

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 6

JUNE 2017

The Trophybearer

PASTORAL MESSAGE

The Paschal period is now over, the flowers are put away, the gates are closed and we no longer sing “Christ is Risen...” Yet our responsibility to proclaim the Resurrection of Christ remains.

How do we do it? First we live the life that we are called to live. We must learn our faith through studying the Holy Scriptures, the Holy Fathers and contemporary Orthodox writers. Then we must learn to pray, both “privately” and corporately. In other words both when we are at home and especially when we come together for worship. Next we must fast. Fasting is a tool we use to bring us closer to God. There are numerous examples of fasting as preparation and repentance that can be found in Holy Scripture. We also cannot forget alms-giving. The Fathers of the Church emphasize alms-giving as the way that we can engage and be engaged by our neighbor.

Second, we must support our Church, both the parish and the greater Church by participating, by becoming stewards and not simply members. We are not part of a club where our dues give us certain rights and privileges. Rather, we are part of one family where we all rejoice in our success. If we only give of our treasures, then are we truly stewards of the Church of God who demands, not asks, for our entire minds, souls and all of our hearts? Is it enough to be names on lists without actually participating? We should not neglect our time and talents as well. In fact, not only are these just as important as our treasures, we should make every effort to remind our brethren of their importance.

Finally, we must spread the word of who we are. Christ reminds us that whatever we hear from him in secret we should shout from the roof tops. We must testify to the world of the good things that God has done and continues to do for us.

So, our responsibility to spread the good news of the Resurrection of Christ is an awesome responsibility. Let us pray that God gives us the stamina and the inspiration that He gave His disciples to go with courage and spread the Good News of the Resurrection.

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Fast Day	Saturday of Souls 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday of Pentecost Summer Hours Begin Fast Free 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	Monday of the Holy Spirit Fast Free 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George	Fast Free	Fast Free 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum Dinner @ Quad Cities USA	Fast Free 6:00 p.m. Chanting Class	Fast Free	Fast Free
					Greek Fest: Assumption June 9-11 June 9: 3p.m.-11p.m. June 10: 11 a.m.- 11p.m. June 11: 11: a.m.—3p.m.	
						6:00 p.m. Great Vespers at the Church of All Saints in Peoria
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday of All Saints Fast Free 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy + Sacrament	Fast of the Apostles Begins Fish, Wine and Oil allowed	Fish, Wine and Oil allowed	Fast Day	Fish, Wine and Oil allowed 6:00 p.m. Philoptochos June Party at the home of Susan Coin	Fast Day	Fish, Wine and Oil allowed + Sacrament
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
2nd Sunday of Matthew Fish, Wine and Oil allowed Father's Day 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	Fish, Wine and Oil allowed	Fish, Wine and Oil allowed 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	Fast Day	Fish, Wine and Oil allowed 10:30 a.m. Senior Event 6:00 p.m. Chanting Class	Fast Day	The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church
25	26	27	28	29	30	
3rd Sunday of Matthew Fish, Wine and Oil allowed 8:00 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy	Fish, Wine and Oil allowed	Fish, Wine and Oil allowed	Fast Day	Saints Peter and Paul 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George 6:00 p.m. Chanting Class	Synaxis of the Holy Apostles Wine and Oil allowed 9:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church	

The Council Connection

At its May meeting, the parish council noted that the St. George Parish has a number of projects that are either coming to fruition or will begin soon.

First of all, the stained glass restoration will be completed by the end of May, and the results so far have been spectacular! Thanks to the generosity of George and Nancy Coin, this endeavor will enhance the beauty of worship at St. George for many years to come. A few people have remarked that there seems to be a “green tint” to the windows, not realizing that for the first time in many years, tree leaves are now visible from inside the church!

A project due to begin in June is converting half of the double classroom into a youth

“lounge”. The family of Carol Chickris requested that funds from memorials for Carol be designated for youth ministry and will be directed toward this undertaking. Having a fun area for youth to spend time in fellowship will be a welcome addition to the parish family home.

Bids are being obtained for addressing potholes, etc. in the driveway portion of the parking lot adjacent to the kitchen. The council will be looking at both an immediate solution for the festival and a long-term solution for this area.

Nancy (N.) Coin has planted flowers and basil in the bell well. She persuaded Nick to assist her and the results, as always, are a pleasure for the entire

parish to enjoy. Thanks Nick and Nancy!!!

