

SAINT GEORGE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

•Parish Priest: Fr. Michael  
Constantinides

•Caretaker: Jason Leon

•GOYA Advisors: Dr. Vicky  
Pyeich/Anne Kirpatrick

•HOPE/JOY Advisors: Pres.  
Maria Constantinides/Candice  
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

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

November 2  
Calendar

President's 3  
Corner

Community 5  
News

Assembly 8  
Notice

Stewardship 9  
Update

Lives of the 12-  
Saints 15



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2016

# The Trophybearer

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

In his final prayer to God at the time of his death, King David said, "Everything in heaven and earth is yours ... all riches and wealth come from you. Now, our God, we give you thanks and we praise your glorious name. Yet my people and I cannot give you anything, because everything is a gift from you, and we have only given back what is yours already." (I Chronicles 29: 11-14)

When we make our Stewardship Commitment, we should remember that we have not given God something, which belongs to us and for which he should be grateful. Rather, we should be thankful for the bountiful gifts with which God has blessed us and gladly offer our assistance to his Church.

Through our Stewardship Commitment, we are able to offer our support to the many ministries or services of our Church, both locally and nationally. Our Church has no other means of providing for these vital programs than from Stewards such as you. When your pledges are established in faith toward God's work, we experience the joy that we are participating in his holy mission.

Your pledge or commitment, will, in essence, return to God the fruit from the gifts he has given to you. It will assist our Church's mission of preaching the word of God in order to sustain our parish of which you are a vital part. Your personal commitment of your abilities, time, resources and services will serve as your anchor to Christ and serve as spiritual fulfillment.

The proportion of the gifts you commit should stem from the love and concern you have for your Church, your willingness to make personal sacrifices and your ability to recognize the needs of the Church even beyond the local level. You alone must determine your response according to your love of God. Then, and only then, will you discover the true meaning of Christian Stewardship.

As you consider your commitment, reflect upon the following message that was once given by a pastor to his congregation.

**"Man is saved by trusting in God's unselfish love. Any man can be saved who is willing to let God love him."**

When we give in Christ's name, he promises to multiply that gift for his Church and in our lives.

## November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  7:00 p.m. Parish Council Seminar	2  <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	3  6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	4  <b>Fast Day</b>	5
6 <b>7th Sunday of Luke</b> <b>Parish Assembly</b> 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	7  7:00 p.m. Parish Council Seminar	8 <b>The Synaxis of the</b> <b>Archangel Michael</b> <b>and Gabriel</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George	9  <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	10 <b>The Apostle</b> <b>Erastus of the</b> <b>Seventy</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption	11  <b>Fast Day</b>	12
13 <b>8th Sunday of Luke</b> <b>Stewardship</b> <b>Sunday</b> 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion HOPE/JOY Event	14	15 <b>Fast of the Nativity</b> <b>Begins</b> <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b>  7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	16  <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum	17 <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b>  6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum	18  <b>Fast Day</b>	19 <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b>
20 <b>9th Sunday of Luke</b> <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b> 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Class following Holy Communion	21 <b>The Entrance of</b> <b>the Theotokos</b> <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George	22 <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b>	23  <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum  <b>Evening Meal</b>	24 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b>  No Evening Orthodox Study Forum	25 <b>Feastday of Saint</b> <b>Katherine the</b> <b>Great Martyr</b> <b>Fish, Oil and wine</b> <b>allowed</b> 9:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church	26 <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b>
27 <b>13th Sunday of</b> <b>Luke</b> <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b> 8:30a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy Family Worship only	28 <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b>	29 <b>Fish, Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b>	30 <b>Feast Day of Saint</b> <b>Andrew</b> <b>Oil and Wine</b> <b>Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George No Orthodox Study Forum			

## *The Council Connection*

### **Proposal made and accepted at October Parish Council Meeting**

Dimitri Papageorgiou and Stan Coin presented a proposal to change the wine tasting event at the festival to a stand-alone fundraising event for the parish. Dimitri has helped build wine tasting events into a source of revenue for a number of charitable organizations in the Quad Cities. He has generously offered to help the Saint George parish do this.

The council has agreed to accept this generous offer. Kay and Stan Coin will also continue to provide guidance to the parish for the event based on their years of successful help in this endeavor at the fall festival.

### **Council Needs Enthusiastic Parish Support to Implement Proposal**

What has distinguished the wine tastings at the St. George festival has been the emphasis on Greek wines and food. This gives the parish another opportunity to extend its hospitality and fellowship to the community.

The available date that Dimitri's Wine and Spirits has for this event is **Thursday, December 1**, so we must act quickly and with enthusiasm to make the event successful!

