

The Messenger

Volume 9, Issue 7

Elias the Prophet July 20

July 2009

Editor: Cathy Speronis

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Apolytikion: The incarnate Angel, the Cornerstone of the Prophets, the second Forerunner of the Coming of Christ, the glorious Elias (Elijah), who from above, sent down to Elias the grace to dispel sickness and cleanse lepers, abounds therefore in healing for those who honor him.

Kontakion: O Prophet and foreseer of the great works of God, O greatly renowned Elias (Elijah), who by your word held back the clouds of rain, intercede for us to the only Loving One.

Elias of great fame was from Thisbe or Thesbe, a town of Galaad (Gilead), beyond the Jordan. He was of priestly lineage, a man of a solitary and ascetical character, clothed in a mantle of sheep skin, and girded about his loins with a leathern belt. His name is interpreted as "Yah is my God." His zeal for the glory of God was compared to fire, and his speech for teaching and rebuke was likened unto a burning lamp. From this too he received the name Zealot. Therefore, set aflame with such zeal, he sternly reproved the impiety and lawlessness of Ahab and his wife Jezebel. He shut up heaven by means of prayer, and it did not rain for three years and six months. Ravens brought him food for his need when, at God's command, he was hiding by the torrent of Horrath. He multiplied the little flour and oil of the poor widow of Sarephtha of Sidon, who had given him hospitality in her home, and when her son died, he raised him up. He brought down fire from Heaven upon Mount Carmel, and it burned up the sacrifice offered to God before all the people of Israel, that they might know the truth. At the torrent of Kisson, he slew 450 false prophets and priests who worshipped idols and led the people astray. He received food wondrously at the hand of an Angel, and being strengthened by this food he walked for forty days and forty nights. He beheld God on Mount Horeb, as far as this is possible for human nature. He foretold the destruction of the house of Ahab, and the death of his son Ohozias; and as for the two captains of fifty that were sent by the king, he burned them for their punishment, bringing fire down from Heaven. He divided the flow of the Jordan, and he and his disciple Elisseus passed through as it were on dry land; and finally, while speaking with him, Elias was suddenly snatched away by a fiery chariot in the year 895 B.C., and he ascended as though into heaven, whither God most certainly translated him alive, as He did Enoch



(Gen. 5:24; IV Kings 2: 11). But from thence also, after seven years, by means of an epistle he reproached Joram, the son of Josaphat, as it is written: "And there came a message in writing to him from Elias the Prophet, saying, Thus saith the Lord God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the way," and so forth (II Chron. 21:12). According to the opinion of the majority of the interpreters, this came to pass either through his disciple Elisseus, or through another Prophet when Elias appeared to them, even as he appeared on Mount Tabor to the disciples of Christ.

Reading courtesy of Narthex Press
Apolytikion courtesy of Narthex Press
Kontakion courtesy of Narthex Press

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FEE SCHEDULES

Dear Fellow Members of the Saint George Family,

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.

Summer is upon us and with it has come the rain, but, remember all the rain we get now hopefully will lead to sunny and clear skies for the Folk Festival.

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

Please keep your calendars clear for the last weekend in August. Saint George relies heavily on our participation in the American Folk Festival for the financial health of our Parish. More importantly the amazing participation of our entire community working as a unit is evidence of the spiritual health of the St. George Family.

I would like to take a moment to thank the incredible group of young people in our community. Whether acting as choir director, altar boy, or Sunday School teachers, their 100% participation is truly inspiring.

Also, thank you to all who attended the General Assembly Meeting on June 28th. It is such an honor to be serving with such a talented and dedicated council and all of the input from the Parish community is truly appreciated. We will continue to move forward in order to make improvements and keep the future of St. George bright even during the tough economical times that we face. Every bit of input from our community helps and keeps us moving in a positive direction.

The future of St. George is indeed bright and I look forward to seeing the growth of our incredible community.

In The Love of Christ,
Lee Speronis
President, Parish Council

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 2009

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 Brountas.....	989-4987
Kevin Cox.....	667-6257
Christopher Limberis.....	942-9243
Jack Montgomery.....	945-6022

O Prophet and foreseer of the great works of God, O greatly renowned Elias (Elijah), who by your word held back the clouds of rain, intercede for us to the only Loving One.

JULY HAPPENINGS

June 29th - July 10th - Father Adam and Presvytera Lisa on vacation
July 4th - No Great Vespers
July 5th - 10 am The Church will be open for lighting candles and for prayers
July 11th - No Great Vespers
July 12th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - 5th Sunday of Matthew
July 16th - 5:30 pm Vespers Liturgy for St. Marina
July 18th - 6 pm Great Vespers
July 19th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - 6th Sunday of Matthew
July 20th - Father Adam will be at Metropolis Camp until Friday afternoon, July 24th
July 25th - 6 pm Great Vespers
July 26th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - 7th Sunday of Matthew
July 27th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - Saint Panteleimon
August 1st - No Great Vespers - Dormition fast begins
August 2nd - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - 8th Sunday of Matthew
August 3rd - 6:30 pm Paraclesis
August 5th - 6:30 pm Paraclesis
August 6th - 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following - Transfiguration of our Lord
August 7th - 6:30 pm Paraclesis
August 8th - Church Yard Sale - No Great Vespers

St. George Women's Orthodox Book Group

The ladies of St. George have organized a Women's Orthodox Book Group. The group has met twice so far. Many thanks to Claudia Lowd for hosting our second meeting at which we had nine ladies in attendance! We continue to discuss the book, "Thirsting For God In A Land of Shallow Wells" by Matthew Gallatin.