Also, many thanks to Loukia Constantinides who noticed a need in the church and created her own ministry to address it. She has created sessions for the toddlers and other very young children to do crafts and other activities after Sunday School. This allows parents to have additional fellowship time during coffee hour. Thank you, Loukia, for seeing a need and tackling it with enthusiasm!

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 Parish Registry

Sunday, June 4, 2017
Pentecost

Kay Coin

Sunday, June 11, 2017
All Saints

Ethan Kirkpatrick

Sunday, June 18, 2017
2nd Sunday of Matthew

Loukia Constantinides

Sunday,
June 25, 2017
3rd Sunday of Matthew

Mary Rankin

Baptism

The servant of God Matthew, son of Brock and Andrea Faulhaber, was Baptized into the Orthodox Faith on May 29, 2017 and the sponsor was Marina Johnson.



“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!

Prospora Baking
 Schedule

Sunday,
June 4, 2017

Randy Smith

Sunday,
June 11, 2017

Open

Sunday,
June 18, 2017

Diakonissa
Romilie

Sunday,
June 25, 2017

John
Stratton

Parish Council Sunday Duty

Sunday,
June 4, 2017

Nick Coin,
 John Mekus,
 Dennis Spurgetis,
 Diane Spurgetis

Sunday,
June 11, 2017

Joe Burmeister,
 Mary Kay Eckert
 Mary Rankin
 Ken Stiegel

Sunday,
June 18, 2017

Brad Crosson,
 Mariellen Crosson
 Mike Patramanis
 Ted Pitsoulakis

Sunday,
June 25, 2017

Nick Coin,
 John Mekus,
 Dennis Spurgetis,
 Diane Spurgetis

EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

June 28-Angela Spurgetis and the Evening Orthodox Study Forum

July 26-Chris and Randy Smith

August 23-Nancy G. Coin and Dena Manta

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



Fellowship
and fun!

Coffee Hour Hosts for June 2017

Sunday,
June 4, 2017
 hosted by:

Presbyteria Maria

Sunday, June 11, 2017
 hosted by:

Open

Sunday,
June 18, 2017
 hosted by:

The Speeds

Sunday,
June 25, 2017
 hosted by:

The Stratton's

Community News

SUMMER SERVICE HOURS

Beginning on Sunday, June 4th, 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 4-June 11 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 12 and ends on Thursday, June 29. This is a lighter fast in that we are allowed to eat fish, wine and oil everyday except on Wednesdays and Fridays.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish council will meet on Tuesday, June 20th 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.

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.

OUTREACH NEWS

Having difficulty getting to Church? Need a ride? Please notify Angela Spurgetis, [319-631-8154](tel:319-631-8154).

PROSPHORA SIGN UP

In front of the office, you will find a sign-up sheet to make the Prosphora for the Sunday Divine Liturgy. The first half of the year was a great success! Let us fill out the rest of 2017! God always accepts our gifts when given with a clean heart!

FESTIVAL NEWS

It's Festival Time! Well not really, but our Festival Co-Chairmen Brad Crosson and Gus Pappas say that it is a good time to save the new dates for Our Big Fat Greek Festival: September 8, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and September 9, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Keep in mind that there will not be a Wine Tasting at the Festival. Only after careful consideration by the Festival Co-Chairman and at the recommendation of the Wine Tasting team the decision was made to hold a Wine Tasting event separate from Our Big Fat Greek Festival.



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.

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 News

Our June outing for the St. George Senior Citizen Group will be to the Figge Art Museum on Thursday, June 22nd. We will meet at church at 10:00 a.m. and proceed to the museum by 10:30 a.m. Those wishing to meet us there may do so at

that time at 225 West 2nd Street parking lot entrance. A docent will give us approximately a one "high light tour" followed by free time for more touring or checking out the gift shop. Cost is free for the summer but a donation is always appreci-

ated. We will enjoy a "Dutch-treat" lunch at Figge Cafe at about 12:15 p.m. Please RSVP to Kay Coin at 309-786-0240 so that final arrangements can be made.