The wine tasting will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$50.00 each. In addition to the wine, samplings of Greek food will be included in the ticket price.

In addition, at the recent Philoptochos meeting, the group

agreed to bake a number of pans of baklava to sell at the event. Please support this effort with your assistance or purchase!

All parishioners are asked to consider buying tickets for themselves and possibly friends and enjoy this kick-off to the holiday season! Also, please consider selling a few tickets to colleagues and acquaintances or buying extras for a special gift.

If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Mary Rankin (cell: 563-263-2341; email: [mbar-ton83@aol.com](mailto:mbar-ton83@aol.com)) or any council member.

Yours in Christ,

*Mary Rankin*

Mary Rankin  
Parish Council  
President

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

# Epistle Readers

**Sunday,  
November 6, 2016  
7th Sunday of Luke**  
Alexa Florence

**Sunday,  
November 20, 2016  
9th Sunday of Luke**  
Angela Spurgetis

**Sunday,  
November 13, 2016  
8th Sunday of Luke**  
Ethan Kirkpatrick

**Sunday,  
November 27, 2016  
13th Sunday of Luke**  
Michael Pyevich



"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!

## PRAYERS FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Emily Caras

Helen Corelis

Stella Cudworth

Elaine Froumis

Pat Grevas

Judy Pappas

Jim Patton

Xenia Patton

Effie Skafidas

Janice Smirles

Gordon Smith

Helen Smith

Jim Tsagaris

## Parish Council Sunday Duty

**Sunday,  
November 6, 2016**  
Joe Burmeister,  
Mary Kay Eckert  
Mary Rankin  
Ken Stiegel

**Sunday,  
November 20, 2016**  
John Mekus,  
Dennis Spurgetis,  
Diane Spurgetis  
Mary Rankin

**Sunday,  
November 13, 2016**  
Dale Allison  
Brad Crosson,  
Mariellen Crosson  
Mike Patramanis

**Sunday,  
November 27, 2016**  
Joe Burmeister,  
Mary Kay Eckert  
Mary Rankin  
Ken Stiegel

## Coffee Hour Hosts for November 2016

**Sunday, November 6,  
2016**  
hosted by:  
No Coffee Hour/Assembly

**Sunday, November 13,  
2016**  
hosted by:  
The Allen Family

**Sunday, November 20,  
2016**  
hosted by:  
Open

**Sunday, November 27,  
2016**  
hosted by:  
Open

## Monthly Pastoral Visits

**Shut-in: 12**

**Hospital  
Calls: 8**

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



**Fellowship  
and fun!**

**Memorial:  
November  
13  
Nick Chi-  
rekos: 37  
years**

## Community News

### **FALL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

On November 6, 2016 immediately following the Divine Liturgy we will be having our Fall Parish Assembly.

### **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The Parish Council November meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Green room.

### **PASTORAL NOTE**

The Christmas Fast which begins on November 15, is not like Great and Holy Lent in that fish, wine and oil are permitted (with the exceptions of Wednesday and Friday) until December 12. After December 12, wine and oil are permitted (with the exception of Wednesday and Friday) but fish is no longer permitted. The fast ends following Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day.

### **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Parish Council elections will be held on Sunday, December 4. It is an honor and a privilege to serve on the Parish Council, but it is also a commitment to the good of our Parish. If you feel the call to support and

represent our parish in this special way, please come forward. It is mandatory for all candidates to attend one of the seminars being held. The first is on **Tuesday, November 1** at 7:00 p.m. and the second is on **Monday, November 7** at 7:00 p.m.

### **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

Our Annual Stewardship Sunday will be held on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. We ask you all if you like to bring your pledge card with you on that Sunday and deposit it into the pledge box. May the Lord bless us with another wonderful year.

### **THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

Fr. Michael and our choir will be participating in this year's Thanksgiving Ecumenical service which will be held on November 22nd at Second Baptist Church (919 6th Avenue, Rock Island, IL). This will be a community event celebrating this great American Holiday. Everyone who is planning on attending is asked to bring a canned food item for food pantries run through St. Pius and Second Baptist. Fellowship and refreshments will be

served after the conclusion of the service. I hope to see many of our members here at St. George will be able to be in attendance to support our choir. For more information please see Fr. Michael.

### **OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM**

On Saturday, December 3rd, St. George will host a blood drive in the Gold Room from 8 to 11 a.m. This is a great opportunity to help others, just ask anyone who has needed blood due to trauma or illness. More information will be given in the near future but we would like participation from our members and also the outside community. More details to come!

### **DONATION OPPORTUNITY**

Have you remembered to help the needy and hungry? Please bring in a contribution of food to the church. They are still running dangerously short. In August we donated about 100lbs! More is needed!



