

THE TROPHYBEARER

Pastoral Thoughts

We are fortunate to live in a nation that sets aside a day to be thankful. Of course, as Christians, we know that we must be thankful daily for being alive. Without life, we can do nothing, so we are thankful.

What else should we be thankful for? First, our material gifts. We have food to eat, water to drink, and a place to live. Second, our health, both physical and mental. Third, forgiveness of sins, since sin is a disease, requires healing that we receive both from God and our fellow man, which leads to the restoration to our former state and the ability to keep the image and likeness of God in us intact and to progress into becoming God-like (Theosis).

We should also be thankful for those who assist us on our way. That is the people who came before us as our spiritual ancestors, the people who guide us now as our leaders, both clergy and laity and the people whom we will guide our children, grandchildren, both spiritual and physical,

To be truly thankful, we must recognize that we are given something we did not earn or deserve. We must recognize that God gave us the gifts we have for a reason!

Yet the day set aside is not thankfulness day, but thanksgiving day. We already talked about being thankful; now we must talk about giving.

Why should we give? Because as the parable of the foolish rich man (Luke 12:16-21) tells us, much was given to us (our land brought forth plentifully). The man in the parable was hoarding and thus was condemned. We must be cognizant of our death, which reminds us of “the things you have prepared, whose will they be?”

Of course, all of us are here precisely because we believe in a God who blesses His people and requires things from us. Whether we look at the Old or Ancient Covenant or the New Covenant, we see a God who gives us all sorts of wealth on the condition that we give it away. In this way, His glory is seen, and we become blessed by receiving and giving God’s grace to the world!



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PARISH NEWS

Evening Meal Volunteers

November 21, 2024

(Thursday): Ted Pitsoulakis and Jimmy Pliakos

December 19, 2024

(Thursday): Deaconess Romilie and Deacon Paul Speed

Anyone interested in taking part in this worthwhile ministry should contact Mary Winters at 563-726-2880

Epistle Readers

Anyone wishing to become an Epistle Reader, Please Contact Father Michael

Sunday, November 3, 2024:

5th Sunday of Luke: Mary Rankin

Sunday, November 10, 2024:

8th Sunday of Luke: Alexa Florence

Sunday, November 17, 2024:

9th Sunday of Luke: Kim Eastland

Sunday, November 24, 2024:

13th Sunday of Luke: Georgjean Pitsoulakis

Parish Council Sunday Duty Schedule

Sunday, November 3, 2024: Kathy Begyn, Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis and Mary Rankin

Sunday, November 10, 2024, Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and Vickie Pyevich

Sunday, November 17, 2024: Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, Ted Pitsoulakis, and Diana Spurgetis

Sunday, November 24, 2024: Kathy Begyn, Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis and Mary Rankin

Parish Council Sunday Duty Schedule

Parish Council elections will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024. 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. All new candidates must attend one of the seminars being held. The first is on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m., and the second is on Monday, November 11, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. (Both classes are offered either in person or on zoom).

Parish Registry

Funeral

- The servant of God, Nancy Coin, fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on October 7, 2024

PROSPHORA MAKERS

Sunday, November 3, 2024:

Open

Sunday, November 10, 2024:

Open

Sunday, November 17, 2024:

Open

Sunday, November 24, 2024:

Open

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sunday, November 3, 2024:

Open

Sunday, November 10, 2024:

The Family of Nancy Coin

Sunday, November 17, 2024:

Open

Sunday, November 24, 2024:

Open

EVENING MEAL NEWS

The St. Joseph Evening Meal program is working on filling its calendar for next year (2025). This program provides a dinner to those less fortunate than us. St. George is assigned one meal a month. So far this year (2024), thanks to the generosity of those who served St. George provided dinner to 479 men, women & children.

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Saint Nectarios of Pentapolis (November 9)

Saint Nectarios was born in Selyvria of Thrace on October 1, 1846. After putting himself through school in Constantinople with much hard labor, he became a monk on Chios in 1876, receiving the monastic name of Lazarus; because of his virtue, a year later he was ordained deacon, receiving the new name of Nectarios. Under the patronage of Patriarch Sophronius of Alexandria, Nectarios went to Athens to study in 1882; completing his theological studies in 1885, he went to Alexandria, where Patriarch Sophronius ordained him priest on March 23, 1886, in the Cathedral of Saint Sabbas, and in August of the same year, in the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, made him Archimandrite. Archimandrite Nectarios showed much zeal both for preaching the word of God, and for the beauty of God's house. He greatly beautified the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, and years later, when Nectarios was in Athens, Saint Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, embracing him and telling him he was going to exalt him very high.

On January 15, 1889, in the same Church of Saint Nicholas, Nectarios was consecrated Metropolitan of the Pentapolis in eastern Libya, which was under the jurisdiction of Alexandria. Although Nectarios' swift ascent through the degrees of ecclesiastical office did not affect his modesty and childlike innocence, it aroused the envy of lesser men, who convinced the elderly Sophronius that Nectarios had it in his heart to become Patriarch. Since the people loved Nectarios, the Patriarch was troubled by the slanders. On May 3, 1890, Sophronius relieved Metropolitan Nectarios of his duties; in July of the same year, he commanded Nectarios to leave Egypt.

