

## Scripture Readings

**EPISTLE Galatians 4:22-27** Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

**GOSPEL Luke 5:1-11** At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.



## Gospel Reflection: Becoming 'Fishers of Men'



"Do not be afraid, henceforth I will make you fishers of men." Jesus' words to the Apostles apply equally to each of us. True discipleship will cost us, making personal demands of us. One of those demands is to become an evangelizer, "catching" others for Christ. To follow the Lord involves inviting others to do so. To do this, we must first know our faith. Through daily prayer, by reading Sacred Scripture, by studying the Holy Fathers and reading Orthodox texts, we become steeped in our faith and become more confident in witnessing it. Like the Apostles, we are called not to witness a proposition or dogma, but to witness a relationship with Jesus Himself. Prayer and education are the first steps to becoming an evangelizer. Second, we need to live what we know. Jesus bids the Apostles not to fear. Similarly, do not be afraid to transform knowledge into action, to

Speak about your faith, to differ from others, to oppose when others are slandering, gossiping or maligning another. We are called to proclaim a strong Orthodox response on social and moral issues. As Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven!" Lastly, being an evangelizer requires that we live as the Epistle to Timothy suggests: "...let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God." Seeking authentic holiness in our lives is the evangelizer's call. We can witness the power of the Holy Spirit only if we are afire with that same Spirit. Inviting others to an experience of that powerful fire that comes from an ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ is part of our call. Prayerful learning, bold witness, and the quest for holiness are the secrets to being an effective evangelizer for Christ. The Apostles immediately heeded Jesus' call. Will we?

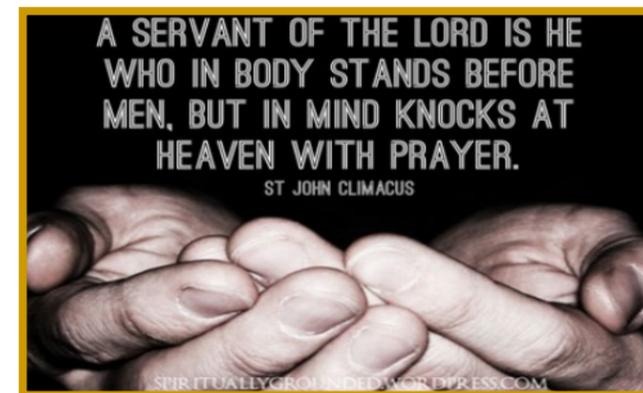
## St. John the Theologian's Falling Asleep (September 26)



Saint John the Theologian and Evangelist was the son of Zebedee the fisherman and Salome, the daughter of Joseph, the betrothed of the Holy Mother of God. Called by the Lord Jesus, John immediately left his father and the fishing nets and - with his brother James - followed Christ. From that time, he was not parted from his Lord until the end. With St. Peter and St. James, he was present at the raising of Jairus' daughter and at the Lord's Transfiguration, and leaned on Jesus at the Mystical (Last) Supper. When all the others had forsaken the crucified Lord, St. John stayed beneath the Cross with the Holy Mother of God. In obedience to the Lord's wish, he was as a son to the Holy Virgin Mary, caring for her and serving her, looking after her right up to her Dormition. Afterward, St. John went off with his disciple Prochorus to preach the Gospel in Asia Minor, and mainly lived and worked in Ephesus. By his inspired preaching and miracles, he brought many to Christianity and undermined the foundations of paganism. The vexed pagans bound him and sent him to Rome to the pagan Emperor Domitian. He was tortured and flogged before the emperor but remained unharmed either by the strong poison that he was given to drink or the boiling oil into which he was placed. Fearing this strange man, Domitian exiled St. John to Patmos, where criminals were compelled the work the desert salt mines. By his words and miracles, St. John continued to bring many to Christianity. He composed the fourth Gospel of Jesus Christ, three epistles incorporated in the New Testament, and Apocalypse (Revelation). In the time of the pagan emperor Nerva, who gave liberty to all the captives, St. John returned to Ephesus, where he lived for some time, confirming the work that he had earlier begun. He was over a hundred years old when he went to the Lord. When his disciples later opened his grave, they found that his body was not there. Every year, on May 8, a fine, fragrant dust endowed with healing power rose from his grave. After a long and fruitful life of labor upon earth, this beloved disciple of Christ and pillar of the Church entered into the joy of his Lord, to peace and eternal rejoicing. His repose is commemorated on September 26. (from St. Nicholas of Ochrid's The Prologue)

### 40 Day Blessing

Emilia Grace, daughter of Demetry and Anna Gemolas  
God grant her many years!