### **Our Saint George Parish Community**

### **EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS**

**November 23-**  
Elaine Burmeister, Mary Kay Eckert and Diane Whitehead

**December 28-**  
Jim and Elizabeth Teros

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

## Sunday School News

Our 2016-2017 Sunday School session is in full swing. We want to remind everyone to bring your children, grandchildren and god children whenever possible to learn the faith from our excellent teachers.

Sunday November 27, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, there will be no Sunday

School scheduled, but any children who do come will have an activity planned for them to enjoy. As a side note, this is a good time for all of us, Sunday School students as well, to remember to bring items for the food pantry.

Our Christmas program is set for December 25, Christmas. If at all possi-

ble, have our children there for the program and to share the joy of the Nativity.

Lastly, the Metropolis is now providing a Youth bulletin for the junior high and high school students. These are an excellent outreach tool; ask your student to see the bulletin and see what is available.

## HOPE/JOY NEWS

Now that Fall is here, we hope everyone is enjoying all the changing colors around us.

In October we visited Country Corner farm with the kids. The kids went on pony rides, a hay ride, visited a petting zoo, enjoyed yummy Fall snacks and many more activities. It was a great day!

In November we plan on having an event at the church. We will be having

a Christmas store set up for the kids to buy a gift and wrap it. The gifts will then be donated to a shelter for people who are not as fortunate as we are. This is a great way for kids to help others in the community that are going through a difficult time in their lives. Please try and bring your children to this event. It is so important for them to learn to help others in need! Keep a look out for

the flyer with the details for this event.

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

Please feel free to contact Presvytera Maria at [pres-mariazoe@aol.com](mailto:pres-mariazoe@aol.com) or Candace Elias at [elias4130@yahoo.com](mailto:elias4130@yahoo.com) with any questions.



## GOYA NEWS

GOYA is gearing up for a new year of fellowship and fun with our teen group. After a busy Fall for everyone, we're looking forward to getting together as we

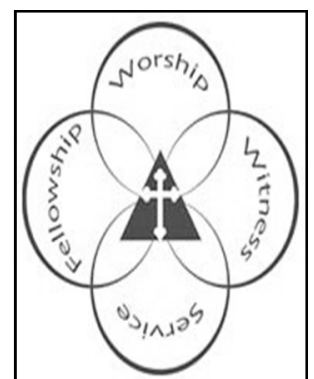
approach the holidays and the new year. We DO need to confirm dates, but wanted to let everyone know that planning is hap-

pening! Please see Vickie Pyevich or Anne Kirkpatrick with any questions.

Here's what's coming up!



**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.**

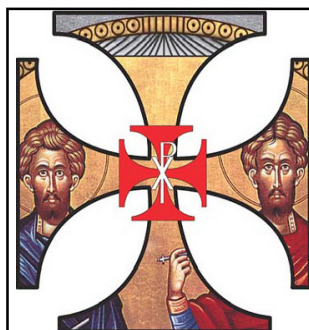


**The Four Circles of Youth Ministry:**  
**Worship**  
**Witness**  
**Fellowship**  
**Service**



### November

Organizational meeting with our officers to discuss our first project -- a kids/teen area in one of our spare rooms. We hope to tidy up, get donations for some comfy furniture, and transform one of our former Sunday school rooms into a fun meeting area where the kids can "hang out" and have some fellowship time.



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

**Focus on  
Philoptochos**

**Help us to  
Help Others**

### December

Our GOYA kids will enjoy Caroling and Christmas cheer with our Senior parishioners who are unable to attend services. Please watch the bulletin for the date, which will be decided upon soon. We will also e-mail/text Goyans with more information.

### January

Snowstar! We will be tak-

ing our Goya group to Snowstar for a fun day of tubing after services. Date and more info to come!

### Feb./March

Evening meal. Our kids enjoyed providing a meal to the homeless last year, and we would like to do more outreach along these lines. We will be confirming a date very soon. Watch for details.

## Philoptochos Corner

The Philoptochos held a general meeting after liturgy on October 23. We will begin collecting names and donations for our annual St. George Christmas card shortly with submissions due back by November 20. There will be a sign up table after church the first 3 week in Novem-

ber.

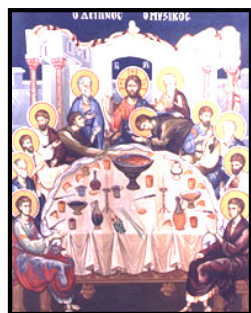
Also, we have been asked to make baklava for Dimitri's Greek wine tasting event that will be held at St. George on December 1. In order to get the baklava done before Thanksgiving, we are planning to have our baking day on Thursday Novem-

ber 17 starting at 10:00. We will prepare all the ingredients a day or two beforehand so we will be ready to assemble and bake on the 17th. Please contact Susan Coin at [\(563\)650-7405](tel:5636507405) or [sescuin@aol.com](mailto:sescuin@aol.com) if you will be able to help.

