

## Scripture Readings

### **EPISTLE Ephesians 2:14-22**

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit

### **GOSPEL Luke 10:25-37**

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

## Gospel Reflection



The Holy Fathers emphasized the image of the Church as a spiritual hospital. The Church is the inn where the Good Samaritan brings the man who fell among thieves and was ignored by passersby. When every secular and religious help fails, Christ offers us healing of body and soul. It is precisely because the Church is Christ's hospital that our healing - our very salvation - must be of body and soul. Without the grace of the risen Christ, without a life anchored in the mystical life of His Church, therapy becomes just another humanistic attempt at self-improvement, fasting is just another dietary program, and prayer is just another form of meditation. Without the Church's therapeutic spirituality, the sacraments become "magical" rites or mere social or cultural customs. Baptism without catechesis is just a ceremony. Communion without confession is just another communal meal. The point is that Orthodox spiritual therapy is not mere rehab. It is a method, tested and proved, of healing our passions and disciplining our minds, so that the grace of God, given to us freely in Christ, may grow within us and transfigure us. Christ is the Good Samaritan. The Church is the healing inn. Wholeness is ours for the asking.

## Nativity Fast: Preparing for the Best Gift of All



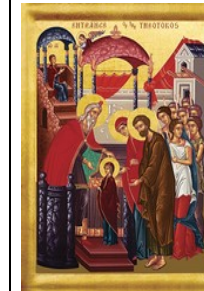
During the Nativity Fast, Orthodox Christians prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. In the present-day secular American tradition, the Christmas "holiday season" begins the day after Thanksgiving. The Nativity Fast occurs at the same time, but its meaning is significantly different from the secular holiday observances. The original meaning of the word "holiday" is "Holy Day," a sacred day to glorify God and His Saints. The Nativity Fast is meant to prepare us not for a present-opening party, but for a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, when the Eternal Love of God was made flesh in our earthly space and time. In many Christian churches, the weeks prior to Christmas are

known as Advent, from the Latin word for "coming." In the Orthodox Church, this season of preparation begins on November 15, the day after the Feast of the Apostle Philip. For this reason, it is known as St. Philip's Fast. It lasts 40 days, as does Lent, and is also called the Winter Lent. For those who still follow the Julian calendar, the Winter Lent begins November 28. Similar to the period of Great Lent, the Nativity Fast was established by the Church as a time for repentance. As with other fasting periods, the Nativity Fast prepares us spiritually and physically to celebrate the Incarnation of the Word. We refrain from meat, dairy, fish and olive oil as a symbolic way of purifying our hearts from all passions and inclinations towards sin. We empty our human appetites to welcome the One who alone can satisfy all our hunger and thirst. This stands in contrast to the whirlwind of activity in our secular society, which focuses on getting, spending, eating, drinking, and partying. The Nativity Fast helps us keep our focus on the real "reason for the season:" the arrival on Earth of God Himself, in the flesh. Let us hold fast to this spiritual discipline and faithfully keep our eyes focused on the true reason for our Christmas celebration: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

### **Divine Service This Week**

Thursday, November 19: Paraklesis  
6:30 PM

Saturday, November 21: Feast of the  
Entrance of the Holy Theotokos  
(Challenge Liturgy) Orthros 8:30  
AM, Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM O  
Most Holy Theotokos intercede for us  
before Christ God.



### **40-Day Blessing**

For the child of God, Anastasia,  
daughter of George and Paulette Far-  
makidis. God grant her many years!

### **For Their Blessed Repose**

Margaret Karas Campbell, (6 Years),  
offered by her loving family;

Sotiria Carson, (40 Days), offered by  
her loving family;

Costas Spathopoulos (14 Years), of-  
fered by his loving family.



## Pray For Their Health and Salvation

His Eminence Metropolitan +Panteleimon; His Eminence Archbishop +Pavlos of Aleppo and His Eminence Mar +Gregorios Ioanna of Aleppo, who were kidnapped; persecuted Christians of the Middle East, Marie Burpeau, Gus Geckos, Theonemfe Panteris, Bill Pastis, Frosso Malavakis, Sotirios Kakavoulas, Marge Costas, Christopher Costas, Evangelia Pantazakos, Bill George, Mary Matthews, Patty Roumel, George Dizelos, Cimon Psira, John Karas; Constantina Speris; Andrew Katson; the child Seraphina Marie Vasilatos; Alexandra Aposporos; Lynne; Selena Pappas; Thomas Khalil, and Maria Vasilion.

