

The Messenger

Volume 7, Issue 7

Prokopios the Great Martyr & Theodosia July 8

JULY 2008

Editor: Cathy Speronis

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Apolytikion: Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee received the prize of the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

Kontakion: Devoutly aflame with godly zeal for Christ thy Lord, and armed with the strength and power of the precious Cross, thou didst cast down headlong thy foes' exalted pride, O Prokopios, exalting Christ's holy Church, advancing in faith and shedding light on us.

The Holy Great Martyr Prokopios, in the world Neanius, a native of Jerusalem, lived and suffered during the reign of the emperor Diocletian (284-305). His father, an eminent Roman by the name of Christopher, was a Christian, but the mother of the saint, Theodosia, remained a pagan. He was early deprived of his father, and the young child was raised by his mother. Having received an excellent secular education, he was introduced to Diocletian in the very first year of the emperor's accession to the throne, and he quickly advanced in government service. Towards the year 303, when open persecution against Christians began, Neanius was sent as a proconsul to Alexandria with orders to mercilessly persecute the Church of God.

On the way to Egypt, near the Syrian city of Apamea, Neanius had a vision of the Lord Jesus, similar to the vision of Saul on the road to Damascus. A divine voice exclaimed, "Neanius, why do you persecute Me?" Neanius asked, "Who are you, Lord?" "I am the crucified Jesus, the Son of God." At that moment a radiant Cross appeared in the air. Neanius felt an inexpressible joy and spiritual happiness in his heart and he was transformed from being a persecutor into a zealous follower of Christ. From this point in time Neanius became favorably disposed towards Christians and fought victoriously against the barbarians.

The words of the Savior came true for the saint, "A man's foes shall be those of his own household" (Mt. 10:36). His mother, a pagan herself, went to the emperor to complain that her son did not worship the ancestral gods. Neanius was summoned to the procurator Judaeus Justus, where he was solemnly handed the decree of Diocletian. Having read through the blasphemous directive, Neanius quietly tore it up before the eyes of everyone. This was a crime, which the Romans regarded as an "insult to authority." Neanius was held under guard and in chains sent to Caesarea of Palestine, where the Apostle Paul once languished. After terrible torments, they threw the saint into a dank prison. That night, a light shone in the prison, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself baptized the suffering confessor, and gave him the name Prokopios.

Repeatedly they led St. Prokopios to the courtroom, demanding that he renounce Christ, and they subjected him to more



tortures. The stolidity of the martyr and his fiery faith brought down God's abundant grace on those who witnessed the execution.

Inspired by the example of Prokopios, many of the holy martyr's former guards and Roman soldiers went beneath the executioner's sword together with their tribunes Nikostrates and Antiochus. Twelve Christian women received martyr's crowns. Also the Saint's own mother, Theodosia who was struck by the great faith and courage of the Christians, and seeing the firmness of her son in bearing terrible sufferings, became repentant and stood in the line of confessors and was executed. Finally the new procurator, Flavian, convinced of the futility of the tortures, sentenced the holy Great Martyr Prokopios to beheading by the sword. By night Christians took up his much-tortured body, and with tears and prayers, they committed it to the earth. This was the first martyrdom at Caesarea (303).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow parishioners of St. George,

My hope and prayer is that everyone is well and enjoying our lovely Maine summer weather!

I want to alert everyone that our semi-annual General Assembly has been postponed to Sunday, July 27th. Please be sure to mark your calendars for this important meeting. Your input and help is very important to the Council in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.

Please also be aware that Fr. Adam and Presvytera Lisa will be away on vacation in July and that the church will be closed on July 6th.

One of the upcoming special events that the church is sponsoring as a fund raiser as well as a "fun" raiser is the "Big Fat Greek Dance" on Friday, July 18th from 7- 11p.m. Please plan to attend and support not only your church, but the committee who have worked so hard to make this a huge success. Tickets are now available through Susan Jonason or Cathy Speronis. Plan to bring your friends for a fun-filled evening!

