

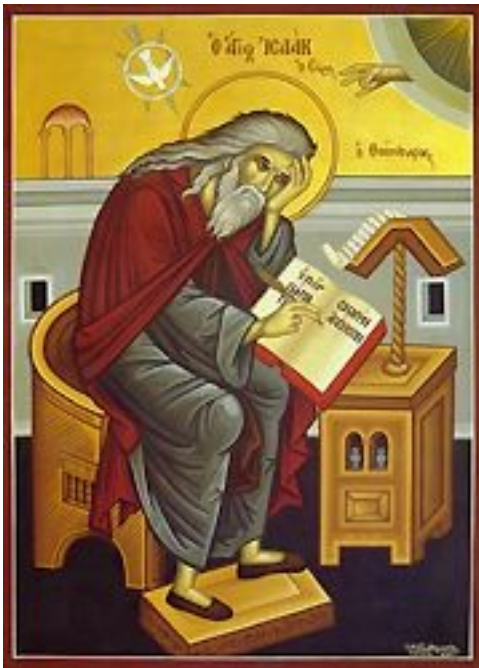


THE MESSENGER

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

EDITOR:
MARINA
SMITHERMAN

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2013



Isaac the Syrian, Bishop of Ninevah January 28

Apolytikion: He that thundered on Sinai with saving laws for man hath also given thy writings as guides in prayer unto monks, O revealer of unfathomable mysteries; for having gone up in the mount of the vision of the Lord, thou wast shown the many mansions. Wherefore, O God-bearing Isaac, entreat the Saviour for all praising thee.

Kontakion: As an ascetic and God-bearer great in righteousness and an instructor of monastics do we honour thee, thou revealer of things sacred, and our protector. But, O Isaac, since thou hast great boldness with the Lord, intercede with Him for all of us who sing thy praise and who cry to thee: Rejoice, O Father most wise in God.

The great luminary of the life of stillness, Saint Isaac, was born in the early seventh century in Eastern Arabia, the present-day Qatar on the Persian Gulf. He became a monk at a young age, and at some time left Arabia to dwell with monks in Persia. He was consecrated Bishop of Nineveh (and is therefore sometimes called "Saint Isaac of Nineveh"), but after five months received permission to return to solitude; he spent many years far south of Nineveh in the mountainous regions of Beit Huzaye, and lastly at the Monastery of Rabban Shabur. He wrote his renowned and God-inspired Ascetical Homilies toward the end of his long life of monastic struggle, about the end of the seventh century. The fame of his Homilies grew quickly, and about one hundred years after their composition they were translated from Syriac into Greek by two monks of the Monastery of Mar Sabbas in Palestine, from which they spread throughout the monasteries of the Roman Empire and became a guide to the hesychasts of all generations thereafter.

House Blessings!

It is now house-blessing season! If you would like Fr. Adam to bless your home, please contact Presvytera Lisa to arrange the date (947-4709).

Vasilopita

This year's Vasilopita Potluck Luncheon and Celebration is being planned for Sunday, January 20th. Please bring along a favorite dish and come celebrate the new year!

Dear Fellow Members of the St. George Family,

While shoveling the front sidewalks this past week I was pleasantly surprised that whenever I greeted a passerby they would respond to my words. A simple “hello” or “how are you doing” when you make eye contact with a person is an acknowledgement that they mean something to you. Finishing that statement with a please or thank you creates a “culture of gratitude.” Some examples of this culture in our community are shown when we attend services, thank God for His blessings during Liturgy and teach our children about our faith.

With these simple steps, we create and foster the “culture of gratitude” that St. Paul asked us to pursue in our service to the church (1 Timothy 1:12-14). Making people feel special and included is the best way to foster this culture.

I would like to take this moment to thank you for making me feel special and included in the Saint George community, entrusting me to act as President of the Parish Council for one more year. It is my great pleasure to serve the community and be a part of your lives.

Please feel free to contact me at any time to offer your wisdom or guidance. Should any of you ever have any questions about the operations of the Parish please do not hesitate to inquire. All information belongs to you, the parishioners of Saint George and the Parish Council strives to maintain a culture of respect peace, love and order though transparency.

