towels
- Coffee stirrers
- Sugar packets (both real and artificial)
- Disposable tablecloths for the long tables used

for coffee hour

- Powdered drink mixes (such as lemonade) for an alternative for non-coffee drinkers
- A pitcher or two for preparing beverages & other useful serving pieces and utensils

The parish could also use other donations to help hold down expenses. We have generous stewards, but as expenses rise, it's difficult to meet our monthly operating costs of about \$21,000. So if you are at Wal-Mart, Target, etc. any of these items are appreciated:

- A ream or two of printer paper (both 8 ½ x 11 and/or 11 x 17)
- Cleaning supplies such as dish detergents, scrubbers, air freshener for restrooms, etc. (Ask Jason if there are things he particularly would find useful such as special brass polishing solutions, etc.)
- Garbage bags

- Packages of 6" x 9" envelopes for mailings

Finally, two festival chairs are currently being sought: Pastry Chair and Sponsorship Chair. Please contact Gus Pappas if you are interested in helping out... and speaking of Gus, your prayers for the parish are always needed. As Prayer Ministry chair, he has suggestions for prayers and prayer books!

Yours in Christ,

*Mary Rankin*

Mary Rankin  
Parish Council President

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

# Epistle Readers

**Sunday, June 5, 2016**  
**Sunday of the Blind Man**

Alexa Florence

**Sunday, June 12, 2016**  
**Sunday of the Fathers**

Kay Coin

**Sunday, June 19, 2016**  
**Pentecost**

Mary Rankin

**Sunday, June 26, 2016**  
**All Saints**

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!

## EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

June 22-Alexa Florence and Susan Coin

July 27-Randy and Chris Smith

August 24-Nancy G. Coin, Darlene Lingris and Dena Manta

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

Monthly Pastoral Visits

**Shut-in: 12**

**Hospital Calls: 4**

**Church tours: 2**

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

**Memorial**

**June 12, 2016**

**Salwa**

**Harb:**

**1 Year**

## Parish Council Sunday Duty

**Sunday, June 5, 2016**

John Mekus,  
 Dennis Spurgetis,  
 Diane Spurgetis  
 Mary Rankin

**Sunday, June 12, 2016**

Joe Burmeister,  
 Mary Kay Eckert  
 Mary Rankin  
 Ken Stiegel

**Sunday, June 19, 2016**

Dale Allison  
 Brad Crosson,  
 Mariellen Crosson  
 Mike Patramanis

**Sunday, June 26, 2016**

John Mekus,  
 Dennis Spurgetis,  
 Diane Spurgetis  
 Mary Rankin

## Coffee Hour Hosts for May 2016

**Sunday, June 5, 2016**

**hosted by:**

The Elias Families

**Sunday, June 12, 2016**

**hosted by:**

The Harb Family

**Sunday, June 19, 2016**

**hosted by:**

The Speeds

**Sunday, June 26, 2016**

**hosted by:**

Veronica Tolescu



**Fellowship and fun!**

## Community News

### SUMMER SERVICE HOURS

Beginning on Sunday, June 5th we will be moving to our Summer hours. Orthros will now begin at 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 a.m. Although the summer is here and many of us will be going out of town. Let us not forget to take the time each Sunday to continue giving thanks to God.

### PASTORAL NOTES

- The Week of June 19-June 26 is Fast Free because of the Great Celebration of the Feast of Pentecost. This means we can eat whatever we want and still receive Holy Communion on Sunday.
- The Fast of the Apostles begins on Monday, June 27 and end on Wednesday, June 29. This is a lighter fast in that we are allowed to eat fish, wine and oil everyday.

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish council will meet on Tuesday, June 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Green room.

### ASSUMPTION FESTIVAL NEWS

Assumption is using VolunteerSpot to organize it's festival volunteers. Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our Sign-up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/AwkoUW>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

### HOPE/JOY NEWS

Christ is risen!