Also upcoming is our major fund raiser in August – the annual American Folk Festival on the Waterfront. Lee Speronis assures us that everything is well under way and we may even have a new offering this year! Please plan to sign up to help during that very busy weekend – August 22- 24. If you find that you are unable to help work that weekend but would like to help, please consider donating a case of tomatoes (\$25) or a case of lemons (\$35) or whatever you can do. Lee is also looking to purchase a second 4' stainless table to help with the prep work (\$200), so if a few folks got together, perhaps we could accomplish this, too. With everyone's help, we can do wonders!!

Until we see one another again in church, I wish all of you a happy summer!

Yours in Christ,
Paula C. Page, President
Parish Council

FEE SCHEDULES

From time to time, people ask about the fee schedules at the Church. We, of course, do not charge for the sacraments. The charges are for the use of the Church building, hall, candles, etc. For any of these services to be performed, it is necessary to abide by the rules laid down in the Archdiocese Regulations.

Weddings	\$200.00
Baptisms	\$200.00
Funerals	\$200.00
Memorial Services	
With candles	\$ 25.00
Without candles	\$ 0.00
40-Day Memorial	\$ 0.00
Chrismations	\$100.00
Baby Churchings	\$ 0.00
Trisagion Prayers	\$ 0.00

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.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2008

Paula Page, President.....	866-2297
Maria Brontas, Vice-President.....	942-5718
Susan Jonason , Secretary.....	945-2964
Lee Speronis, Treasurer.....	942-7822
Kathy Fitzpatrick.....	942-7532
George Leakos.....	989-2166
Ambrose Smitherman.....	866-7717

"Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus"

JULY HAPPENINGS

- July 1st** - Father Adam and Presvytera Lisa on vacation until July 11th
July 5th - No Great Vespers
July 6th - 10 am Church open for Prayers
July 12th - 6 pm Great Vespers
July 13th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council
July 17th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - St. Marina
July 18th - 7 pm - 11 pm "Big Fat Greek Dance"
July 19th - 6 pm Great Vespers
July 20th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - 5th Sunday of Matthew
July 21st - Fr. Adam away at the Metropolis Camp in New Hampshire until the 25th
July 26th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - St. Paraskevi; 6 pm Great Vespers
July 27th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - 6th Sunday of Matthew St. Panteleimon; General Assembly Meeting
Aug. 1st - Beginning of the Fast for the Theotokos; 6:30 pm Paraclesis
Aug. 2nd - 6 pm Great Vespers
Aug. 3rd - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - 7th Sunday of Matthew
Aug. 4th - 6:30 pm Paraclesis
Aug. 6th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - for the Feast of the Transfiguration; 6:30 pm Paraclesis
Aug. 8th - 6:30 pm Paraclesis
Aug 9th - 6 pm Great Vespers

Prayer before Communion

At Divine Liturgy, the choir will be leading the Congregation in the liturgical prayer of Confession before Communion. This beautiful prayer of Confession, by St. John Chrysostom, can be found in the red *Prayer Book* that is in the pews, on page 62.

Tuesdays at John's

On Tuesday, July 15th, is the monthly get-together at John Howard's home from 3 pm to 5 pm. This Care Committee-sponsored gathering is for anyone who would just like to get out of the house. We will be playing cards and board games and enjoy some refreshments. John's home is at 146 Leighton Street in Bangor (942-4020). For directions or more information, Presvytera Lisa can also be called at 947-4709.

Church Yard Sale Success!

The Church Yard Sale was a great success in many ways. Thanks to everyone who donated or worked so hard to get it together: Maria Brountas, Kathy & Chip Fitzpatrick, Maria Flanzala, Maddy Herrold & Family, John Howard, Phyllis Kelley, Allison & Seraphim Kulikowski, Chris & Karen Maas, Elizabeth Markowsky, The Metropoulos Family, Maria Muller, Brian & Paula Page, Marina & Catherine Smitherman, The Speronis Family, The Spofford Family, and Sophia Wirta. The sale earned \$678.35 for the church! We anticipate this to be an annual event every June, so when you come across things you don't want any more, please consider setting them aside in a "church box" for donation to next year's sale.