Without seeking to avenge or even to defend himself, the innocent Metropolitan left for Athens, where he found that accusations of immorality had arrived before him. Because his good name had been soiled, he was unable to find a position worthy of a bishop, and in February of 1891 accepted the position of provincial preacher in Euboia; then, in 1894, he was appointed dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens. Through his eloquent sermons his unwearingly labors to educate fitting men for the priesthood, his generous alms deeds despite his own poverty, and the holiness, meekness, and fatherly love that were manifest in him, he became a shining light and a spiritual guide to many. At the request of certain pious women, in 1904 he began the building of his convent of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina while yet dean of the Rizarios School; finding later that his presence there was needed, he took up his residence on Aegina in 1908, where he spent the last years of his life, devoting himself to the direction of his convent and to very intense prayer; he was sometimes seen lifted above the ground while rapt in prayer. He became the protector of all Aegina, through his prayers delivering the island from drought, healing the sick, and casting out demons. Here also he endured wicked slanders with singular patience, forgiving his false accusers and not seeking to avenge himself. Although he had already worked wonders in life, an innumerable multitude of miracles have been wrought after his repose in 1920 through his holy relics, which for many years remained incorrupt. There is hardly a malady that has not been cured through his prayers; but Saint Nectarios is especially renowned for his healings of cancer for sufferers in all parts of the world.

KATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR OF ALEXANDRIA (NOVEMBER 25)

Saint Catherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constatas (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Catherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Catherine. According to the ancient usage, Saints Catherine and Mercurius were celebrated on the 24th of this month, whereas the holy Hieromartyrs Clement of Rome and Peter of Alexandria were celebrated on the 25th. The dates of the feasts of these Saints were interchanged at the request of the Church and Monastery of Mount Sinai, so that the festival of Saint Catherine, their patron, might be celebrated more festively together with the Apodosis of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos. The Slavic Churches, however, commemorate these Saints on their original dates.

THE HOLY APOSTLE ANDREW (NOVEMBER 30)

This Saint was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1.29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Saviour, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.



Dear Philoptochos Member and/or Potential Member:

We hope the shifting of seasons has been both a healthy one and a pleasant one. It is that time of year when the St. George Philoptochos Society is reeling in its membership for the year. With a new season, we hope that you honor the St. George Philoptochos Society with your membership and involvement in this upcoming year. We have some fun events and fundraisers planned and they will only be a success with your help!

In the past several months, through fundraising efforts such as our annual Christmas card, Meatfare Luncheon and Change for Change, we have donated money to these local charities: Humble Dwellings, Project Now, One Eighty, and Project 15:12. We have also donated to other nationally recognized organizations via our National Philoptochos Chapter. Additionally, our Philoptochos group-with the Huge of Mary Winters- prepares and serves meals to hundreds of people in the Rock Island community through the Evening Meal program. These charitable activities are only possible with the help of you all-whether this be your service or monetary donation. So, thanks, from the bottom of our hearts.

With this said, let's make the next year the most profitable and successful one yet! Please feel free to come to a meeting after church service, help with an upcoming event, or just support us with prayers. Our current fundraising effort will be our Philoptochos Rummage Sale which will take place from 9-1 on Saturday, November 16th. Look for flyers soon! Our next meeting will take place on Sunday, November 10th.

Sincerely,

Georgjean Pitsoulakis- President

To ensure your membership for 2024, please send a check to our Treasurer Alexa Florence @ 1023 Kimberly Ridge Rd Bettendorf, IA 52722 OR place in the Philoptochos basket in the church office. In

addition, please fill out the attached form with your current address, phone number, AND email address:

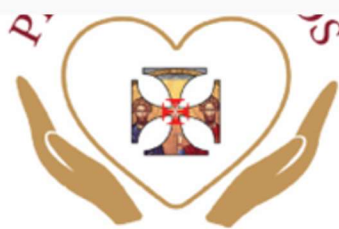
NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Here is my Membership Donation for the 2024 calendar year:_____ (just as a reminder: \$15 goes to the National Organization and \$10 goes to the Metropolis; whatever is left over goes to our local chapter) *Please make checks out to St. George Philoptochos Society**



Rummage Sale



Saturday, November 16th
9am - 1pm
St. George Church Hall


Drop off your items between now & Thursday, Nov. 7th.
Drop off days are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:30am-3pm. (Ring front door bell & Father will let you in.) Please be sure all items are in working order, clean and in good condition.

All proceeds go to the Philoptochos Society for donations and support to area charities.

Whether you decide to donate or shop, Philoptochos looks forward to your participation.



Questions? Contact
Mary Winters



Dear St. George Stewards,

On Sunday, November 3, 2024, 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 2024 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.

Ted Pitsoulakis
Parish Council President

Fr. Michael Constantinides
Parish Priest

2024 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Sunday, November 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

OPENING PRAYER

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FATHER'S REPORT

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

PHILOPTOCHOS REPORT

FESTIVAL REPORT

2025 BUDGET

ELECTION OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ELECTION OF ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

2023 NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Fast Day	2
3 5th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes follow Holy Communion Fall Assembly following the Divine Liturgy	4	5	6 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum	7 7:00 p.m. Book Study "Marriage and Family" by Saint John Chrysostom, both "in person" and Zoom	8 The Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George	9 Feast day of Saint Nectarios of Pentapolis 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption
10 8th Sunday of Luke 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes follow Holy Communion Philoptochos Meeting following the Divine Liturgy	11 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Seminar	12	13 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum	14 7:00 p.m. Book Study "Marriage and Family" by Saint John Chrysostom, both "in person" and Zoom	15 Fast of the Nativity Begins	16 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Philoptochos Rummage Sale
17 9th Sunday of Luke Fish, Oil and Wine allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes follow Holy Communion	18 Fish, Oil and Wine allowed	19 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	20 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum	21 The Entrance of the Theotokos Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption	22 Fast Day	23 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed
24 13th Sunday of Luke Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School Classes follow Holy Communion	25 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	26 Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	27 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 11:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum	28 Thanksgiving Day Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed	29 Fast Day	30 Feast Day of Saint Andrew Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Saint George