Our May get together was at Blackhawk State Park. We went for a short hike. It was unseasonably cold that day! We also explored the Hauberg Museum and had lunch together. Everyone had a great time. Thanks to all who attended.

We will be taking a break for

the summer, but we look forward to starting up again in the fall. Thank you to everyone who participated and we look forward to more exciting and fun activities together soon. Have a great summer!

Remember, all kids between the ages of 3-12 are encouraged to join in the fun.

Please feel free to contact

### HOSPITAL VISITS

If you or a family member are in the hospital, please call the office. Ever since the change in the privacy laws, hospitals are reluctant to call churches. Please call us so that we can avoid missing our parishioners in their time of need.

### KOLIVA FOR MEMORIALS

As many of us know in order to have a memorial in the Orthodox Church we need to have Koliva. Because of this we have started offering to make Koliva for anyone who needs to have one and either does not have time or does not know how to make them. We will charge \$100.00 for a tray and it will be ready for Sundays. Families are welcome to help with the making of the Koliva as well. For more information on ordering Koliva contact the church office.



## Our Saint George Parish Community

### PRAYERS FOR OUR SHUT-INS

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

Anne Allen

Ted Bagatelas

Helen Corelis

Stella Cudworth

Elaine Froumis

Pat Grevas

Judy Pappas

Jim Patton

Xenia Patton

Effie Skafidas

Janice Smirles

Jim Tsagaris



## Sunday School News

We have completed a great year of Sunday School. I want to thank all the parents, grandparents and friends who have brought their children to Sunday School this year. Our teachers thank you all for your support.

None of this would take place without our teachers; Ninwa Aro, Marcia Allen, Colette Spurgetis, Deaconess

Romilie Speed, Mary Rankin and Scott Florence. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Sunday School will take up again the Sunday after Labor Day weekend; September 11. We would welcome interest from possible teachers, teacher aides, or substitute teachers. Bringing up our young people in the faith is a

very, very important job. We will have more special Sunday Schools this coming year; we look forward to a great year.

Deacon Paul



**St. Philip the Deacon is the patron saint of Religious Education. He was an inspired evangelist and teacher whose missionary work brought a multitude of new believers to Christ in Samaria and other cities. along the coast of Palestine**

## Senior Citizen Fellowship

Our Senior Citizen Group outing for June will be a visit to the Putnam Museum for the King Tut Exhibit. It will be on Thursday June 23rd. We will be meeting at the Church at 10:30 a.m. The cost is \$17.00 for the senior rate, and if we have 20 reservations it will be \$16.00. Afterwards we will go to the Family Restaurant on Kim-

berly Road for a "Dutch-Treat" lunch. Please RSVP to Kay Coin of Nancy Avgenackis if you plan to join us.

## Prayer Ministry Corner

### Prayer – Take Responsibility for Your Prayers

When we seek an answer to our prayers, we must take action to help ourselves instead of expecting the Lord to provide us with a "here's your miracle" answer to prayer. Albeit, I whole heartedly believe miracles happen everyday.

Have you heard the saying, "God helps those who help themselves?" We must take action to fulfill our prayers. That's at the essence of this saying. God will be there to help

guide your actions.

We pray for the hungry to be fed. Our wonderful Philoptochos prepares and serves a dinner to those less fortunate one night a month. Their act is the answer to prayer.

We leave you with this prayer:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference. Author unknown.

**Vol. I Gus J Pappas**

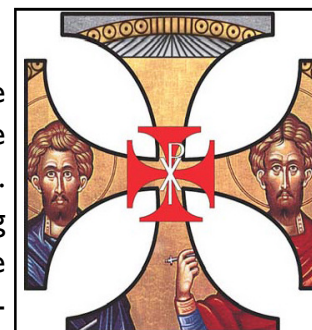


### Philoptochos Corner

Slowly but surely, the St. George Philoptochos is getting back up and running. We are almost finished putting together the new board and will soon be kicking off our membership drive for 2016-2017.