Experienced Babysitter / Housecleaner Seeks Employment

Parishioner Maddy Herrold is available to do babysitting, housecleaning, or yardwork. Please contact her at 659-7016 or Presvytera Lisa at 947-4709.

OPA!!! COMING TO BANGOR THE BIG FAT GREEK DANCE - FRIDAY, JULY 18

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm at Wellman Commons

Union Street Bangor \$25 advance/ \$30 at the door

Tickets available at Angelo's Pizzeria, Bangor House of Pizza and Captain Nick's

**Greek Appetizers, Roast Lamb, Baklava, Cash Bar, Music, Dancing,
"OPALOON" Prize Drawings (B.Y.O.W. - bring your own Windex)**

Presented by the same Happy Greek Orthodox who are featured each year at the American Folk Festival Greek Taverna. 100% of proceeds support repairs needed for a vandalized window.

**For more information contact St. George Greek Orthodox Church
Sanford St., Bangor 945-9588**

The American Folk Festival 2008 August 22, 23 & 24

Nine weeks and counting! Thank you to all who have volunteered to help at the booth and with prep work this year. More volunteers are needed though so anything you would be able to do would be greatly appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet posted downstairs. Please let us know what days will work for you as soon as possible so that we can start making the schedule. Susan Jonason will be in charge of volunteers again this year - Thank You, Susan. You can contact her directly or Lee and I if you have any questions.

Spanakopita baking and wrapping is being organized by Presvytera Lisa and I. We may be having our volunteers bake the spanakopita in their homes once again—we'll keep you posted. Please sign up on the volunteer sheets downstairs and if you have any questions feel free to give me a call, leave me a message or drop me an email. Thanks.

The food that we will be serving will be the same as last year with one addition - we will be offering Maine Rizogalo, creamy Greek rice pudding with fresh wild Maine blueberry sauce and whipped topping. M-m-m-m it's good!

We are very eager to make this a profitable event for St. George as well as a fun event for our community. Looking forward to working with you all again this year!

Lee and Cathy Speronis 942-7822
Email: catthecook@roadrunner.com

TA NEA (The News)

Yay! Summer is here and there are so many things to be thankful for: sunny days, cool pine-scented breezes, colorful flowers, fresh locally grown produce, outdoor activities, vacations and family gatherings - just to name a few! May everyone have a wonderful and blessed summer this 2008 as we continually thank God for all that we have.

Congratulations to **Susan Jonason** who was handed the role of President of the afternoon Rotary Club of Bangor on Tuesday, June 24th. Current president, **Steve Johnson** gave an inspiring speech before turning the presidency over to Susan. Susan has a lot of great ideas and will be an incredible leader for this wonderful organization. Also, congratulations go out to Susan for organizing the Astronaut's Ball which was held at Wellman Commons on June 20th. It was a very successful event which included a live band with our very own **Leo Jonason** on drums. Thank you both for making such a memorable event.

The Speronis Family will be traveling to Stoneham, MA to visit with Lee's family and then to Long Island to visit with Cathy's family. They will be heading back on July 12th with their "Tallahassee Family" who will be staying with them in Bangor for a few weeks.

Cathy Speronis was the guest chef at **Avalon Village in Hampden** for a testimonial dinner. She cooked for 16 special guests. Her wonderful assistants, **Isabelle Jonason** and **Ginger Fitzgerald** (the cook at Avalon), had a very organized and smooth evening as the seated dinner proceeded. It was great fun and a great success! Cathy will be returning to Avalon in July to cook for a Barbeque, and then in the fall to teach cooking classes to the residents.

Kelsey D. Reid, daughter of **Domenica and Scott Vafiades** was named to the Syracuse University Spring 2008 Dean's List with a semester GPA of 3.6. Kelsey will be a junior at Syracuse and is majoring in Psychology, Geography and minoring in Forensic Science.