## Parish Registry

### Chrismation

**The Servant of God, Micah Wilger, was  
Confirmed into the Orthodox Church  
on October 23, 2016. The Sponsor is  
Diakonissa Romilie Speed.**



**The Sacraments of the  
Church**

Notification of the Fall Parish Assembly on Sunday November 6, 2016

Dear St. George Stewards,

On Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, following the fellowship and coffee hour, we will be convening our Fall General Assembly in the Gold Room. Please make every effort to attend.

As a reminder, the General Assembly is a meeting of all members in good-standing. A member in good-standing is defined by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese as any person eighteen years of age or older who was baptized according to the rites of the Orthodox Church, or was received into the Orthodox Church by Chrismation, who lives according to the faith and canons of the Orthodox Church, who has met his or her stewardship obligation for 2015 and abides by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese and the by-laws of the Parish. Members in good-standing, in attendance, constitute a quorum of the General Assembly.

A new member may vote in the General Assembly provided that they have been in good-standing at least three (3) months prior to the date of the General Assembly. If you would like to vote on any of the motions made during the General Assembly, you must be present. Absentee ballots will not be counted.

Mary Rankin  
Constantinides

Parish Council President  
Priest

Fr. Michael

Parish

## 2016 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

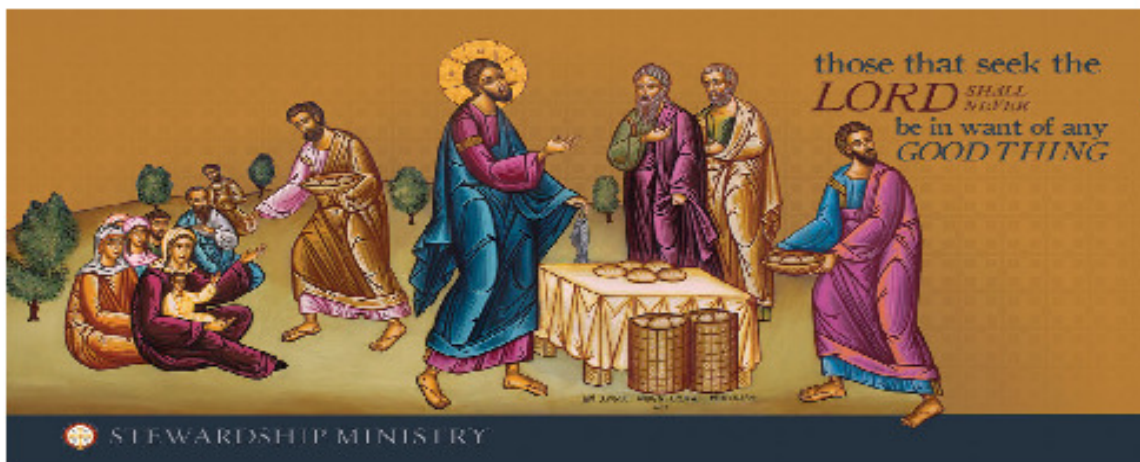
1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPENING PRAYER
3. STEWARDSHIP REPORT
4. PHILOPTOCHOS REPORT
5. FESTIVAL REPORT
6. 2017 BUDGET
7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT
8. AUDIT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
9. SET DATE FOR BOARD ELECTIONS
10. OLD BUSINESS
11. NEW BUSINESS
12. CLOSING PRAYER
13. ADJOURNMENT



## Stewardship News

# St. George Stewardship Notes

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



## 2016 QUICK FACTS

(as of  
October 25, 2016)

**\$121,025.00 =**  
Amount pledged for 2016  
by 124 households

**\$106,552.07 =**  
Amount given to 2016  
stewardship since Jan. 1

**\$976.00 =**  
Average pledge per  
household at this date

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

## A Review of Fifteen Years of Stewardship

Have your blessings from our Heavenly Father multiplied through the years? Has your giving of time, talent, and treasure also increased?