### New Series on Evangelization

A four-part series entitled *Orthodoxy and a New Evangelization: Where Do I Begin?* will be held on Thursday, Nov. 19, and on Dec. 3, 10, and 17, at 10:30 AM and 7:30 PM. This series will set the context for our witness, discuss how we recognize the cultural forces we face, and explain the time-tested strategies for how each of us might play our part in announcing the good news of Orthodoxy to a yearning world. The series will be led at St. George by Chrysostomos Gunning.

### Parish Events

**FEED THE HUNGRY:** Today, in the St. George kitchen after Divine Liturgy. Every third Sunday of the month, St. George volunteers prepare and deliver food to four area shelters serving over 100 adults and children. Teenagers and young people are especially encouraged to assist and support. Save the date for Dec. 20. Contact Margo Oge at [margotoge@yahoo.com](mailto:margotoge@yahoo.com) or Taso Vassilas at [mykonosAEV@gmail.com](mailto:mykonosAEV@gmail.com) for information.

**ORTHODOX SPEAKER:** Today, International author Dr. Maria Khoury, author of Orthodox Christian children's books, is conducting a Sunday School book reading for Nursery-2nd grade students and speaking during Divine Liturgy on "Reflections from the Holy Land." Dr. Khoury will be available for book signing during fellowship.

**PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** Next Sunday, Nov. 22, immediately following Divine Liturgy. We encourage every parishioner to attend and vote on the proposed 2016 Budget.

**50 PLUS:** Thanksgiving Bake Sale, Nov. 22 after Divine Liturgy. Offering tsoureki, galaktoboureko, baklava, melomakarona, kourambietes and koulouria. For early orders, contact Maria at (240) 421-9909.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Food Drive, Nov. 22, 10:00 AM-Noon. Please drop off in front of the education building all generous donations of non-perishable foods for the Manna Food Bank.

**ST GEORGE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP:** Meeting December 1, at Normandie Farms Restaurant, 10710 Falls Rd., Potomac, MD, at 6:00 PM. The group provides an informal setting for the discussion of the role of Orthodox faith in work and life. Please join us. To RSVP or for more information, contact Michael Sakellarides at 703-851-3872 or email: [msakellarides53@gmail.com](mailto:msakellarides53@gmail.com)

**PHILOPTOCHOS:** 2015 Community Christmas Card – deadline Nov. 29. Please send your list of names as you wish them to appear on the card, your telephone number and email address, your donation amount and check number to St. George Ladies Philoptochos, 2015 Christmas Card, 7701 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817. Contact Myranda Nickoloff at (301) 768- 6364 or [myrandacy@gmail.com](mailto:myrandacy@gmail.com) for information.

**LUNCH WITH SANTA:** Dec. 6, after Divine Liturgy. Adults \$12, children are \$7, and children under 3 attend free. Tickets are available online at [https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form\\_response.php?id=48](https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=48) Space is limited. Contact [St.George.Greek.Preschool@gmail.com](mailto:St.George.Greek.Preschool@gmail.com) for information.

**5th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Dec. 12, 7:00 PM, at St. George. Performance by the Concert Artists of Baltimore, with concert pianist (and St. George parishioner) Aglaia Koras as the featured soloist. Tickets on sale Sundays during fellowship, and through the Church Office. Dress Circle (premium seating) \$50; General Admission \$25; Youth Admission (18 and under) \$15.



# The Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George

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**November 15, 2015**  
**Eighth Sunday of St. Luke**  
**St. Thomas, Archbishop of Constantinople**

In today's Gospel, the Samaritan showed mercy to the dying Jew. What does mercy (eleos or hesed) mean according to the Bible? It means primarily not a feeling but a helpful act showing faithfulness, grace, kindness and love. Jesus quoted a prophetic saying to the Pharisee, 'I want mercy, not sacrifice (Mt. 12:7),' and He instructed His followers, 'Be merciful just as your Father (in heaven) is merciful (Lk. 6:36).' The Good Samaritan story is all about mercy.

### Resurrectional Apolytikion

**(Tone 7) Grave Tone**

By death on Thy Cross thou didst death dissolve; and opened to the thief the way to Paradise. Thou didst transform the lament of the women bearing myrrh, and commanded the disciples the message to proclaim, that Christ our God has risen from the dead, and granted to the world great mercy.

### Apolytikion to St. George

O Trophy-Bearer, Great Martyr George, who freed captives, supported the poor, healed the sick, was a champion of kings, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved!

### Ἀπολυτίκιον

Ὡς τῶν αἰχμαλώτων ἐλευθερωτῆς, καὶ τῶν πτωχῶν ὑπερασπιστῆς, ἀσθενούντων ἰατρός,  
βασιλέων ὑπέρμαχος, Τροπαιοφόρε Μεγαλομάρτυς Γεώργιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ,  
σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.