### From St. Silouan of Mt. Athos (+1938)

"I ask you to try something. If someone grieves you, or dishonors you, or takes something of yours, then pray like this: "Lord, we are all your creatures. Pity your servants, and turn them to repentance," and then you will perceptibly bear grace in your soul. Induce your heart to love your enemies, and the Lord, seeing your good will, shall help you in all things, and will Himself show you experience. But whoever thinks evil of his enemies does not have love for God and does not know God." (Feast day September 24)

## 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; Metropolitan +Kallistos of Diokleia, Georgia Mavromihalis, Robert West, Amanda Lawrence, Ourania Mantzouranis, Maria Kritzas, Cathy, Janie Pappas, Eleni Gourmani, Anne Savas, the child of God Trey Anderson, Dimitrios Papapostolou, Angela Apidououlos, the child of God Amelia Marghi, the child of God Seraphina Marie Vasilatos, Adib Marghi, Betty Jean Dubard, Aris Peterson, Nicholas Ellis, Katherine Ellis, Kelly, Jon Wood, Tom Dale, Joy Kizzie, Marie Burpeau, Bill Pastis, Evangelia Pantazakos, George Dizelos, Constantina Speris; Andrew Katson; Selena Pappas

## ORTHODOX SPIRITUAL LIFE AND LEARNING

2018-2019 BIBLE STUDY: "The Gospel of St. John: Beholding the Glory" This year's Scripture study focuses on the fourth Gospel, composed by St. John the Theologian. Join us every Thursday at 10:30 AM or 7:00 PM in the Church library to explore the depths of the Gospel written by "the disciple whom Jesus loved."

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2018-2019: Beginning today in the Church library: "The Shared Experience of the Orthodox Christian Faith." Our theme this year is that our faith is not primarily about ideas or concepts, rules and regulations. It is about our relationship and our personal connectedness with Jesus Christ in the experience of our everyday lives.

ADULT INQUIRY CLASS: For adults interested in joining the Orthodox Church. Through discussion, speakers, and personal sharing, adults will be preparing to receive Baptism or Chrismation. Sessions will be held at 7:30 PM on October 3, 17, 31; November 14, 28; and December 12, in the Church Library. See Fr. Dimitrios for more information or to sign up.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

FALL FUNDRAISER: Friday, Oct. 5, 7:00 PM in the Grand Hall. Internationally acclaimed HBO comedian Basile will be performing his celebrated "Growing Up Greek in America" show as our special guest. Come enjoy a night of fellowship in family-friendly laughter, w/heavy mezze servings and wine & beer cash bar. GOYAns will provide child care at St. George for families that pre-register children ages 5-12. Tickets are only \$65.00, including sodas and water, at <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/251/responses/new>

YOUTH MINISTRIES: The new registration form below replaces all registration forms for Sunday School and its Choir, Altar Boys, HOPE & JOY (Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education and Junior Orthodox Youth), GOYA, Dance Troupe, and St. George Counselors-in-Training (C.I.T.s) for Events and Retreats. Please register your children for all appropriate age group ministries at <https://stgeorge.org/ministries/youth-ministries-registration>

DANCE TROUPE: Meets TODAY in the Chapel following Divine Liturgy. Required parents meeting for all level dancers, new and current. Register now for this year's dance season at <https://stgeorge.org/ministries/youth-ministries-registration> - for information, contact Maria Giakoumatos at [dancetroupe@stgeorge.org](mailto:dancetroupe@stgeorge.org) For Stewards over the age of 18 please register at: <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/242/responses/new>

FALL FUNDRAISER: Friday, Oct. 5, in the Grand Hall. Internationally acclaimed HBO comedian Basile will be performing his celebrated "Growing Up Greek in America" show as our special guest. More about Basile at <https://basilelive.com/> - details to come!

50 PLUS: Saturday, Oct. 6 Pilgrimage to Agia Skepi (Holy Protection) Monastery in White Haven, PA. Cost is \$35.00 per person. Please arrive at St. George by 8:30 AM - bus departs at 9:00 AM sharp. Register now with Maria Kopsidas at (240) 421-9909.

GOYA: Annual Bishop George Memorial Basketball Tournament, Oct. 13-14. Please consider purchasing an ad or donating. Order forms are due Sept. 19. Place order and pay online at <https://stgeorge.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/225/responses/new> - for information, contact [stgadbook@gmail.com](mailto:stgadbook@gmail.com)

GREEK SCHOOL: Friday and Saturday classes have begun. Register at <https://www.stgeorge.org/education/greek-school/> - for information, contact Eirini Iatrou at [eirini.iatrou@gmail.com](mailto:eirini.iatrou@gmail.com)

**Kindly bring this Bulletin home for your prayer and family discussion of the Gospel lessons and divine grace offered to you today. Many thanks!**



# THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE



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The Conception of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist

## THE CONCEPTION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND FORERUNNER OF THE LORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018



**Divine Service This Week**

**Wednesday, September 26**

**Commemoration of the Falling  
Asleep of St. John the Theologian**

Orthros 8:30 AM  
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

### Resurrection Apolytikion Tone Plagal 4 (Tone 8)

Descending from on high, O Compassionate one, to free us all from our iniquities. Humbling Thyself by dwelling three days in the tomb, our life and Resurrection, O Lord, Glory to Thee.

### Apolytikion of 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!

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