Yours in the love of Our Lord,

Lee P. Speronis
President, Parish Council 2013

ST. GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL 2013

- Lee Speronis, President.....942-7822**
- Susan Jonason, Vice-President.....945-2964**
- Kathy Fitzpatrick, Secretary.....942-7532**
- Ambrose Smitherman, Treasurer.....866-7717**
- George Leakos.....989-2166**
- George Brontas..... 989-4987**
- Kevin Cox.....667-6257**
- Christopher Limberis..... 942-9243**

Receive *The Messenger* Via E-Mail

If you have not been receiving the church's monthly newsletter, *The Messenger*, via e-mail and would like to, please give your e-mail address to Presvytera Lisa or e-mail it to her at aldiasma@yahoo.com. E-mail addresses will not be shared and will only be used for sending "The Messenger" and for other pertinent church-related announcements.

Underwriting *The Messenger*

We invite parishioners to help subsidize our newsletter. You can support publication of *The Messenger* in the following ways:

Sponsor the Monthly Dedication Page @ \$75.00 per month.

Become a Messenger Patron @ \$50.00 for the year.

Bookstore News

Please visit the St. George bookstore in the narthex of the church:

There are still a number of wonderful Orthodox children's books available!

Most Conciliar Press titles are marked at 40-50% off!

St. George 75th Anniversary History Books are on sale for \$25 each.

Support your local orthodox bookstore!

HAPPENINGS

Waterville Liturgies

Fr. Adam plans to celebrate Divine Liturgy for parishioners in the Waterville-area on Saturday, January 26th, at the Church of the Sacred Heart on Pleasant Street in Waterville. Liturgy begins at 10 a.m. in the chapel next to the main sanctuary. Enter by the parking-lot doors and go up one flight of stairs. Everyone is welcome!

In addition, the February Liturgy in Waterville is scheduled for Saturday, February 23rd. Please make a note of this. Fr. Adam is available to do house blessings in the Waterville-area on either of these dates. Please call Presvytera Lisa to make arrangements (947-4709). Looking forward to seeing you!

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is coming!

This Archdiocese sponsored event gives young people in the 7th through 12th grades the opportunity to learn and speak about their Orthodox Faith. This year's speech topics are listed at the Greek Orthodox Department of Religious Education website: www.religioused.goarch.org. Please call Presvytera Lisa (947-4709) if you think you might like to participate in this interesting and fun event. In addition, participation also opens up scholarship opportunities and looks great on college applications! Speeches will be presented here at St. George in March or early April, and then at least two of the St. George participants can go on to give their speeches at the District Festival farther south. Please see Presvytera Lisa for any information!

Orthodox Christian Fellowship – OCF - College Campus Ministry

OCF announces "Real Break." Real Break is a popular alternative to the traditional Spring Break. Each year, hundreds of college students go out on trips across North America and the entire world to serve those in need. Opportunities available in March 2013 include trips to Guatemala, Honduras, New Orleans, Constantinople, Toronto, Mexico, and Los Angeles. This Spring, take a trip that will change your life. More information and registration at www.ocf.net.

St. George Altar Angels

Altar Angels help to defray the costs of the altar supplies For St. George. These supplies include candles, incense, wine, etc. which are used for the services.

If anyone is interested in becoming an Altar Angel (a \$50.00 donation) Please contact a Parish Council Member



TA NEA (The News)

By Cathy Speronis 118 Poplar Street Bangor, ME 04401 (942-7822)

Happy New Year! Kronia Polla! Another year is upon us and it is amazing to see the growth of the Saint George Community and the growth of the children! Wishing you all a very Blessed New Year full of peace, love, faith, health and happiness.

Maria and Gene Muller write: "We thank all members of the church for thinking of us at this time of the year. We wish you a blessed holiday season and also throughout the New Year ~ Love, Gene and Maria."

Peter Louridas and his wife Glenna thank everyone for their prayers.

Trains, ferries and automobiles - **Lee, Cathy, Stephen and Elena Speronis** had a wonderful trip during the holidays to visit with family. We had the pleasure of visiting with **Alyce Speronis, Nicholas & Electra Giatrelis, Dan, Tammy, Meredith and Nicholas Giatrelis, Ernest and Patricia Robinson, Victoria Robinson, Glenn, Gina, Julia and Andrew Russo, Aristeia Halkedis, Helen Speronis, Anthony and Cathy Leounes** along with other lots of other family members and friends. Traffic wasn't bad, luckily, and New York City was crowded – as expected. People are still cleaning up from the storm and Long Beach really took quite a hit. Prayers go out to all still dealing with the impact of the storm.