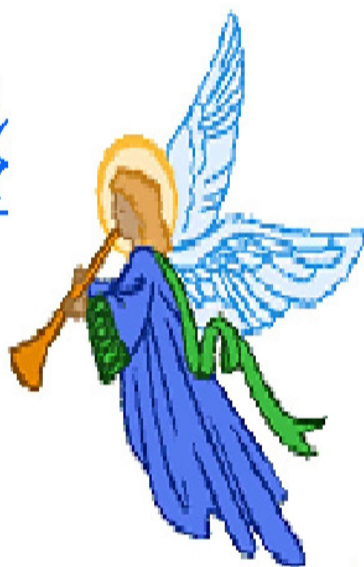
Along with the information for the 2017 Stewardship Campaign being sent out very soon out with quarterly statements of giving, a copy of your 2001 Pledge Card and your 2016 pledge card (the ones that are available) will be included!

As you review the two pledge cards, please consider how the needs of the ministries of the church have increased and consider if your giving has kept pace.

The stewardship campaign will culminate in Stewardship Sunday (Nov. 13) when we offer our pledge cards at the end of Divine Liturgy.

**Stewardship Sunday: Nov. 13!**

## Parish Happenings



*Hope/Joy*

## *Christmas Store*

*Join us after Liturgy*

*Sunday, November 13, 2016*

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

**St. George  
Fall General Assembly  
Sunday, November 6  
Following Divine Liturgy**

**(Come for the meeting,  
stay for the Sandwich!)**



A light lunch will be available for those who attend with  
a free will donation to offset costs.

Please plan to attend. If you need a copy of the agenda,  
please contact the church.

P.S. Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour the  
night before!

## Parish Happenings

**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY  
OF  
ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
2930 31<sup>ST</sup> AVENUE  
ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201**

November 1, 2016

**Dear Parishioners and Friends:**

The St. George Philoptochos Society is sponsoring the 2016 Parish Christmas Card. As in previous years, every one of us has an opportunity to send our Christmas greetings to all our Church members and friends. A beautiful card with all the names of those participating is sent to everyone on our mailing list.

We hope that everyone will be included in the 2016 Christmas Card. Please send the portion below with your name, clearly printed, as you wish it to appear on the card, along with your generous donation to the Church office or return it to the table set up after Liturgy on Sundays. Completed forms and donations must be received no later than November 22. All proceeds are used for benevolent project of the Philoptochos Society. The proceeds of this year's Christmas card will be given to the following charities:

King's Harvest Homeless Shelter, Davenport, IA  
River Bend Food Bank

In this season of giving, please find it in your heart to give to those less fortunate.

Sincerely,

Pat Andrews, Chairman  
Parish Christmas Card Committee

[illegible]

**St. George Philoptochos Society**  
**2016 Parish Christmas Card**

NAME(S)

(Please print clearly as you would like it to appear on the card)

**DONATION** (Checks payable to St. George Philoptochos Society)



Parish Happenings



## **SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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

**DECEMBER 1, 2016  
6:00 - 8:30 PM**

# **MY BIG FAT GREEK FESTIVAL**

**WINTER EDITION  
GREEK WINE TASTING**



## Hieromartyr Nicander the Bishop of Myra (November 4)

The Hieromartyrs Nicander, Bishop of Myra, and Hermas the Presbyter, were disciples of the holy Apostle Paul's follower and fellow ascetic, the holy Apostle Titus of the Seventy (August 25), and they were ordained by him to the priesthood.

Living the ascetic life amid incessant pastoral works, the saints converted many pagans to Christ. For this they were

arrested and brought before the city prefect, Libanius. Neither flattery nor threats swayed the holy martyrs to renounce Christ. Then Libanius gave orders that they be tortured.

The saints endured fierce and inhuman torments: they were tied to horses and dragged over stones, their bodies were raked with iron hooks, and they were cast into a hot

oven. The Lord helped them endure things that a mere man by his own strength could not endure. Towards the end, iron nails were hammered into their heads and hearts. They were thrown into a pit, then covered over with earth.

After enduring such a cruel death, now they live forever in the joy of the Lord (Mt. 25:21).



**The Hieromartyr  
Nicander**

## The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel (November 8)

The Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the Other Heavenly Bodiless Powers: Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Selaphiel, Jehudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel was established at the beginning of the fourth century at the Council of Laodicea, which met several years before the First Ecumenical Council. The 35th Canon of the Council of Laodicea condemned and denounced as heretical the worship of angels as gods and rulers of the world, but affirmed their proper veneration.

A Feastday was established in November, the ninth month after March (with which the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels. The eighth day of the month was chosen for the Synaxis of all the Bodiless Powers of Heaven since the Day of the Dread Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers. After the end of this age (characterized by its seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then "the Son of Man shall come in His Glory and all

the holy Angels with Him" (Mt. 25:31).

The Angelic Ranks are divided into three Hierarchies: highest, middle, and lowest.

The Highest Hierarchy includes: the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones.

