

SPIRITUAL WEALTH THROUGH MATERIAL POVERTY!

We have all heard the saying that “money can’t buy happiness.” The life of **ST. PAUL OF THEBES** is a testimony to the truthfulness of that adage. St. Paul lived in Egypt during the reign of the Emperor Decius in the 3rd century. His parents were wealthy landowners, and when they died, Paul inherited a small fortune. Somehow, however, he became increasingly uncomfortable with the social surroundings he had been thrust into by virtue of his inheritance. Finally, at the tender age of 22, Paul forsook his entire estate and withdrew into the desolate desert region outside of Egypt to devote his life to God. He found a cave, where he lived his life in constant prayer and meditation. It is said that he sustained himself totally from the fruit of a tree and water from a small spring that existed near the entrance of his cave! Like the Prophet Elijah of the Old Testament, Paul was also provided with bread by ravens from time to time.

Paul lived this life of extreme asceticism for over 90 years! One of his few known visitors was St. Anthony the Great, who is commonly called the “Father of Eastern Monasticism.” After seeing this saintly man in his humble surroundings, St. Anthony returned to his monastery and proclaimed to his fellow monks: “**I HAVE SEEN ELIJAH. I HAVE SEEN JOHN IN THE DESERT. I HAVE SEEN PAUL IN PARADISE!**”

The sacred tradition of the Church tells us that when St. Anthony returned to visit his friend, he found that Paul had passed away in his familiar posture of prayer. He died as he lived: on his knees! He fell asleep in the Lord in the year 342 A.D. at the advanced age of 114.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

WELCOME VISITORS AND GUESTS

Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor Card. We invite you to join us for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall following the Liturgy.

RECEIVING COMMUNION

Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the chalice for Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after the Liturgy.

HOLY OBLATION BREAD AND MEMORIAL WHEAT

If you are offering Holy Bread, please pick up your portion on top of the chanter stand at the end of Liturgy.

If you are offering Memorial Wheat, please provide (300) 3oz Dixie cups.

Please notify the Church Office by end-of-day Tuesday.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DUE TUESDAY END-OF-DAY.



**SAINT PAUL
OF THEBES**

**SAINT JOHN
THE HUT-DWELLER**

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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January 13, 2019

HOLY OBLATION AND MEMORIAL is offered in memory of Nuha Cook Sackllah by George Sackllah, Easa, Linda, Adel, Jimmy, and Danny.

HOLY OBLATION AND MEMORIAL is offered in memory of Samir Mukhar by the Mukhar family.

HOLY OBLATION AND MEMORIAL is offered in memory of Yousef Isa Baba by the Baba family.

HOLY OBLATION is offered in memory of Margaret Nejem Lababdeh by her family.

HOLY OBLATION is offered in memory of Kameel Barbar (2 years) and all the reposed souls of the Barbar and Chalhoub families by Fayrouz Chalhoub.

HOLY OBLATION is offered for the health of the Chalhoub, Barbar, Jallouq, Khoury and Nassar families by Fayrouz Chalhoub.

CHURCHING: James Julio Calderon, son of Julio & Susan Calderon.

WELCOME John Mark Reynolds, President of The Saint Constantin School.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Wednesday (1/16)	6:30p Vespers
Thursday (1/17)	6:30p Paraklesis in Spanish
Saturday (1/19)	6:00p Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday (1/20)	8:45a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy

2019 GENERAL PARISH MEETING ON JANUARY 27 AFTER LITURGY: Two votes are needed: Approval of the 2019 Budget and Election of new Parish Council members. Each voting member of St George may nominate up to 5 worthy candidates for Parish Council vacancies. Nominations must be made before January 14. You may use the form on the mid-December letter you received, submit names to the church office in writing or at admin@stgeorgehouston.com. Nominees must be in good canonical standing, be a 2019 pledging member of St George and willing to work for the future of our parish. Please nominate worthy individuals. Only 2019 pledging members will be eligible to vote. To be a Voting Member please submit a 2019 Pledge by January 14. You may complete your 2019 Pledge commitment online or submit a Pledge envelope to the church office.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: 10a every Tuesday on the *Book of Job*.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 7p Tuesday, January 15.

2019 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

All Church members are asked to prayerfully complete their 2019 pledge as soon as possible. Please consider raising your pledge/stewardship so that we can continue to operate and build our Church and its ministries. *As a reminder, it is necessary to complete a 2019 Pledge in order to be considered a voting parishioner.* Thank you for making this a priority as we aim for at least 400 pledges and \$1 million.

2019 Pledge Amount							as of 1/11/2019
\$ Range	\$1-499	\$500-999	\$1,000-2,499	\$2,500-4,999	\$5,000-9,999	\$10,000+	TOTAL
# Pledges	33	33	71	26	22	12	197
% Pledging Members	17%	17%	36%	13%	11%	6%	
TOTAL \$	\$7,930	\$20,020	\$114,044	\$81,900	\$129,600	\$223,000	\$576,494

LOST AND FOUND PURGE FEBRUARY 1. If you've lost any items at Church, please check the box outside the Narthex or call the Church Office before it's donated or thrown away.

FOOTBALL WATCH PARTY: 5p Sunday, February 3. All are welcome to come watch the Big Game. Food and drink will be provided and donations are welcome to help cover the cost. We will also have games and prizes. Hosted by the young adults.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY: Thank You to Giselle Farhood and the New Year's Eve Party Committee for a wonderful event. It was a joy to celebrate and welcome the New Year with Prayer, Family, Entertainment & Fellowship.