From **Sue and Nick Kesaris**: "Our son, **Nick** married **Jennifer Donahue** on 5/17/08 with Jennifer's uncle, **Father Victor Hartley** officiating. Jennifer also graduated 5/10/08 from Husson College with her Bachelor of Science (BS) in Nursing. She passed her State Nursing boards on 6/3/08 & received her Maine State Nursing license so we are very proud but very tired. She also has been accepted into Husson's graduate program for her Master's in Nursing. Nick will be graduating this August from the University of Maine @ Augusta, Bangor Campus with his BA in Business Management. Please say hi to everyone for us. Many thanks, Nick & Sue"

In June, **Louise Chiaparas (Mrs. Spero)** of Allentown, PA visited **Georgia Paul** and her Bangor friends. Louise, Spero and their three sons left Bangor in 1980 after being here nearly 25 years. They were very active members of St. George. Louise was president of the Philoptochos and Spero was active on the church board. They have been sorely missed!

From **Marianna DeJesus**: Please tell everyone at church how much I really appreciate their well wishes and prayers. It means a lot to me.

To all the members of the church, **Maria Muller** would like to express her thanks and appreciation for your thoughtfulness in remembering her birthday. The birthday message was pleasant indeed! She sends her love and blessings to all.

Juanita Pellon would like to express her thanks to everyone for your cards and prayers. They mean a lot to her.

Olga & Joe Wells have been very busy opening up their beautiful summer camp.

The evening with musical duo "Four Shillings Short" turned out to be a delightful gathering at **Phyllis Kelley's** home. Thanks so much for hosting them, Phyllis!

Thanks to **John Howard** for hosting the monthly "Tuesday at John's" gathering in his home! An enjoyable time was had at the June gathering with games and surprise birthday treats for **Fr. Adam & Athena Brountas**. Taking part were **Maria Muller, Olga Wells, Sophia Wirta, Augie DeSiervo, Marina & Catherine Smitherman, Presvytera Lisa, plus Fr. Adam and Athena**. These gatherings are open to all parishioners, so watch the *Messenger* for the next gathering date which will be July 15th.

All news is welcome. If you have anything you would like to share my email is catthecook@roadrunner.com. You can also call me at my number above. If I'm not in please leave me a message. Safe travels to all of our summer travelers and continued prayers to those in need.

In love and faith, Cathy

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2008 Stewardship Status (as of 6/15/08)

Stewardship Target.....\$49,690	Stewardship Gifts Pledged.....\$42,595
Stewardship Units Pledged.....76	Stewardship Gifts Rec'd.....-29,035
	Current Stewardship Deficit.....\$13,560

PLEDGES RECEIVED AS OF JUNE 15, 2008

Alling, Charlene	Indianos, Rose	Predaris, Anastasia
Aloupis, Angela	Jolander, Katherine Haliotis	Predaris, George & Norah
Aloupis, Athena	Jonason, Leonidas & Susan	Predaris, Jon & Mary
Aloupis, Vance	Karagiannes, Christos & Alice	Rees, Penny
Angel, Richard & Eleni	Kelley, Phyllis	Rozos, John S.
Aretakis, Jonathan & Ann	Kesaris, Nick & Callie	Seviciu, Alexander & Claudia
Barbalias, Louis	Kisamitakis, Dino & Nicole	Shaw, F. Allen & Joan
Brountas, Arthur & Maria	Leakos, George	Skoufis, Mrs. Peter J.
Brountas, Peter	Limberis, Chris & Nancy	Smalley, David & Susan
Burgess, Paul & Polly Moutevelis	Limberis, Mary	Smith, Barbara
Christakos, Dianna Y.	Louridas, Peter & Glenna	Smitherman, Ambrose & Marina
Cox, John & Debra Sinclair	Lowd, Claudia	Soulas, Doris and +Bob
Cox, Kevin, Sherri & Callie	Markides, Kyriacos & Emily	Speronis, Lee & Cathy
Cox, Thomas & Cathy	Markowsky, Elizabeth	Speronis, Peter
Davis, Penelope V.	Metropoulos, Fr. Adam & Lisa	Spofford, John & Koula
DeJesus, Ann-Marie	Michaud, Bert & Patty	Stanley, Anna
DeJesus, Marianne	Montgomery, Jack & Hope	Stamos, Paula Pangakis
DeSiervo, Augie	+Morrill, Helen	Theoharidis, Steven
Duddy, Athena	Muller, Maria	Turla, Niko & Elizabeth
Fitzpatrick, Chip & Kathy	Nawfel, Dr. Michael M. & Dolores	Vafiades, Scott & Domenica
Flanzala, Paul & Maria	Page, Brian & Paula	Vardamis, Alex & Fran
George, Nick & Grace	Pangakis, Jerry & Martha	Wells, Joe & Olga
George, Suzanne	Paul, Georgia	Wirta, Sophia
Gressitt, Stevan	Pearce, Bryan & Deta	Zacas, Miltiades & Dora Klimis-
Harrison, Stanley	Petrides, Christos	
Howard, John	Petrikas, George	