SUNDAY SCHOOL News

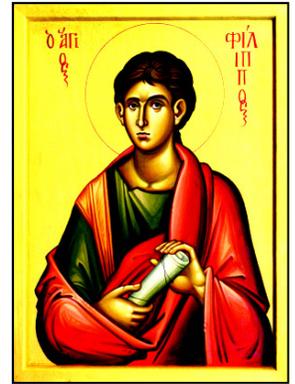
While the Sunday School is on vacation I would like to thank our teachers and students for the year past. Without the teachers and their loyalty, there would be no Sunday School. Without the students there is no point in the teachers.

Everyone has the summer off, and we hope all will be ready to dig in again after

Labor Day. Now is the time to consider whether you would like to teach, help teach, or substitute teach our young people, to prepare them for what our Lord will place in their path when they leave to move on in their adulthood. We can always use the help.

I will also ask for any ideas some of you may have for

Sunday School activities or curricula that might engage our Youth. Please contact me if you have any ideas that you think we would be of benefit. Enjoy the summer and remember, Sunday School takes a break, but we never take a break from worship.



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

PHILOPTOCHOS News

On April 22, Philoptochos hosted a coffee hour after the vespers at St. George in honor of our name day.

On May 6, we had a fun afternoon of crafting and fellowship with the Assumption Philoptochos ladies. We are making plastic bedrolls for the homeless from recycled shopping bags. We created a good supply of "plarn"(plastic yarn) and a number of ladies have volunteered to crochet or knit them together. This project

is ongoing.

The Philoptochos met on May 7 and elected 9 board members who will be sworn in by Fr. Michael in the coming weeks.

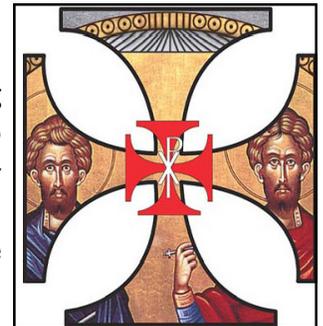
We are organizing a rummage collection this summer to benefit the Dress for Success Program. Details to follow soon.

Mary Rankin has offered to hold a workshop to teach us how to make Koliva. Please let Susan Coin know if you

would be interested in participating ([563\)650-7405](tel:5636507405) or sescoinc@aol.com and we'll set a date.

Plans are underway to bring back the Holiday Pastitsio Luncheon on December 2. Patti Kenyon has graciously offered to chair the event.

Our annual June Party will be on Thursday, June 15 at the home of Susan Coin (invitation attached). All are welcome!



Focus on Philoptochos

Help us to Help Others

From the mouths of babes...

A dad and his son went on a camping trip. As they lay down for the night, the son said, "Dad, look up into the sky and tell me what you see".

His father responded, "I see millions and millions of

stars". The son asked, "So what does that tell you?"

The father answered, "Well, astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Theologically, it tells me that God is

great and that

we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, son?"

"It tells me you forgot to pack the tent again"

Parish Family News

1. Congratulations to Ben Florence for performing in Beauty and the Beast!

2. Congratulations to Michael Pyevich for being a two time Mac Singles champion and a one time Mac Doubles champion!

3. Congratulations to Helen Moorhead will be retiring at the end of this school year with the Davenport School District in May 2017 after 42 years of service.

4. Congratulations to Loukia Constantinides and Alex Kenyon for their performance in "Light up the Stage".

5. Congratulations to our Graduates, (who were honored on May 21):

High School Graduates

Benjamin Florence

Alek Jacobs

Alyssa Farrell

John Mott

Ellen Pappas

Michael Pyevich

Congratulations and may God bless you all with whatever you have planned!

College and Grad School Graduates

1. Marina Johnson graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

2. Irene Mekus graduated from Augustana university with a Bachelors degree.

3. Micah Wilger graduated from Knox College with a Bachelor's degree.

4. Constantine Paul Lillios, Chicago, IL graduated May 13, 2017 from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA with a Bachelor of Science, Sport & Recreation Management.

5. Maggie Pappas graduated with Honors from Auburn University

6. Stephanie Allison graduated from Indiana State Master of Dietetics.

7. Kathryn Schroder graduated from Marymount College Master of Forensic and Legal Psychology.

May God allow you to use your gifts and talents to increase the Body of Christ

He who gives alms in imitation of God does not discriminate between the wicked and the virtuous, the just and the unjust, when providing for men's bodily needs.

