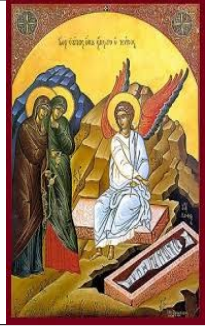


Voice of St. George

HOLY WEEK & PASCHAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 24–MAY 6, 2016



TWO DIFFERENT DISCIPLES AT THE LAST SUPPER



As we look carefully at the Icon of the Last Supper, by Theophanes the Cretan (depicted to the left) St. John approached Christ with love and, indeed, he is the “Apostle of love.” Judas lunged toward Christ as the “Betrayer.” Gazing at this icon, we think about our participation in this year’s Holy Week Services, as well as our participation in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy throughout the year. As we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ our God from the dead, we remind ourselves that the Divine Liturgy (every time it is celebrated) is itself the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection.

We remember our prayer that is said as we prepare for Holy Communion during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy: “*At Your Mystical Supper, Son of God, receive me today as a communicant. For, I will not speak of the Mystery to Your enemies, nor give You a kiss like Judas, but like the thief I confess to You: remember me, Lord, in Your Kingdom.*” This prayer states the proper motive for approaching Christ. St. John the Apostle approached Christ with: 1. fear of God, 2. faith and 3. love. These virtues are actually inter-related. His “fear of God” is, in reality, a fear of being kept from God’s love through his own lack of love for God. Faith is the cornerstone of our dedication, which, is also an expression of love. Asking our Lord to receive us as communicants at His Last Supper means that we have within us all the motives that come from love seen in the person of St. John.

Judas’ character was much different. He wanted per-

sonal gain *at the expense* of Christ. Christ was *used* by Judas! The “kiss” of Judas was the “deed for payment.” The magnitude of his betrayal had further repercussions: now, one of Christ’s closest friends, committed an act that gave *validation* to the teaching of the Pharisees, who wanted Him dead, *claiming that Christ is not God*. It was both a betrayal of loyalty and a betrayal of the truth. This contrasts sharply with the confession of the thief on the cross, confessing that Christ is God, and St. John’s loving dedication to be found in “harm’s way” at the foot of the Cross. As we approach for Holy Communion, we are to ask ourselves: Are we “*using*” Christ for personal gain? Or, are we *serving* Christ at personal cost for the salvation of others? Are we God’s “customers,” or are we God’s *servants*?

It follows, then, that, if our motive is to be with Christ and glorify Him, our celebration of His Resurrection from the dead cannot be complete without participating in the Divine Liturgy, with the understanding, of course, that the act of partaking the Holy and Precious Body and Blood of Christ our God includes the daily *living* with Christ in our midst.

Agape (the Greek word for “sacrificial love”) is the mirror image of God’s Divine and sacrificial love for us. As God loves us, we love God and others. We are reminded by the scholars of the *Orthodox Study Bible*, who point out: “*Many religions and philosophies teach people to love one another. What makes [our Lord’s] commandment new is the measure required of our love: we must love as Christ has loved us, laying down His life not only for His friends, but even for His enemies.*”

+FR. THEODORE

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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 24th – PALM SUNDAY

Holy Confession by appointment: from 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Bridegroom Service – 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 25th – HOLY MONDAY

Holy Confession by appointment: from and from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Bridegroom Service – 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 26th – HOLY TUESDAY

Holy Confession by appointment: from 10:00a.m.-1 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Bridegroom Service (Hymn of Kassiani) - 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 27th – HOLY WEDNESDAY

Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy – 9:00 a.m.
Holy Confession by appointment: from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sacrament of Holy Unction – 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 28th – HOLY THURSDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great- 9:00 a.m.
Service of the 12 Gospels – 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 29th – HOLY FRIDAY

Royal Hours – 9:00 a.m.
Service of the Taking Down From
Of Christ From the Cross – 12:00 noon
Epitaphio Service (Lamentations) - 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 30th – HOLY SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil – 9:00 a.m.
Canon of Odes for the Resurrection – 11:00 p.m.

MAY 1st – RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Resurrection Service & Matins – 12:00 midnight
Paschal Divine Liturgy – 1:00 a.m.
AGAPE VESPER SERVICE – 4:00 p.m.

MAY 2nd – ST. GEORGE FEAST DAY

Orthros- 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy- 9:30 a.m.

MAY 6th – FEAST OF THE LIFE-GIVING FONT

Orthros- 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy – 9:30 a.m.

HOLY WEEK: DAY-BY-DAY

PALM SUNDAY: The voluntary entrance of Christ into Jerusalem in anticipation of His betrayal, trial, suffering, crucifixion and Resurrection from the dead. The evening service is a reflection of our Lord's ministry in Jerusalem during the days prior to the crucifixion. The theme is God's voluntary love for humanity in His Only-Begotten Son.

HOLY MONDAY: The theme is that of our need to be watchful over our thoughts and motives as we prepare to follow Christ in His journey to the Cross, lest we be unprepared to be with Christ in His death and Resurrection.

HOLY TUESDAY: The theme is repentance. God's love is never withdrawn from us, no matter how many mistakes and sins we have committed. God is ready with open arms to guide us and bless us, accepting us into His Eternal Kingdom, provided that we choose to repent, turning to Christ our God in the sincere effort to avoid committing sins now and in the future.

HOLY WEDNESDAY: The theme is our human need for healing and forgiveness as we establish a sincere relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The Sacrament of Holy Unction is performed.

HOLY THURSDAY: We find ourselves with Christ and His Apostles at the Last Supper; at Gethsemane; at the trial of Christ. We are also at the foot of His Cross and at His tomb.

HOLY FRIDAY: Commemoration is made of Christ's descent into Hades with the Gospel of repentance and salvation. The Lamentations are sung on Holy Friday evening.