Our 2008 Stewardship Drive continues on a pace that gives us a good chance of achieving the goal established by the Parish Assembly. As noted above, we have 76 Stewardship Units pledged for a total of \$42,595 or 83.8% of our targeted goal of \$49,690.

The first six months of the '08 Drive produced the following results:

Month	# of Units	Amount Pledged
January.....	33.....	\$26,665
February.....	23.....	10,885
March.....	6.....	1,820
April.....	5.....	1,245
May.....	0.....	0
June.....	4.....	720
	5 No Commitment Forms	1,260
Totals:	76	\$42,595

If you received the June 1st follow-up letter and have not responded, please take a moment to fill out your pledge form for 2008 and submit it to the Church at your earliest convenience.

Thank you and may God bless us, everyone!
 Hope P. Montgomery, Chair - Stewardship Committee '08

FINANCIAL STATEMENT as of May. 31, 2008

	<u>May '08</u>	<u>YTD '08</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	\$1,815.90	\$36,695.63
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	\$7,529.39	\$38,466.77
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$5,713.49)	(\$ 1,771.14)

We Give Thanks

To the Proshoro bakers: John Howard, Maria Muller, Kyvele St. Peter, Vasiliki Panakis, Marina Smitherman, Maria Flanzala, Presvytera Lisa, and Claudia Seviciu.

To Niko Turla of Angelo's Pizza for regularly donating his business' bottles to the church's account at Big Red Redemption. This helps a lot!

To Basil & Barbara Eleftheriou for their donation of wine for the altar.

Fr. Adam & Lisa would like to send a big "Thank You!" out to the Sunday School Children, Sherri Cox & Kathy Fitzpatrick for a great year, and also for their sweet card, the "bobble-head" Maine Loon, and the yummy gift card! We will enjoy it! Love to you all!

Bottle Redemption – An Easy Way To Help Your Church!

For several months now, St. George Church has had an account with Big Red Redemption, the bottle redemption business run by Community Health and Counseling in Bangor. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far! To date, the account has earned St. George Church just over \$100! Big Red is open Monday through Saturday and is located around the corner from the church on Main Street, next to the fire station. Just bring your recyclable bottles and cans to the loading dock, and tell the attendant to put them on the "Saint George Church account." It's that easy!

St. George Wish List

- 1) Altar Angels for altar needs: wine, incense, charcoal, etc...
- 2) Renovation of the bathrooms, making them handicapped accessible.

*If anyone would like to contribute to the needs of St. George please see a Parish Council member.
Thank you.*

Refrigerator for Sale

High quality refrigerator for sale. Stainless Steel with French doors and freezer on the bottom. It works great!

For more information, please call 659-7016

ST. GEORGE "CARE COMMITTEE" ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS
What a wonderful way to be involved in our St. George community while helping others!