St. Maximos the Confessor (First Century on Love no. 24

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

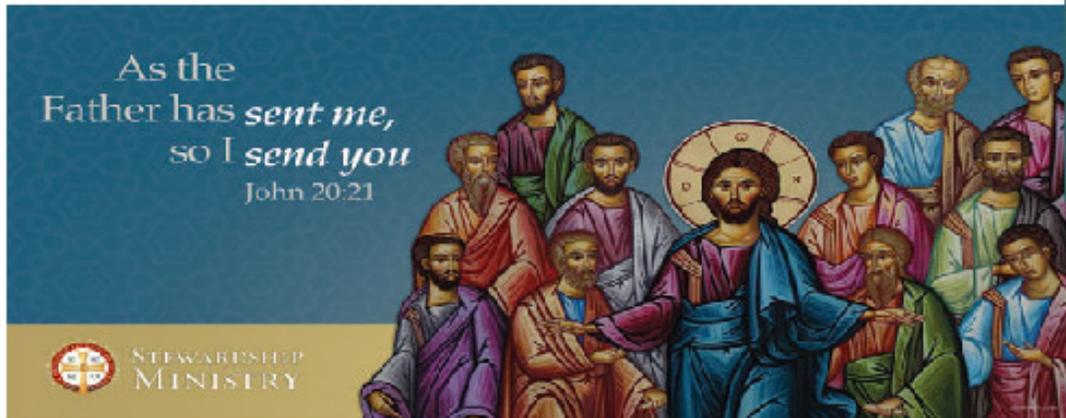
In the matter of piety, poverty serves us better than wealth, and works better than idleness, especially since wealth becomes an obstacle even for those who do not devote themselves to it. Yet, when we must put aside our wrath, quench our envy,

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

St. George Stewardship Notes



QUICK FACTS

(as of
May 19, 2017)

\$137,205.00 =
Amount pledged for 2017
by 84 households

\$82,240.00 =
Amount given to 2017
stewardship since Jan. 1

\$1,633.00 =
Average pledge per
household at this date

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

Goal Reached: Final Rose Added to Bouquet!

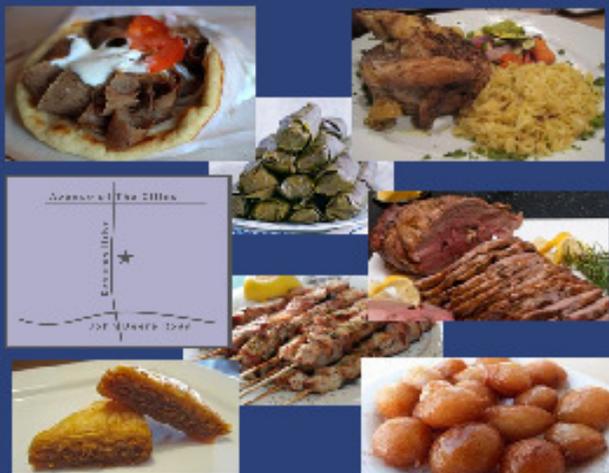
The St. George Family has reached its goal of increasing the amount pledged for 2017 by \$20,000!

The increases ranged from \$5 to \$100 per month and, when added together, make a significant contribution to providing stability of the ministries of the church!

Now that the summer months are here, parishioners are asked to keep their pledges current to prevent the traditional seasonal drop in giving due to vacations and travel.

Thank you to our generous 2017 stewards for sharing their blessings from God to support the ministries of St. George Church!

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Presents



Raffle Grand Prize
Cubs 12 Game Ticket Pack!

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

Wine Tasting - Thursday, June 8th 5:30-7:30pm
Friday, June 9th : 3pm-11pm
Saturday, June 10th : 11am-11pm
Food Only - Sunday, June 11th : 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

Please Join us for the St. George
Philoptochos June Party

Thursday, June 15, 2017
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 12
Let us know what you plan to bring
Susan Coin (563) 650-7405
sescoin@aol.com

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

The Synaxis of All Saints (June 11)

If you give something to one in need, let the cheerfulness of your face precede your gift, and comfort his sorrow with kind words. When you do this, by your gift the gladness of his mind surpasses even the needs of his body. The Ascetical Homilies of St. Isaac the Syrian



The Synaxis of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16, etc.). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

Saint Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

Saint Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to Saint Peter's five categories. The list of Saint Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of 1 Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous...."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. Saint Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types

of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them

by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless

The Synaxis of All Saints (Continued)

and unproductive, Saint John Climacus had a high regard for them: “Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men” (LADDER, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living “in the world.” Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Saints Joachim and Anna, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, Saint Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of St. Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.