HOLY SATURDAY: Holy Friday's theme is continued, noting that, although Christ's Body is in the tomb, Christ Himself, through His Resurrection saves all who existed prior to His human ministry.

PASCHA (EASTER SUNDAY): The Day of Resurrection—the Resurrection of Christ from the dead along with the resultant resurrection and victory over death of humans, beginning with Adam and Eve, including our present and future generations.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The end of March and the month of April were busy months for Philoptochos. We started baking for the **Easter Bake Sale** in March and sold our bake goods 3 Sundays in April. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible including Lula, Venetia, Carol, Anna, Debi, Chrisanthe, Tina, and Linda. We apologize if we missed anyone. Our **General Meeting in April** was enriched by our guest speaker **Chrisanthie Mehas** with a professional presentation of her new skin care line. We say goodbye to our many snow birds including 2 of our Board Members Carol Lyons and Tina Veroulis. You will be missed. **We hope all of you had a blessed Easter.**

In May, **The Knitting Project, Phase 1** comes to a close. **Rhonda Latkovic and Christina Kundanis** will be presenting over 40 knitted or crocheted items including headbands, hats and scarves for the adult patients and throws, blankets and quilts for the children at **City of Hope on May 4**. This has been a project in the works for several months starting with an idea from Rhonda Latkovic. In the future we will proceed with The Knitting Project, Phase 2.

Please renew your membership to Philoptochos. Your \$45.00 is split three ways. Our local chapter receives \$15.00 and Metropolis and National each receive \$15.00. To continue our good works, please join us and become a member.

Support **Mochas for Missions** (formerly known as Pennies & Prayers) now through Pentecost! Check your pockets and coin purses for change you may spend for a cup of coffee but instead support this worthy project. Specially marked cups are on the tables in the Church hall.

In May, our **Board Meeting will on Monday, May 9 at 11:00 a.m.** Our **General Meeting will be on Monday, May 16 at 11:30 a.m.** The General Meeting will be the last meeting of the season, so be sure to attend. We will meet again in September. Thank you for your support and have a great Summer!

– LINDA KALLIS,
Philoptochos President

MEN'S DAY RALLY- AN OPPORTUNITY

To think that Greek men, or Orthodox Christian men are immune from the pressures and temptations of our society is to be naïve. What I can verify is this: statistics show that a vast percentage of family heartaches are due to the inability, or unwillingness, of men to assume their role as responsible individuals who are pivotal figures in either making or breaking a home.

Knowing that fathers, husbands, and sons deal with similar issues in today's society, and that all men, whether Orthodox Christians or not, are not immune from the snares of many of today's temptations, I have prayed to our Lord and Savior for a way to address this situation through a spirit of Christian love and co-workmanship. It is with prayer that I have proposed that the men of our parish (young and old) come together with other men throughout our general Christian community - some of them are professionals - so that we can learn from each other how to cope as followers of Christ in ways that ultimately give glory to God, our Father in Heaven.

Now is a great opportunity to join in this effort. In the spirit of love and sincere obedience to God's calling in your life, turn in the Confirmation Form that was sent to you via mail, or sign-up in the Parish hall at the "Men's Day Rally Table." A \$10.00 fee for your luncheon payable now, or at the Rally! Bring a friend, or relative, just inform me as to how many so that we may have lunch accommodations available for all.

+FR. THEODORE

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PARISH BOOK STORE – Now available in our St. George parish book store is the newly released educational tract, entitled: "**The Bible in the Liturgy,**" with an introduction by Metropolitan Kallistos Ware. It is available for only **\$3.00 per copy.**

ST. GEORGE FEAST DAY

The Feast Day of our parish is Monday, May 2, 2016! The Agape Vespers (held on Easter Sunday May 1st at 4:00 p.m.) will include hymns honoring our Patron Saint, St. George. On Monday, May 2nd, Orthros will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is asked to make a special effort, given their obligations with work and school, to participate in the Church Services celebrating our Parish Feast Day.

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GOLF TOURNAMENT—Visit the “Golf Tournament Sign-Up Table” that is set up in the parish hall and register for our St. George Golf Tournament and/or make reservations for the Golf Tournament dinners (May 6 & 7, 2016). See Golf Tournament details and the registration form included in today’s *Ladder*. **You can use your credit card!** The **St. George Golf Tournament** will take place this year on **Friday, May 6th and Saturday, May 7th, 2016 at Desert Willow Golf Course**. The golf tournament on **Friday, May 6th** is a “stroke-play” tournament—shot-gun start at **2:00 p.m. Registration fee is \$125**, which includes golf and dinner. Reservations for the Friday dinner alone is **\$25 per person**. The golf tournament on **Saturday, May 7th**

is a “scramble format” - shot-gun start at **8:00 a.m. Registration is \$175**, which includes golf and dinner. Reservations for the **Saturday dinner** alone is **\$35 per person**.

Those who cannot make it for the golf tournaments may offer their support for our St. George parish by sponsoring a **tee sign for \$100**, donating a **silent auction prize**, or offering a donation according to one’s means. Also, everyone is invited to join us for the Friday night and Saturday night “Golf Tournament Dinners —” **Friday, May 6th: 6:30 p.m. - cocktail hour; 7:30 p.m. — steak dinner at the parish hall. Saturday, May 7th: 6:00 p.m.- cocktail hour; 7:00 p.m. - Traditional Greek-style dinner at the parish hall.**

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PARISH MEMBERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN OUR HOLY WEEK SERVICES BY READING SOME OF THE PSALMS AND EPISTLE PASSAGES ARE ASKED TO SEE FR. TED DURING THE COURSE OF THE PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON TO RECEIVE THEIR ASSIGNMENTS.