The next Care Committee is to be announced.
For more information or if you know of a need the Committee could meet,
Please contact Presvytera Lisa (947-4709)

Daily Bible Readings JULY 2008

1. Matthew 10:1, 5-8
1 Corinthians 12:27-31;
13:1-8
2. Luke 1:39-49, 56
Hebrews 9:1-7
3. Matthew 10:23-31
Romans 8:22-27
4. Matthew 10:32-36; 11:1
Romans 9:6-19
5. Matthew 11:27-30
Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
6. Matthew 6:22-33
Romans 5:1-11
7. Mark 5:24-34
Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
8. Luke 6:17-19, 9:1-2,
10:16-22
1 Timothy 4:9-15
9. Matthew 11:20-26
Romans 11:2-12
10. Matthew 11:27-30
Romans 11:13-24
11. Luke 7:36-50
2 Corinthians 6:1-10
12. Matthew 8:14-23
Romans 6:11-17
13. Matthew 5:14-19
Titus 3:8-15
14. Matthew 12:9-13
Romans 16:1-16
15. Matthew 17:24-27; 18:1-4
1 Corinthians 13:11-14;
14:1-5
16. Matthew 12:38-45
Romans 15:7-16
17. Mark 5:24-34
Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
18. Matthew 13:3-9
Romans 16:1-16
19. Matthew 9:9-13
Romans 8:14-21
20. Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1
James 5:10-20
21. Matthew 13:10-23,43
Romans 16:17-24
22. Luke 8:1-3
1 Corinthians 9:2-12
23. Matthew 13:31-36
1 Corinthians 2:9-16;
3:1-8
24. Matthew 13:36-43
1 Corinthians 3:18-23
25. Luke 8:16-21
Galatians 4:22-27
26. Mark 5:24-34
Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
27. Matthew 9:1-8
2 Timothy 2:1-10
28. Matthew 13:54-58
Acts 6:1-7
29. Matthew 14:1-13
1 Corinthians 6:20;
7:1-12
30. Matthew 14:35-36;
15:1-11
1 Corinthians 7:12-24
31. Matthew 15:12-21
1 Corinthians 7:24-35

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU!

☞ Louis Barbalias ☞
 ☞ Penelope (Poppy) Davis ☞
 Ann-Marie DeJesus ☞ Marianna DeJesus
 Bill Herrold ☞ Juanita Pellon
 Tom Rae ☞ Sheldon St. Peter
 ☞ Colby Warman ☞

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE SPECIAL
PEOPLE IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

Deaths

Sincere sympathy to **Nancy & Chris Limberis and family** on the passing in late May of her dear mother, **Beatrice "Bea" Booker**.

Condolences to **Sharon Cyr and family** on the passing of her grandmother.

On June 4th, Sherri Cox lost her brother, **Richard "Gene" E. Frost**. Our hearts go out to **Sherri, Kevin and family**.

We also extend our sympathy to **Brian & Paula Page** on the recent passing of Brian's brother, **Robert Page**.

+May their memories be eternal+

*COFFEE HOUR * *BOUQUETS*

June 8th - The Church
 June 15th - The Sunday School
 June 22nd - George Lealos & Sharon Cyr
 June 29th - The Flanzala Family

**Many thanks to those who offered Coffee
Hours during this past month!**

Family in Need

There is a family in need of a used mini-van in inspectable condition. Please contact Presvytera Lisa (947-4709) for more information.