The Prophet Elisha (June 14)

The Holy Prophet Elisha lived in the ninth century before the Birth of Christ, and was a native of the village of Abelmaum, near Jordan. By the command of the Lord he was called to prophetic service by the holy Prophet Elias (July 20).

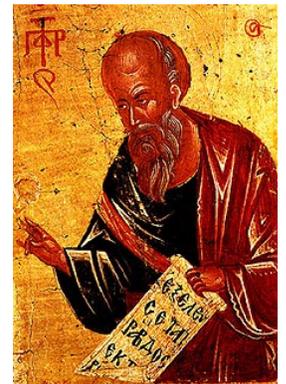
When it became time for the Prophet Elias to be taken up to Heaven, he said to Elisha, “Ask what shall I do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha boldly asked for a double portion of the grace of God: “Let there be a double portion of your spirit upon me.” The Prophet Elias said, “You have asked a hard thing; if you see me when I am taken from you, then so shall it be for you; but if you don’t see me, it wilt not be” (4 [2] Kings 2: 12). As they went along the way talking, there appeared a

fiery chariot and horses and separated them both. Elisha cried out, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horse!” (4 Kings 2: 12). Picking up the mantle of his teacher which fell from the sky, Elisha received the power and prophetic gift of Elias. He spent more than 65 years in prophetic service, under six Israelite kings (from Ahab to Joash). While Elisha lived, he did not tremble before any prince, and no word could overcome him (Sirach 48: 13 [“Sirach” is called “Ecclesiasticus” in Catholic Bibles]).

The holy prophet worked numerous miracles. He divided the waters of the Jordan, having struck it with the mantle of the Prophet Elias; he made the waters of a Jericho spring fit for drinking; he

saved the armies of the kings of Israel and Judah that stood in an arid wilderness by bringing forth abundant water by his prayer; he delivered a poor widow from death by starvation through a miraculous increase of oil in a vessel. The Shunamite woman showing hospitality to the prophet was gladdened by the birth of a son through his prayer, and when the child died, he was raised back to life by the prophet. The Syrian military-commander Namaan was healed from leprosy but the prophet’s servant Gehazi was afflicted since he disobeyed the prophet and took money from Namaan on the sly.

Elisha predicted to the Israelite king Joash the victory over his enemies, and by the power of his prayer he worked many other miracles (4 Kings 3-13).



**The Prophet
Elisha**

The Prophet Elisha (Continued)

The holy Prophet Elisha died in old age at Samaria. "In his life he worked miracles, and at death his works were marvellous" (Sir. 48: 15). A year after his death, a corpse was thrown into the prophet's grave. As soon as the dead man touched Elisha's bones, he came to life and stood up (4 Kings 13: 20-21). The Prophet Elisha and his teacher, the Prophet Elias, left no books behind them, since

their prophetic preaching was oral. Jesus, son of Sirach, praised both great prophets (Sir. 48:1-15).

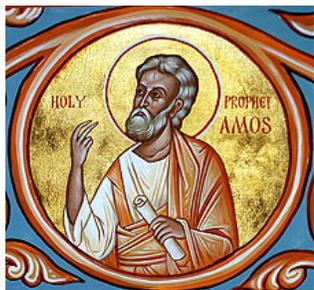
John of Damascus composed a canon in honor of the Prophet Elisha, and at Constantinople a church was built in his honor.

Julian the Apostate (361-363) gave orders to burn the relics of the Prophet Elisha, Abdia (Obadiah) and John the Fore-

runner, but the holy relics were preserved by believers, and part of them were transferred to Alexandria.

In the twentieth century, the humble priest Nicholas Planas had a great veneration for the Prophet Elisha, and was accounted worthy to see him in visions.

The Prophet Amos (June 15)



The Prophet Amos

The Holy Prophet Amos, third of the Twelve Minor Prophets, lived during the eighth century before Christ. At this time the Hebrew nation was divided into two kingdoms: Judea and Israel. The Judean king Hosiah ruled in Jerusalem, but the ten separated Israelite tribes were ruled by Jeroboam II, an idol-worshipper. At Bethel he set up an idol in the form of a golden calf, which they worshipped, after they rejected

the God of Israel.