The six-winged SERAPHIM (Flaming, Fiery) (Is 6:12) stand closest of all to the Most Holy Trinity. They blaze with love for God and kindle such love in others.

The many-eyed CHERUBIM (outpouring of wisdom, enlightenment) (Gen 3:24) stand before the Lord after the Seraphim. They are radiant with the light of knowledge of God, and knowledge of the mysteries of God. Through them wisdom is poured forth, and people's minds are enlightened so they may know God and behold His glory.

The THRONES (Col 1:16) stand after the Cherubim, mysteriously and incomprehensibly

bearing God through the grace given them for their service. They are ministers of God's justice, giving to tribunals, kings, etc. the capacity for righteous judgment.

The Middle Angelic Hierarchy consists of three Ranks: Dominions, Powers, and Authorities:

DOMINIONS (Col 1:16) hold dominion over the angels subject to them. They instruct the earthly authorities, established by God, to rule wisely, and to govern their lands well. The Dominions teach us to subdue sinful impulses, to subject the flesh to the spirit, to master our will, and to conquer temptation.

POWERS (1 Pet 3:22) fulfill the will of God without hesitation. They work great miracles and give the grace of wonderworking and clairvoyance to saints pleasing to God. The Powers assist people in fulfilling obediences. They also encourage them to be patient, and give them spiritual strength and fortitude.

AUTHORITIES (1 Pet 3:22, Col 1:16) have authority over the



**The Synaxis of the Arch-  
angels Michael and  
Gabriel and all the bodi-  
less powers of heaven**

## The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel (Continued)

devil. They protect people from demonic temptations, and prevent demons from harming people as they would wish. They also uphold ascetics and guard them, helping people in the struggle with evil thoughts.

The Lowest Hierarchy includes the three Ranks: Principalities, Archangels, and Angels:

PRINCIPALITIES (Col 1:16) have command over the lower angels, instructing them in the fulfilling of God's commands. They watch over the world and protect lands, nations and peoples. Principalities instruct people to render proper honor to those in

authority, as befits their station. They teach those in authority to use their position, not for personal glory and gain, but to honor God, and to spread word of Him, for the benefit of those under them.

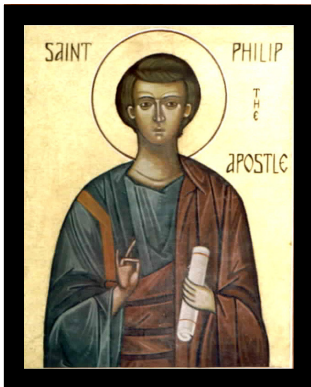
ARCHANGELS (1 Thess 4:16) are messengers of great and wondrous tidings. They reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith. They enlighten people to know and understand the will of God, they spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.

ANGELS (1 Pet 3:22) are in the

lowest rank of the heavenly hierarchy, and closest to people. They reveal the lesser mysteries of God and His intentions, guiding people to virtuous and holy life. They support those who remain steadfast, and they raise up the fallen. They never abandon us and they are always prepared to help us, if we desire it.

Each person has a guardian angel, and every nation also receives its own guardian angel from God (Dan. 10:13). When a church is consecrated, it also receives a guardian angel (Palladius, Dial. Ch. 10).

## Saint Philip the Apostle (November 14)



### Saint Philip the Apostle

The Holy and All-praised Apostle Philip, was a native of the city of Bethsaida in Galilee. He had a profound depth of knowledge of the Holy Scripture, and rightly discerning the meaning of the Old Testament prophecies, he awaited the coming of the Messiah. Through the call of the Savior (John 1:43), Philip followed Him. The Apostle Philip is spoken about several times in the Holy Gospel: he brought to Christ the Apostle Nathaniel (i.e. Bartholomew, April

22, June 30, and August 25. See John. 1:46). The Lord asks him where to buy bread for five thousand men (John. 6: 5-7). He brought certain of the Hellenized Jews wanting to see Jesus (John. 12:21-22); and finally, at the Last Supper he asked Christ to show them the Father (John. 14:8).

After the Ascension of the Lord, the Apostle Philip preached the Word of God in Galilee, accompanying his preaching with miracles. Thus, he restored to life a dead infant in the arms of its mother. From Galilee he went to Greece, and preached among the Jews that had settled there. Some of them reported the preaching of the Apostle to Jerusalem. In response, some scribes arrived in Greece from Jerusalem, with one of the Jewish chief priests at their head, to interrogate the Apostle Philip.