*"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.
(Hebrews 13:17-18)*

"The Priest is the messenger of God who is sent to you by God, and he proclaims to you the way of salvation and invites you in the name of God into His eternal Kingdom. For this reason, revere him as the messenger of God that proclaims to you such good things, and who invites you to them. 'He that receives you receives Me,' (Mt. 10:40) says the Lord. So then we ask ourselves, do we receive and revere the priest as the messenger of Christ. Because the priest provides for the common good, and as he looks after you as well as for all so that all may receive eternal salvation. If you call him father, then love him as your father and benefactor, and be grateful to him. You call him father, that is well: he begets you as well as others, not to the temporary, but to eternal life. Love him, then, as so great a father to you. You love your father according to the flesh, how much more ought you love this father who prays for you in spirit. As he takes care and provides for all and for you, do not leave him in need, but help him in his requests and supply his needs, that he may have time to take care and look after the common good. Thus by mutual love and benefaction the common good will not be without success. If you see in the priest such weaknesses as occur even among the people, do not be scandalized and do not judge him, but understand that the priest is a man, just like everyone else, and that he has the same weaknesses as do the rest of the people. Because the priest is subject to many temptations, and the devil and his evil servants war against him most especially, therefore he also needs the special help and support of God. Then, you, and all the people as well, must pray to God for him that He may help him and strengthen him. The happiness of the household depends on a good householder, the happiness of soldiers depends on a good commander, and the happiness of a sailing ship depends on a good helmsman. Pray then that the priest may be wise and good, so that Christian society may be happy." (St. Tikhon of Zadonsk)

My brothers and sisters in Christ, we are of one family here at St. George. As your spiritual father, it is my responsibility to guide you in your spiritual life. In doing so, I myself must have a spiritual life. And even as I need a spiritual father to guide and direct my way of living, so too must we all have a spiritual direction else we will be lost in this ever changing world that is driven by selfish and unchristian morals and desires. An Archbishop of the Church recently said, "We are living in a strange time, when all the true and healthy Christian concepts are being replaced by false and deceitful concepts, discovered often with an evil intention with the undoubted intention, naturally, of drawing people away from the right path of a truly Christian life. In all of this there can be discerned some kind of rationally acting black hand which is working to bind people as tightly as possible to this temporary, earthly life by forcing them to forget the future life, the eternal life assuredly awaiting us all. We must be clearly aware of the kind of time in which we live. A terrible, unrelieved, hopeless unscrupulousness has taken possession of many people. The true doctrine of the faith and the Church for which the first Christians died in such tortures has become a hollow sound for the majority of modern "Christians." They neither know this doctrine, nor do they desire to know it, for they are indifferent to it. Dull, cold indifference to almost anything which bears the imprint of ideological content and seeking in everything only one's own personal advantage. This is the character of our time."

It is very reasonable to assume that there are two main reasons our churches are not full. One is the world is very, very evil, and people are not interested in a Christian way of life. They may be interested in giving Christian lipservice, but not in actually ordering their lives completely according to Christ. That's part of it. But another part of it is, we don't really reflect the light of Christ in our lives. We don't profess Christ in how we live, how we think, how we prioritize. If we truly come out of this world and are citizens of heaven, then every single person in our workplace should notice something about us, or think we're different. Some may hate us because of it. Some hated Christ. But there was no one that encountered Christ that did not notice something about Him, that did not have to come to a decision because of Him. Now should it not be the same for us?

We must confess Christ before men. We have this cloud of witnesses called saints. Look what they did: through faith they subdued kingdoms, they wrought righteousness, they obtained promises, they stopped the mouths of lions, they were sawn asunder, they wandered about in sheep skins and in goat skins. The world was not even worthy of them. All of these things were struggles. None of these things that I just mentioned are pleasant. All of them were difficult trials. The Christian life is indeed a trial, a difficulty; it is an arena; it is a life-or-death struggle.

If this causes our hearts to contract and be afraid, then we must beg and pray that the Holy Spirit will indwell in us more. This will allow us to be joyful as we endure struggles, and pain, and grief, and endure to the end, and come to the kingdom of heaven. The saints are proof that the resurrection is real. The resurrection is true. And this changes a man. This news is the best news that can be said. There is nothing greater. The resurrection changes us! Now our life sometimes is filled with bitterness and difficulty. Some of it is from without, brought on by those whom we know, or whom we don't know. Some of it is from within, from our own sinfulness, our lack of belief, our lack of constancy, our lack of good priorities. But regardless, life is struggle. We understand this. But God has given us the tools to endure in the struggle.