The Prophet Amos was a Judean, from the city of Thecua in the land of Zebulon. Simple and untaught, but fervent in faith and zealous for the glory of the true God, this former shepherd and dresser of sycamore trees (Amos 7:14-15) was chosen by the Lord for prophetic service. He was sent to the kingdom of Israel to denounce the impiety of King Jeroboam, and also the Israelites for falling away from God. The prophet predicted a great misfortune which would befall Israel and the neighboring pagan nations, because of their impiety. As a result of his denunciations, the Prophet Amos repeatedly suffered beatings and torture. He returned to Bethel, and threatening inevitable misfortunes,

he continued to call the Israelites to repentance.

The idolatrous priest Amaziah of the pagan temple particularly hated the prophet. The prophet predicted speedy destruction for him and all his household, and for this he was subjected to beatings. Hosiah, the son of Amaziah, struck the saint on the head with a club and seriously wounded him. Still alive, the Prophet Amos reached his native village and died there around 787 B.C. He is not to be confused with Amos, the father of the Prophet Isaiah.

**There is
your
brother,
naked
and
crying!
And you
stand
confused
over
choice of
floor
covering.
St.
Gregory
of Nyssa**

The Holy Apostle Jude (June 19)

The Holy Apostle Jude, one of the twelve apostles of Christ, is descended from King David and Solomon, and was the son of Righteous Joseph the Betrothed (Sunday after the Nativity of the Lord) by his first wife.

The Holy Apostle John the Theologian writes in his Gospel, "... neither did his brethren believe in Him" (John. 7:5). Saint Theophylact, Archbishop of Bulgaria, explains this passage. He says that at the beginning of the Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry, Joseph's sons, Jude among them, did not believe in His divine nature. Tradition says that when Saint Joseph returned from Egypt, he began to divide his possessions among his sons. He wanted to allot a share to Christ the Savior, born miraculously and incorruptibly from the All-Pure Virgin Mary. The brothers were opposed to this because Jesus was born of another mother. Only James, later called "The Brother of God," offered to share his portion with Him.

Jude came to believe in Christ the Savior as the awaited Messiah, and he followed Him and was chosen as one of the twelve Apostles. Mindful of his sin, the Apostle Jude considered himself unworthy to be called the Lord's brother, and in his Epistle he calls himself merely the brother of James.

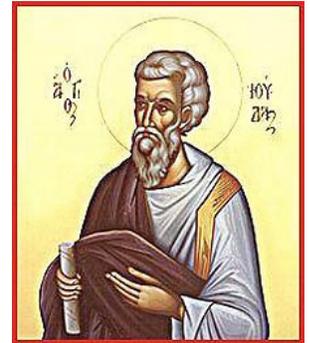
The Holy Apostle Jude also had other names: the Evangelist Matthew terms him "Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddeus" (Mt. 10:3). The Holy Evangelist Mark also calls him Thaddeus (Mark 3:18), and in the Acts of the Holy Apostles he is called Barsabas (Acts 15: 22). This was customary at that time.

After the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ, Saint Jude traveled about preaching the Gospel. He propagated the faith in Christ at first in Judea, Galilee, Samaria and Idumaia, and later in the lands of Arabia, Syria and Mesopotamia. Finally, he went to the city of Edessa. Here he finished the work that was not completed by his predecessor, Saint

Thaddeus, Apostle of the Seventy (August 21). There is a tradition that Saint Jude went to Persia, where he wrote his catholic Epistle in Greek. In the Epistle much profound truth was expressed in a few words.

Saint Jude's Epistle speaks about the Holy Trinity, about the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, about the good and bad angels, and about the dread Last Judgment. The Apostle urges believers to guard themselves against fleshly impurity, to be diligent in prayer, faith and love, to convert the lost to the path of salvation, and to guard themselves from the teachings of heretics. He also says that it is not enough just to be converted to Christianity, but faith must be demonstrated by good works. He cites the rebellious angels and men punished by God (verse 6) to support this.

The Holy Apostle Jude died as a martyr around the year 80 near Mt. Ararat in Armenia, where he was crucified



The Apostle Jude

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (June 24)

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron.