Thank you to **Marina Smitherman and Ambrose Smitherman**. Marina will be taking over the editing of "The Messenger" and Ambrose will be putting it into a format that is more compatible with the website.

Editing aside, I will be pursuing my career in cooking and will be working diligently on my food blog, teaching cooking classes and catering dinner parties as a personal chef. I still have the recipes on file for the Saint George Cookbook and will be working on getting that together as well. **Ta Nea** will have future updates on the project.

All news is welcome! If you have anything you would like to share you can call me at my number above. If I'm not in, please leave me a message. You can also email me at catthecook@roadrunner.com. Continued prayers to those in need. In love and faith, Cathy

Memorial

On December 15th, Fr. Adam offered memorial prayers for the soul of Russell Libby and for the souls of the 31 victims of the recent tragic shootings in Connecticut and Oregon.

+May their memories be eternal+

We Give Thanks!

To Prosforo bakers Kyvele St. Peter and Marina Smitherman.

To Maria & Gene Muller and Olga & Joe Wells for their donations of wine for the altar.

To the wonderful volunteers who made casseroles for the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in December: Hopie & Jack Montgomery, Susan Broutas, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Marina Smitherman, Donna Walter, Maria Flanzala, and Presvytera Lisa.

To Helen Broutas, Kyvele St. Peter, and the Blejeru Family for donating the lovely poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. Kyvele's donation is in loving memory of Sheldon St. Peter, Kostas Gregory, and George & Sophia Hadidiacos.

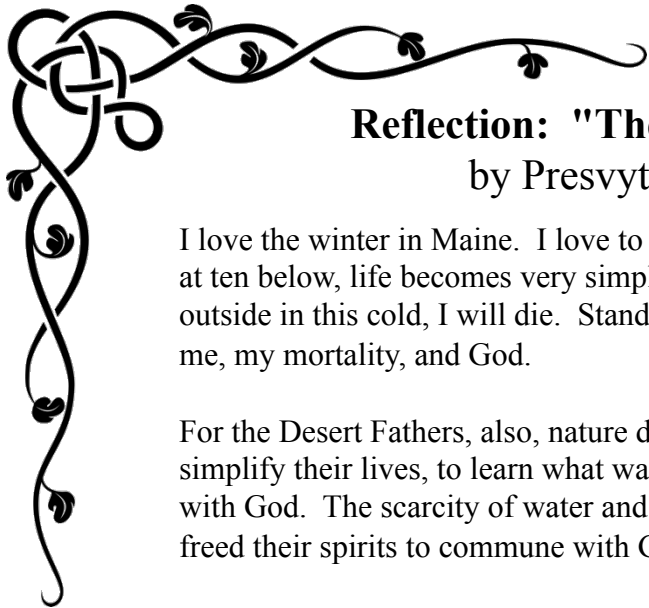
To all the Christmas Carolers: Athena Broutas, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Mary Limberis, Sharon Lealos, Augie DeSiervo & Valerie, the Flanzala Family, the Mitchell Family, Fr. Adam & Lisa, Annie Philips, and Georgia Paul. It was a lovely evening!

Parking Notice

With winter approaching please keep in mind the parking regulations as set forth by the City of Bangor for reasons of safety. In the event of snow accumulation please park as follows:

On odd days (e.g. Dec. 1st) park on the odd side of the street (opposite the Church).

On even days (e.g. Dec. 8th) park on the even side of the street (same side as the church). Also, please allow room directly in front of the church so that parishioners maybe dropped off with ease.



Reflection: "The Maine Winter as Desert"

by Presvytera Lisa Metropoulos

I love the winter in Maine. I love to go outside on a still, cold, clear winter night. On a night at ten below, life becomes very simple. Nature forces our hand. The reality hits: if I stay outside in this cold, I will die. Standing there, surrounded by the cold, clear night, it is just me, my mortality, and God.

For the Desert Fathers, also, nature did the same thing. They went into the arid, hot desert to simplify their lives, to learn what was important, to come face to face with their mortality and with God. The scarcity of water and the heat limited their physical choices but, as a result, it freed their spirits to commune with God.