The Apostle Philip exposed the lie of the chief priest, who said that the disciples of Christ had stolen away and hidden the body of Christ. Philip told instead how the

Pharisees had bribed the soldiers on watch, to deliberately spread this rumor. When the Jewish chief priest and his companions began to insult the Lord and lunged at the Apostle Philip, they suddenly were struck blind. By his prayer the Apostle restored everyone's sight. Seeing this miracle, many believed in Christ. The Apostle Philip provided a bishop for them, by the name of Narcissus (one of the Seventy Apostles, January 4).

From Greece the Apostle Philip went to Parthia, and then to the city of Azotus, where he healed an eye affliction of the daughter of a local resident named Nikoklides, who had received him into his home, and then baptized his whole family.

From Azotus the Apostle Philip set out to Syrian Hieropolis (there were several cities of this name) where, stirred up by the Pharisees, the Jews burned the house of Heros, who had taken in the Apostle Philip, and they wanted to kill the apostle. The apostle per-



## Saint Philip the Apostle (Continued)

formed several miracles: the healing of the hand of the city official Aristarchus, withered when he attempted to strike the apostle; and restoring a dead child to life. When they saw these marvels, they repented and many accepted holy Baptism. After making Heros the bishop at Hieropolis, the Apostle Philip went on to Syria, Asia Minor, Lydia, Emessa, and everywhere preaching the Gospel and undergoing sufferings. Both he and his sister Mariamne (February 17) were pelted with stones, locked up in prison, and thrown out of villages.

Then the Apostle Philip arrived in the city of Phrygian Hieropolis, where there were many pagan temples. There was also a pagan temple where people worshiped an enormous serpent as a god. The Apostle Philip by the power

of prayer killed the serpent and healed many bitten by snakes.

Among those healed was the wife of the city prefect, Amphipatos. Having learned that his wife had accepted Christianity, the prefect Amphipatos gave orders to arrest St Philip, his sister, and the Apostle Bartholomew traveling with them. At the urging of the pagan priests of the temple of the serpent, Amphipatos ordered the holy Apostles Philip and Bartholomew to be crucified.

Suddenly, an earthquake struck, and it knocked down all those present at the place of judgment. Hanging upon the cross by the pagan temple of the serpent, the Apostle Philip prayed for those who had crucified him, asking God to save them from the ravages of the earthquake. Seeing this happen, the people believed in Christ

and began to demand that the apostles be taken down from the crosses. The Apostle Bartholomew was still alive when he was taken down, and he baptized all those believing and established a bishop for them.

But the Apostle Philip, through whose prayers everyone remained alive, except for Amphipatos and the pagan priests, died on the cross.

Mariamne his sister buried his body, and went with the Apostle Bartholomew to preach in Armenia, where the Apostle Bartholomew was crucified (June 11); Mariamne herself then preached until her own death at Lykaonia.

The holy Apostle Philip is not to be confused with St Philip the Deacon (October 11), one of the Seventy.

## Saint Philemon of the Seventy (November 23)

The Holy Apostles of the Seventy Philemon and his wife Apphia lived in the city of Colossa in Phrygia. After they were baptized by the holy Apostle Paul, they converted their house into a house of prayer, where all those who believed in Christ gathered and attended services. They devoted themselves to serving the sick and downcast.

St Philemon became bishop of the city of Gaza, and he preached the Word of God throughout Phrygia. The holy Apostle Paul continued to be his guide, and addressed to him

his Epistle filled with love, and in which he sends blessings "to Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow laborer, and to our beloved Apphia, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house" (Phil 1:1-3).

St Onesimus (February 15), also mentioned in the Epistle, was St Philemon's former slave.

Sts Philemon and Apphia, and also St Archippus (who also lived at Colossa), all received the crown of martyrdom during the persecution of Nero (54-68). During a pagan festival

an enraged crowd rushed into the Christian church when services were going on. All fled in terror, and only Sts Philemon, Archippus and Apphia remained. They seized them and led them off to the city prefect. The crowd beat and stabbed St Archippus with knives, and he died on the way to the court. Sts Philemon and Apphia were stoned to death by order of the prefect.

The memory of the holy Apostles Archippus, Philemon, and Apphia is celebrated also on February 19.



**Saint Philemon  
of the Seventy**

## The Great Martyr James the Persian (November 27)

The Holy Great Martyr James the Persian (the Sawn-Asunder) was born in the fourth century into a pious Christian family, both wealthy and illustrious. His wife was also a Christian, and the couple raised their children in piety, inspiring in them a love for prayer and the Holy Scriptures. James occupied a high position at the court of the Persian emperor Izdegerd (399-420) and his successor Barakhranes (420-438). But on one of the military campaigns James, seduced by the emperor's beneficence, was afraid to acknowledge himself a Christian, and so he offered sacrifice to idols with the emperor.