They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, Saint Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted

that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (Continued)



The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words.

Saint Elizabeth came to be with child, and fearing derision at being pregnant so late in life, she kept it secret for five months. Then her relative, the Virgin Mary, came to share with her Her own joy.

Elizabeth, "filled with the Holy Spirit," was the first to greet the Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. Saint John leaped in his mother's womb at the visit of the Most Holy Virgin Mary and the Son of God incarnate within Her.

Soon Saint Elizabeth gave birth to a son, and all the relatives and acquaintances rejoiced together with her. On the eighth day, in accordance with the Law of Moses, he was circumcised and was called John. Everyone was amazed, since no one in the family had this name. When they asked Saint Zachariah about this, he motioned for a tablet and wrote on it: "His name is John." Immediately his tongue was loosed, and Saint Zachariah glorified God. He also prophesied about the Coming into the world of the Messiah, and of his own son John, the Forerunner of the Lord (Luke. 1: 68-79).

After the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, wicked king Herod gave orders to kill all male infants. Hearing about this, Saint Elizabeth fled into the wilderness and hid in a cave. Saint Zachariah was at Jerusalem and was doing his priestly service in the Temple. Herod sent soldiers to him to find out the abode of the infant John and his mother. Zachariah answered that their whereabouts were unknown to him, and he was killed right there in the Temple. Righteous Elizabeth continued to live in the wilderness with her son and she died there. The child John, protected by an angel, dwelt in the wilderness until the time when he came preaching repentance, and was accounted worthy to baptize the Lord.

Thoughts to Ponder

Said loasaph unto the elder, `How then shall I be able to send before me thither treasures of money and riches, that, when I depart hence, I may find these unharmed and unwasted for my enjoyment. ... Quoth Barlaam, `The sending before

thee of money to that eternal home is wrought by the hands of the poor. For this, saith one of the prophets, Daniel the wise, unto the king of Babylon, "Wherefore, O Prince, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and redeem thy sins by almsgiving, and

thine iniquities by show mercy to the poor." The Saviour also saith, "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when ye fall, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

St. John Damascene,
Barlaam and loasaph

No one can say, "I am poor and hence I have no means of giving alms." For even if you cannot give as the rich gave their gifts into the temple treasury, give two farthings as the poor widow did, and from you God will consider it greater gift than the gifts of the rich. And if you do not have as much as two farthings? You can take pity on the sick and give alms by ministering to them. And if you cannot do even this? You can comfort your brother by your words. "A good word is better than the best of gifts." Abba Dorotheos

Saint Sampson the Hospitable (June 27)

Saint Sampson the Hospitable was the son of rich and illustrious Roman parents. In his youth he received an excellent education, he studied the medical arts, and doctored the sick without charge. After the death of his parents Saint Sampson generously distributed alms and set his slaves free, preparing himself to go into the wilderness.

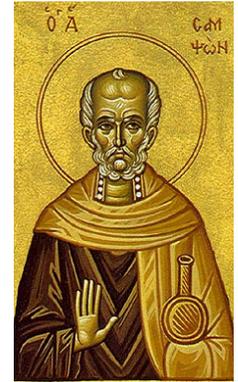
With this intent in mind he soon journeyed from Rome to the East. But the Lord directed him onto a different path, that of service to neighbor, and so Saint Sampson came to Constantinople. Settling into a small house, the saint began to take in homeless wanderers, the poor and the sick, and he attended to them. The Lord blessed the efforts of Saint Sampson and endowed him with the power of wonder-

working. He healed the sick not only through being a skilled physician, but also as a bearer of the grace of God. News of Saint Sampson spread abroad. The patriarch heard of his great virtue and ordained him to the holy priesthood.

It was revealed to the grievously ill Emperor Justinian (527-565), that he could receive healing only through Saint Sampson. In praying, the saint put his hand on the afflicted area, and Justinian was healed. In gratitude the emperor wanted to reward his healer with silver and gold, but the saint refused and instead asked Justinian to build a home for the poor and the sick. The emperor readily fulfilled his request.