We also live in a place where nature can be extreme. We are fortunate that we do not need to go to the desert to find this. The Maine winter is our desert, whether we like it or not. In our present day, with our wealth of technology, we can often choose to try to ignore the cold. We can try to pretend that we live in Southern California. We have remote control cars that we can start warming up even before we ever leave our houses or workplace. We can use lots of oil to keep our homes climate controlled at a comfortable, year-round seventy-two degrees. We can choose to continue with our hectic schedules and deal with, as annoyances, the times we have to get up early to snow blow the driveway or get our feet wet negotiating the slush in the supermarket parking lot.

On the other hand, we can make the choice to embrace our winter desert, to meet it head-on, to live with the reality it presents us, to rest in it. We can choose to acknowledge nature, put on our boots and our wool sweaters, and welcome the cold and the clearly more focused perspective it gives us.

Despite our best efforts, the Maine winter can limit our activities and require us just to stay inside. During a snowstorm, or in the early darkness, our house, our room, becomes our cell. Instead of struggling against it, we can choose to embrace the isolation, to listen to the silence, and to allow it to lead us into "a closer relationship with God," as Fr. Adam would say. This is a blessing.

With the winter also comes depression for many of us. Depression is a spiritual desert. As Fr. John Chryssavgis writes, "Ironically, you do not have to find the desert in your life; it normally catches up with you." Some seasonal depression, of course, is clinical and needs to be addressed medically. For others, however, that seasonal melancholy can be embraced as a reminder of our humility, that we do not have all the answers, that we need to look inward and care for our souls. Fr. John continues, "If we go through this experience involuntarily, then it can be both overwhelming and crushing. If, however, we accept to undergo this experience voluntarily, then it can prove both constructive and liberating" (p. 36).

So, I think we are very fortunate to live in Maine. We do not have to go to the desert to find reality. We meet with it every winter, and we can learn to embrace it as a gift from God to our spirits.

*Quotations from John Chryssavgis, *In the Heart of the Desert*, World Wisdom, Inc, 2008.

Daily Bible Readings January 2013

1. John 10:1-9
Colossians 2:8-12
Luke 2:20-21, 40-52
2. Hebrews 5:4-10
John 3:1-15
3. Acts 10:44-48; 11:1-10
John 1:18-28
4. Romans 8:8-14
Luke 10:1-15
5. 1 Corinthians 9:19-27
Luke 3:1-18
6. Mark 1:9-11
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Matthew 3:13-17
7. Acts 19:1-8
John 1:29-34
8. Romans 6:3-11
John 3:22-33
9. 2 Timothy 2:1-10
Mark 1:9-15
10. Ephesians 4:7-13
Luke 3:19-22
11. Hebrews 13:7-16
Matthew 11:27-30
12. Ephesians 6:10-17
Matthew 4:1-11
13. John 21:1-14
Ephesians 4:7-13
Matthew 4:12-17
14. Hebrews 10:32-38
Luke 12:32-40
15. Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
Luke 12:32-40
16. Acts 12:1-11
John 21:14-25
17. Matthew 11:27-30
Hebrews 13:17-21
Luke 6:17-23
18. John 10:1-9
Hebrews 13:7-16
Matthew 5:14-19
19. Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
Matthew 6:22-33
20. John 21:14-25
2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Luke 17:12-19
21. Philippians 1:12-20
Luke 12:8-12
22. 2 Timothy 1:3-8
Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38;
19:27-30
23. Philippians 3:20-21; 4:1-3
Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5
24. Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
Matthew 22:2-14
25. Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2
John 10:9-16
26. Romans 5:1-10
Mark 1:1-8
27. Matthew 28:16-20
Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2
Luke 19:1-10
28. Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
Luke 6:17-23
29. Hebrews 10:32-38
Mark 9:33-41
30. John 10:9-16
Hebrews 13:7-16
Matthew 5:14-19
31. 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8
Matthew 10:1, 5-8

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU!

Sophia Wirta, Ellen Angel, Brian Page, Kyvele St. Peter, Eleni Nawfel, Kosta Shanos, Glenna Louridas, Chip Fitzpatrick, Chris Limberis, Jason Nicholas Anovich, Theodosia Kelley, Mary Limberis, Marianna DeJesus, Stefania, Kay Gaddis, Barry Levine, Ernie Robinson, Nancy Lowd, Electra Giatrelis, Helen Speronis, Alyce Speronis, Aristeia Halkedis, Gene Lachner, Ussi, and for all the Christians who are struggling in the world.