Learning of this, James' mother and wife wrote him a letter, in which they rebuked him and urged him to repent. Receiving the letter, James realized the gravity of his sin. Faced with the horror of being cut off not only from his family, but also from God Himself, he began to weep loudly, imploring the Lord for forgiveness.

His fellow-soldiers, hearing him pray to the Lord Jesus Christ, reported this to the emperor. Under interrogation, St James bravely confessed his faith in the one True God. No amount of urging by the emperor could make him renounce Christ. The

emperor then ordered the saint to be put to death.

They began to cut off his fingers and his toes one by one, then his hands and his feet, and then his arms and legs. During the prolonged torture St James offered prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord, Who had granted him the possibility of redemption from his sins by enduring these terrible torments. Finally, the martyr was beheaded. Christians gathered up the pieces of his body and buried them with great reverence.



**The Great Martyr  
James the Persian**

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

#### Popular New Testament Verses

##### Across

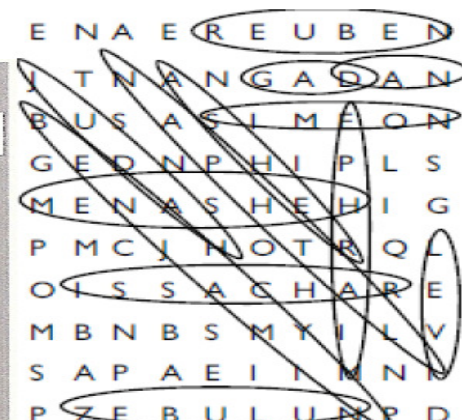
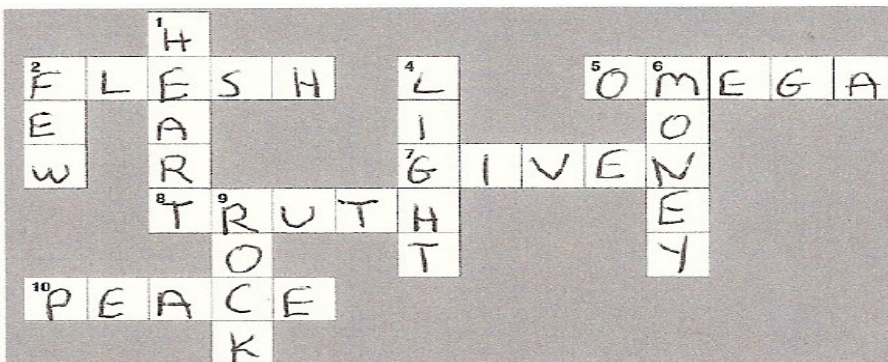
2. The spirit indeed is willing, but the \_\_\_\_\_ is weak.
5. I am the alpha and \_\_\_\_\_, the beginning and the ending says the Lord.
7. Ask, and it shall be \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Then you will know the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ will set you free
10. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth \_\_\_\_\_, good will toward men.

##### Down

1. For where your treasure is, there your \_\_\_\_\_ will be also.
2. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. You are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.
6. You cannot serve both God and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. On this \_\_\_\_\_ I will build my Church.

#### The Twelve Tribes of Israel

- Menasheh Dan
- Benjamin Gad
- Naphtali Levi
- Issachar
- Zebulon
- Ephraim
- Simeon
- Reuben
- Asher
- Judah



## Test Your Faith...

### Lent and Easter

#### Across

1. The Sunday before Easter is called \_\_\_\_ Sunday.
3. An angel rolled away the \_\_\_\_ that covered the tomb.
6. The week following Holy Week is called \_\_\_\_ Week.
8. The resurrected Christ was found first by \_\_\_\_ Magdalene.
11. Gethsemane was a \_\_\_\_ where Jesus prayed.
12. Commemoration of the Dead, a service held during Lent. Saturday of the \_\_\_\_.
13. Jesus rode a \_\_\_\_ into Jerusalem on Palm

Sunday.

14. A prayer with prostrations during Lent: St. \_\_\_\_.

#### Down

1. Disciple who denied knowing Jesus.
4. The \_\_\_\_ said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."
5. Before we celebrate Easter, we observe 40 days of \_\_\_\_.
7. 40 days after His resurrection Jesus ascended to \_\_\_\_.
9. Jesus was sentenced to die by Pontius \_\_\_\_.
10. Orthodox word for Easter.

### The Twelve Apostles

- |                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Judas Iscariot | Peter |
| James Alphaeus | John  |
| James Zebedee  |       |
| Bartholomew    |       |
| Thaddeus       |       |
| Matthias       |       |
| Matthew        |       |
| Andrew         |       |
| Philip         |       |
| Thomas         |       |
| Simon          |       |