MAKE YOUR 2019 PLEDGE TODAY. Payments towards fulfilling your 2019 pledge can be made any of the following ways: (1) mail (2) church tray (3) *online one-time* credit card/debit card or bank account payments or (4) *online repeating gift* credit card/debit card or bank account payment. If paying by check, please note "Pledge" in the memo line. Should you need help setting up your payment options, please call the church office for assistance.

THE SAINT CONSTANTINE SCHOOL GALA: Join us with Bishop THOMAS for "A Literary Wonderland" Gala on Saturday, January 26 at St. George. Vespers at 6p, with doors opening at 6:30p for an enchanted evening of dinner, entertainment, art gallery and raffle. Childcare available. Come support the school in providing a classical Orthodox education of wisdom, virtue, and joy for students preschool through college. For more information, visit www.saintconstantine.org/gala.

ST. NICHOLAS MEN'S SOCIETY is a St. George based men's philanthropic & social group that assists the church & parishioners in times of need through membership dues & donations & gathers together for fellowship. For more information or to join please contact President John Eidman.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

WINTER CAMP: January 18-21, 2019. If your child is attending, turn in forms & payment to Chris.

YAM (YOUNG ADULTS)

2019 OFFICERS: Please contact Chris if you wish to run for a position for the Young Adult Ministry or if you are not on the email list.

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

❖ The First Antiphon

1. When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people; Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.
(“Through the intercessions...” *after each verse*)
2. The sea beheld and fled: Jordan turned back. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back?
(“Glory...both now...” *and then* “Through the intercessions...”)

❖ The Second Antiphon

1. I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him.
(“Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan; who sing to Thee. Alleluia” *after each verse*)
2. The pangs of death have encompassed me; the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord.
3. Merciful is the Lord, and righteous; and our God hath mercy.
(“Glory...both now...” *and then* “O, only begotten Son and Word of God...”)

❖ At the Little Entrance

The Troparion of Theophany of Christ in tone 1 is chanted:
“When Thou O Lord was Baptized...”

❖ After the Entrance, the following are chanted:

The Troparion of the Resurrection in tone 8:

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

The Troparion of Theophany of Christ in tone 1:

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

The Troparion of St. George in tone 4:

As deliverer of captives, and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God for our souls’ salvation.

The Kontakion of Theophany in tone 4:

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and Thy light hath been shed upon us, who praise thee with knowledge, saying Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light.

The Epistle

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore, it is said, “When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The Epistle in Arabic

لتكن يا ربُّ رحمتك علينا

ابتهجوا أيها الصديقون بالرب

(4:7-13) فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى أهل أفسس

يا اخوة لكل واحدٍ مِنَّا أُعطيَت النعمة على مقدارِ موهبة المسيح * فلذلك يقولُ لَمَّا صعدَ إلى العُلَى سبباً سبباً وأعطى الناسَ عطايا * فكونهُ صعدَ هَلْ هُوَ إلا إِيَّه نَزَلَ أولاً إلى أسافلِ الأرض * فذلك الذي نَزَلَ هُوَ الذي صعدَ أيضاً فوقَ السماواتِ كُلِّها ليملاً كُلَّ شيءٍ * وهو قد أعطى أن يكونَ البعضُ رُسلاً والبعضُ أنبياءَ والبعضُ مُبشِّرينَ والبعضُ رعاةً ومعلمينَ * لأجلِ تكميلِ القديسينَ ولِعَمَلِ الخدمةِ وبنيانِ جسدِ المسيح * إلى أن ننتهي جميعنا إلى وحدةِ الإيمانِ ومعرفةِ ابنِ اللهِ إلى إنسانٍ كاملٍ إلى مقدارِ قامَةِ ملءِ المسيح.

FOLLOWING THE READING OF THE GOSPEL, ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME & ENCOURAGED TO COME TO THE SOLEA FOR A CHILDREN’S SERMON.

The Gospel

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

The Gospel in Arabic

(4:12-17) فَضَّلَ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بِشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ مَتَّى الْإِنْجِيلِيّ الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّمْذِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ

في ذلكَ الزمانِ، لَمَّا سَمِعَ يَسوعُ أَنَّ يوحنا قَدْ أُسْلِمَ، انصَرَفَ إلى الجليلِ * وَتَرَكَ الناصِرةَ، وجاءَ فَسَكَنَ في كَفَرناحومَ التي على شاطئِ البَحْرِ في نُخومِ زَبولونَ وَنَفتاليمَ * لِيَتِمَّ ما قِيلَ بِأشعياةِ النَّبِيِّ الْقائِلِ: أَرْضُ زَبولونَ وَأَرْضُ نَفتاليمَ، طَرِيقُ البَحْرِ، عَبْرَ الأَرْدنِ، جَليلُ الأُمَمِ * الشَّعْبُ الجالِسُ في الظُّلْمَةِ أَبْصَرَ نوراً عَظيماً، والجالِسونَ في بُعْةِ المَوْتِ وظلالِهِ أَشْرَقَ عَلَينِهِم نُوْرٌ * وَمُنْذُنْذِ ابْتَدَأَ يَسوعُ يَكْرُرُ ويقولُ: توبُّوا، فَقدِ اقْتَرَبَ مَلَكوتُ السَّمَاواتِ.