Daily Bible Readings February 2013

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Romans 8:28-39
Luke 10:19-21 | 11. James 2:14-26
Mark 6:54-56, 7:1-8 | 21. 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:1-5
Mark 12:38-44 |
| 2. Luke 2:25-32
Hebrews 7:7-17
Luke 2:22-40 | 12. James 3:1-10
Mark 7:5-15 | 22. 2 Peter 1:1-10
Mark 13:1-8 |
| 3. Mark 16:1-8
2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Matthew 22:35-46 | 13. James 3:11-18; 4:1-6
Mark 7:14-24 | 23. 2 Paul Timothy 2:11-19
Luke 18:2-8 |
| 4. Hebrews 11:17-31
Mark 5:24-34 | 14. James 4:7-17; 5:1-9
Mark 7:24-30 | 24. Luke 24:13-35
2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Luke 18:10-14 |
| 5. Hebrews 12:25-27; 13:22-25
Mark 6:1-7 | 15. 1 Peter 1:1-25; 2:1-10
Mark 8:1-10 | 25. 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2:1-9
Mark 13:9-13 |
| 6. James 1:1-18
Mark 6:7-13 | 16. 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23
Matthew 24:34-37, 42-44 | 26. 2 Peter 2:9-22
Mark 13:14-23 |
| 7. James 1:19-27
Mark 6:30-45 | 17. Luke 24:1-12
2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1
Matthew 15:21-28 | 27. 2 Peter 3:1-18
Mark 13:24-31 |
| 8. Ephesians 2:4-10
Matthew 10:16-22 | 18. 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:1-9
Mark 12:13-17 | 28. 1 John 1:8-10; 2:1-6
Mark 13:31-37; 14:1-2 |
| 9. Colossians 1:1-6
Matthew 24:1-13 | 19. 1 Peter 3:10-22
Mark 12:18-27 | |
| 10. Mark 16:9-20
2 Timothy 2:1-10
Matthew 25:14-30 | 20. 1 Peter 4:1-11
Mark 12:28-37 | |

Potluck for Coffee Hour & Sponsors

When there is no one signed up for the coffee hour on a specific day, please feel free to bring in something that you would like to contribute as a potluck item. If anyone would like to sponsor a coffee hour on any particular Sunday, please see Presvytera Lisa to reserve the date.

Thank you to all those who contribute toward the Coffee Hour!

2012 Christmas Envelopes

Alex & Elizabeth Dragatsi, Georgia Paul, Astrid Andreescu, Peter & Glenna Louridas, Christos Petridis, Anna Stanley, John Cox & Debra Sinclair, Alyce Speronis, Brian & Paula Pag, Eugene & Maria Muller, Lee & Cathy Speronis, George & Sharon Leakos, Seviciu Family, Raluca & Mircea Rusu, Arthur & Maria Brountas, Chris & Bonnie Hadiaris, Andrei & Sayoko Alyokhin, Bert & Patty Michaud, George Petrikas (in memory of his parents), Nicholas George, Fr. Adam & Pt. Lisa, Pete & Maria Metropoulos, Matei Ilina & Anne-Marie Stroian, Jack & Hopie Montgomery, Chip & Kathy Fitzpatrick, Christian Meyer, David & Donna Walter, Blejeru Family, Medvid Family, Cate Davis, Flanzala Family, Nicholas & Calliope Kesaris, Olga Wells, Elizabeth Markowsky, Leo & Susan Jonason, Eleni Angel, Charles & Artemis Bennett, Paula K. Stamos, Harvey & Diane Sprague, Harold & Najla Joseph, Kyvele St. Peter (in loving memory of Sheldon St. Peter)



We give thanks for all who sent cards and envelopes this Christmas season! The total donated was **\$3473 !!**
Happy New Year!