Saint Sampson devoted the rest of his life to serving his neighbor. He survived into

old age and after a short illness he departed peacefully to the Lord. The saint was buried at the church of the holy Martyr Mocius, and many healings were effected at his grave. His hospice remained open, and the saint did not cease to care for the suffering. He appeared twice to a negligent worker of the hospice and upbraided him for his laziness. At the request of an admirer of Saint Sampson the hospice was transformed into a church, and beside it a new edifice was built for the homeless. During the time of a powerful fire at Constantinople the flames did not touch the hospice of Saint Sampson. Through his intercession a heavy rain quenched the fire.



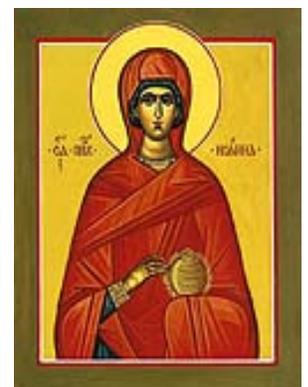
Saint Sampson the Hospitable

Saint Joanna the Myrrhbearer (June 27)

Saint Joanna the Myrrhbearer, wife of Chusa, the household steward of King Herod, was one of the women following and attending the Lord Jesus Christ during the time of His preaching and public ministry. She is mentioned in Luke 8:3 and 24:10. Together with the other Myrrh-bearing Women, Saint Joanna went to the Sep-

ulcher to anoint the Holy Body of the Lord with myrrh after His death on the Cross, and she heard from the angels the joyful proclamation of His All-Glorious Resurrection. According to Tradition, she recovered the head of Saint John the Baptist after Herodias had disposed of it (February 24).

Saint Joanna is also commemorated on the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women.



Saint Joanna the Myrrhbearer

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

About the Church

Across

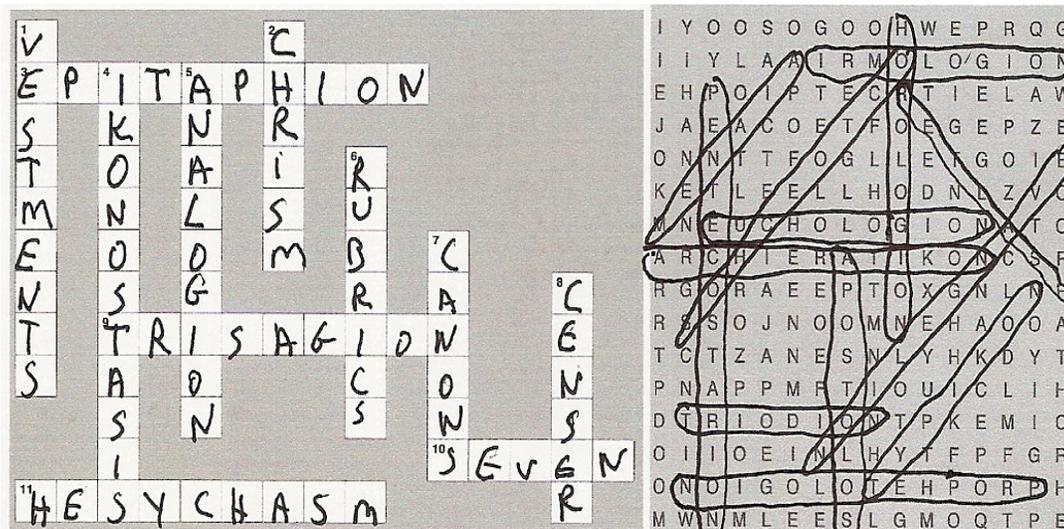
- 3. The large embroidered cloth depicting Christ laid out in the grave.
- 9. Three-times holy.
- 10. There are _____ Ecumenical Councils.
- 11. Orthodox mystical tradition.

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
- Archieratikon
- Euchologion
- Hieratikon
- Evangelion
- Irmologion
- Octoechos
- Apostolos
- Triodion
- Psalter
- Typikon



Test Your Faith...

Popular New Testament Verses I

Across

1. But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of _____.
3. _____ goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.
6. A land flowing with milk and _____.
9. Do not throw your _____ before swine.
10. The Lord is my _____, I shall not want.

Down

1. To every thing there is a _____, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.
4. They will beat their _____ into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.
5. Am I my brother's _____?
7. Your _____ is a lamp unto my feet.
8. For _____ you are and unto _____ shall you return

CHURCH ROLES II:

- Archimandrite
- Archdeacon
- Chancellor
- Catechumen
- Archbishop
- Presbyter
- Acolyte
- Exarch