Christianity is not just a belief system, or membership; it is the continual, extreme change of a man. And this is good news. There is so much wrong with us, so much incomplete, so much that hurts, so much that is imperfect, so much that we don't know, so much that makes us sad; all of that God will change. No sadness, no incompleteness, no sickness, no bad thoughts, nothing whatsoever that causes our faces to be downcast, but instead all light. This is what God wants to give us. We must live our life according to this promise, aim for this promise, and struggle for this promise. Such incredible intimacy with God! The saints obtained it. And we can attain it. But only by struggle, only by confessing Christ, only by living according to His commandments.

We can all do this, but it starts from the top. Christ was the supreme exemplar, followed by the Virgin Mary and the Apostles. Later the saints, and martyrs, and fathers and mothers of the Church, the Teachers and the Ascetics, the wonderworking unmercenaries, and all those clergy and laity who have preserved the faith throughout all these years in order for us to understand and live it. That is why we obey and honor our spiritual leaders. And as St. Basil the Great wrote to the Chalcedians, "For this grace we pray night and day to the King of Ages, to preserve the people in the integrity of the faith, and to preserve you, the clergy, for them as a sound head placed at the top and itself supplying foresight for the members of the body subject to it. For, when the eyes perform their functions, then the labor of the hands is skillful, and the movement of the feet without stumbling, and no part of the body is deprived of its care. Therefore, we urge you, as you are doing and intend to do, to cling to one another, and you to whom has been entrusted the care of souls to hold together each and every one and to cherish them as your beloved children. And the people we urge to preserve toward you the reverence and honor owed to fathers, in order that in the proper maintenance of the Church your strength as well as the foundation of the faith in Christ may be preserved, and that the name of God may be glorified, and that the blessing of charity may abound and be multiplied." For when a man is piously disposed towards the priest, he is much more so towards God.

"He who has a father, whatever faults he has, conceals them all. For it is said, 'Do not glory in the dishonor of your father, for your father's dishonor is no glory to you. And if his understanding fails, have patience with him.' And if this is said of our natural fathers, much more of our spiritual fathers. Approach him with pious respect." St. John Chrysostom.

My spiritual children, please pray for me in my struggles as I ask for intercession for each of you before the Lord. Grant me the grace to grow and learn and be able to provide for you all that the Lord graciously allows.

"O Lord, let Thy priests be clothed with righteousness; let them always remember the greatness of their calling; let them not be entangled in the snares of the world and the devil; let them be saved from the cares of the world, the delight in riches, and the desire for other things entering into their hearts." St. John of Kronstadt

Peace,

+Fr. Adam

JULY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Father Adam and Presvytera Lisa on Vacation until July 11th	2	3	4	5 No Great Vespers
6 Church open for prayers at 10 am.	7	8	9	10	11	12 6 pm Great Vespers
13 9 am Orthros with the Liturgy following Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council	14	15	16	17 9 am Orthros with the Liturgy following for St. Marina	18 7 pm - 11 pm "Big Fat Greek Dance"	19 6 pm Great Vespers
20 9 am Orthros with the Liturgy following 5th Sunday of Matthew	21 Fr. Adam away at the Metropolis Camp in New Hampshire until the 25th	22	23	24	25	26 9 am Orthros with The Liturgy following for St. Paraskevi 6 pm Great Vespers
27 9 am Orthros with the Liturgy after for the 6th Sunday of Matthew St. Panteleimon General Assembly Meeting	28	29	30	31	August 1 Beginning of the Fast for the Theotokos Paraclesis at 6:30 pm	August 2 6 pm Great Vespers
August 3 9 am Orthros with the Liturgy following 7th Sunday of Matthew	August 4 Paraclesis at 6:30 pm	August 5	August 6 9 am Orthros with the Liturgy following for the Feast of the Transfiguration Paraclesis at 6:30 pm	August 7	August 8 Paraclesis at 6:30 pm	August 9 6 pm Great Vespers

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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*



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