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2012 Stewardship Status Final Report

Number of Stewards:	90
Stewardship Target:	\$50,000
Stewardship Gifts Pledged:	54,470
Stewardship Gifts Rec'd:	<u>51,490</u>
Outstanding:	\$ 2,980

Dr. Spyridon Akrivakis, Judith Aldrich, Charlene Alling, Angela Aloupis, Dr. Vance Aloupis, Dr. Astrid Andreescu, Eleni Angel, Jonathan Aretakis & Ann Cannizzaro, Aaron & Sarah Asimakopoulos, Tyra Baker, Mr & Mrs Charles Bennett, Radu & Monica Blejeru, Mr & Mrs Stephen Bonstedt, Arthur & Maria Brountas, George & Kim Brountas, Helen Brountas, Mark & Susan Brountas, Peter Brountas, Paul & Polly Moutevelis-Burgess, George & Kim Callas, Dianna Christakos, John Cox & Debra Sinclair, Kevin & Sherri Cox, Augie Desiervo, Mr & Mrs Alex Dragatsi, Athena Duddy, Dr. Basil Eleftreriou, Chip & Kathy Fitzpatrick, Paul & Maria Flanzala, Nick & Grace George, Nicholas George, Winslow HOP, Cindy Ireland, Leo & Susan Jonason, Harold & Najla Joseph, Mike & Karen Kelley, Phyllis Kelley, Christos Karagiannes, Lambros & Cynthia Karris, Nick & Callie Kesaris, Nick & Sue Kesaris, Kisimatakis Family, Dr. Anastasios Konstantakos, Konstantin & Zoe Konstantakos, Drs. Timothy & Allison Kulikowski, Johan & Joan Selmer-Larsen, George & Sharon Lealos, Ann Leen, Katie Limberis & Roy Dacke, Peter & Glenna Louridas, Claudia Lowd, Chris & Neia Luck, Elizabeth Markowsky, Kyriacos & Emily Markides, Fr Adam & Lisa Metropoulos, Bert & Patty Michaud, John & Eleni Mihalopoulos, Scott & Jan Mitchell, Jack & Hopie Montgomery, Dr. Nicholas Nawfel, Joshua & Ann Nichols, Brian & Paula Page, Jerry & Martha Pangakis, Georgia Paul, Bryan & Deta Pearce, Mr & Mrs Christos Petridis, George Petrikas, George & Norah Predaris, Jon & Mary Predaris, Penny Rees, John Rozos, Kyvele St. Peter, Alex & Claudia Seviciu, Allen & Joan Shaw, Mrs. Peter Skoufis, Ambrose & Marina Smitherman, Lee & Cathy Speronis, George Spofford, John & Koula Spofford, Nikki Spofford, Harvey & Diana Sprague, Paula Stamos, Anna Stanley, Matei Iilina & Ann-Marie Stroian, Scott & Domenica Vafiades, Alex & Fran Vardamis, Dave & Donna Walter, Joe & Olga Wells, Sophia Wirta

We would like to thank every one for their generous support of our mission here at St. George. Without everyone's help we would never be able to sustain our parish. Just a reminder , if you still have an outstanding balance from 2012, please to try to pay as soon as possible so we can close out the year. Thank you again!

JANUARY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10am Liturgy for St. Basil the Great	2	3	4 10am Hours of Epiphany	5 6pm Great Vespers for Epiphany
6 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for Theophany	7 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for St. John the Baptist	8	9	10	11	12 6pm Great Vespers
13 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for Sunday after Theophany	14	15	16	17	18 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for St. Athanasios	19 No Great Vespers
20 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for 12th Sunday of Luke Vasilopita Luncheon	21	22	23	24 5:30pm Vesperal Liturgy for St. Gregory the Theologian	25	26 10am Liturgy in Waterville No Great Vespers
27 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for 15th Sunday of Luke	28	29 5:30pm Vesperal Liturgy for the Three Hierarchs	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 5:30pm Vesperal Liturgy for the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple	2 No Great Vespers
3 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for 15 th Sunday of Matthew	4	5 5:30pm Vesperal Liturgy for St. Photios	6	7	8	9 6pm Great Vespers
10 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for 16 th Sunday of Matthew	11	12	13	14	15	16 6pm Great Vespers
17 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for 17 th Sunday of Matthew	18	19	20	21	22	23 10am Waterville Liturgy No Great Vespers
24 9am Orthros w/ Liturgy Following for Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Triodion Begins	25	26	27	28		

**ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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