Thank you to Alexa Florence for organizing our Change for Change drive this year. We collected \$136 and with a match from Philoptochos, were able to send a \$273 contribution to the Vera French Foundation.

Because Easter was so late this year, we will not be having a Senior Luncheon. We are, however, gearing up for our annual June party on June 25 and invitations should be going out shortly.



**Saints Cosmas and Damianos the Patron Saints of Philoptochos**

**Focus on Philoptochos**

**Help us to Help Others**

## *St. George Philoptochos Membership Drive 2016*

**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 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 Kay Coin (309)786-0240

**Please complete the form below by June 15, 2016 and send it with your check to:**

Kay Coin  
2229 31<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Rock Island, IL 61201      **or**      Drop it off at the Church Office attn: Philoptochos

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

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

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

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

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

# St. George Stewardship Notes

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



## 2016 QUICK FACTS

(as of  
May 17, 2016)

**\$118,930.00 =**  
Amount pledged for 2016  
by 116 households

**\$61,868.00 =**  
Amount given to 2016  
stewardship since Jan. 1

**\$1,025.00 =**  
Average pledge per  
household at this date

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

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

*Psalm 34:10 from the Service of the Artoclasia*

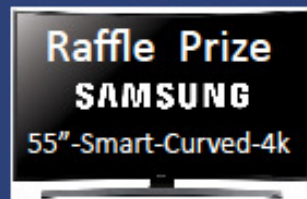
Christian Stewardship is about becoming good caretakers of all that God has given us. God has given each of us special and unique gifts. And through Holy Scripture He teaches us all that we have is a loan. He lends everything to us, and reminds us that one day He will ask us to give a detailed accounting of what we have done with the gifts He has given us. Archbishop Anastasios of Albania has noted that "we find ourselves by offering ourselves." Have we learned the blessedness of generously giving to others of all we have?

Everything we have is temporal. We don't know for how long we have it. The fundamental question, though, is how will we use all that we have for the glory of God?

*From the GOA website*



# Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Presents



Authentic Greek Cuisine · Church Tours · Greek Pastries  
 Greek Dancers · Greek Music · KidZone · Beverage Tent

Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>: 3pm-11pm  
 Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>: 11am-11pm  
 Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>: 11am-3pm

## Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

4900 Kennedy Drive East Moline, Illinois | 309-792-2912

For more information visit us on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/AssumptionemGreekFest](http://www.facebook.com/AssumptionemGreekFest)



*Please Join Us for the  
St. George Philoptochos June Party*

*Thursday, June 23, 2016  
6:00 pm*

*at the Home Of Susan Coin, President  
2118 Lundy Lane  
Bettendorf, Iowa*

*Please bring an appetizer, side dish,  
or dessert to share  
Casual attire*

*RSVP by Monday, June 20 to  
Nancy Mathews (563)326-2102*

*This is truly one of our happiest and most enjoyable  
times together. We hope to see you there!*



## 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.

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

THEIR LIVING

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...

S A C R I F I C E S  
1 7 2 11 12 5 12 2 13 1

T O  
14 16

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

S H O W T H A N K  
1 18 16 20 14 18 7 9 21

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

F U L N E S S  
5 22 6 9 13 1 1

P=4 U=22 Z=8  
Q=25 V=17  
R=11 W=20  
S=1 X=15  
T=14 Y=3

## Thought to Ponder

In the matter of piety, poverty serves us better than wealth, and works better than idleness, especially since wealth becomes an obstacle even for those who do not devote themselves to it. Yet, when we must put aside our wrath, quench our envy, soften

our anger, offer our prayers, and show a disposition which is reasonable, mild, kindly, and loving, how could poverty stand in our way? For we accomplish these things not by spending money but by making the correct choice. Almsgiving above all else

requires money, but even this shines with a brighter luster when the alms are given from our poverty. The widow who paid in the two mites was poorer than any human, but she outdid them all.

*St. John Chrysostom,  
Baptismal Instructions*

# 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

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

## 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