Our next meeting will be on Friday evening, July 24th, at 6:30, at the home of Maria Flanzala (326-8672) in Castine. At this meeting, we will be focusing on Part III of the book (pages 117 to the end). For more information, or if you would like to arrange to carpool there, please contact Marina Smitherman (866-7717) or Presvytera Lisa (947-4709). It would be great to have as many ladies attend as possible. Everyone is welcome even if you have not attended previous meetings.

Directions to the Flanzala home at 334 The Shore Road in Castine: From Bangor, cross over to Brewer and take South Main Street (Rt. 15 South) to Bucksport. At Bucksport, Rt. 15 merges with Rt. 1 North. After having passed through Bucksport, turn right on Rt. 175. Follow signs towards Castine. Rt. 175 becomes Rt. 166. Then look for Rt. 166A, "The Shore Road," and turn right onto it. Look for the Grange Hall on the right. The Flanzala home is .7 miles from the Grange Hall on the right side of the road. They have a circular driveway, and there will be balloons (or something) marking the entrance. Allow just under an hour for the trip. See you there!

Messenger Correction

In the May issue of The Messenger in the Lenten Needs Section the donation of The Wreath for the Resurrection Banner was made by **Doris and † Bob Soulas**. Thank you for your generous donation and your continued dedication to St. George.

TA NEA (The News)**By Cathy Speronis 118 Poplar Street Bangor, ME 04401 (942-7822)**

Greetings to **Scott and Domenica Vafiades**. I'm a little late getting this news out.

The message is so beautiful!

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 - from **Scott & Domenica Vafiades**: Went to Syracuse University on Friday to pick up **Kelsey's** stuff. We went to St. Sophia's Greek Church Saturday night for the pre-Pascha and then the service. We did not leave till 2 in the morning..there were probably 200 people there. They had a huge organ and choir up above of course...it was missing something...the choir sang, not the parishioners. We miss St. George so much. You know it doesn't make a difference how big the church is, it is what you are used to and the services at St. George are beautiful, where people can sing and be heard, let their feelings out and you our Father are the best. No one can compare with you. You are so in our hearts no matter where we are. Thank you for what you do and what you have taught us and how to really believe. **Christos Anesti!**

We miss you too Scott and Domenica. **Alithos Anesti!**

On Holy Saturday, **Stanley Harrison** was God-father at the baptism of **Andrei Vlassov** at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Salem, MA. Also baptized was 7-month old grandson, **Matvei (Mathew) Sergeivich Vlassov - Nikifoeov**, known as "**Metya**" to his friends, with 13-year old uncle **Dimitri Vlassov** his God-father. Stanley was baptized at the same church "a while back", and has it on good authority he cried at that event although not at this one.

Georgia Paul recently returned from spending a month with her sons and families, **George & Norah Predaris** of Rye, NH and **Jon & Mary Predaris** of Humarock, MA. She especially enjoyed her **grandchildren and great-grandchildren**.

Patty and Bert Michaud are glad to be back in Maine and happy to see their St. George family again. They are most grateful to **Maria Brontas** for so lovingly giving of her time to teach Patty the art of making kolyva ("grurë" in Albanian!). How blessed we are for the love that Maria shares with all of us. They send her their love and thanks.

During the Mount Desert Elementary School's 8th Grade Graduation ceremony, **Madison Luck** was awarded the **Secretary Of State 2009 8th Grade Citizenship Award**. This award is in recognition of outstanding Citizenship, Scholarship and Leadership in school and community. Also, he was one of only two 8th graders that were promoted from his school who attained HIGH HONORS (Straight A's) every trimester for all three years (6th, 7th & 8th Grade). He will be attending Mount Desert High School in the fall.

Congratulations Madison! Quite an accomplishment!!

Ivan Flanzala just returned from a week in Kansas City where he competed at the national-level in Skills USA. Ivan, as first-place state winner in the "Prepared Speech" category, represented the State of Maine, and competed against 49 others. For his speech, Ivan scored a 94%! **Congratulations Ivan! We are proud of you!**

Parishioner **Augie DeSiervo**, who volunteers regularly to clean the church, suffered the loss of many of his possessions in the June 9th fire in his downtown Orono apartment building. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Augie! **Anyone wishing to offer assistance to Augie, please see Fr. Adam.**

Marianna DeJesus in Exeter sends greetings to everyone at church! Hope you are seeing lots of wildlife out your window enjoying your pond, Marianna. We miss you!

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. An enjoyable summer and safe travels to all and continued prayers to those in need.

**In love and faith,
Cathy**



St. George Window Dedication

Thank you to the George Christakos family and Aunt Tassie Predaris who donated the beautiful St. George window that adorns the Church's entryway
In Loving Memory of George Christakos

St. George Yardsale Rescheduled

Thanks to everyone who has offered to donate items and/or their time towards the church yardsale. Due to the unusually soggy weather in June, the yardsale has had to be postponed twice! However, ever confident, we have rescheduled the yardsale for **Saturday, August 8th, from 8 am to 2 pm**. Presvytera Lisa will be in touch with everyone who has expressed an interest in donating or in helping to make arrangements during that week, or contact her at **947-4709**.

Again, thanks as always for your interest and enthusiasm!

Calling All Prosforo Bakers!

Yes, that means the experienced bakers and the recent Prosforo-Baking-Class graduates the "cupboard" is bare! If everyone could bake just a couple loaves, Fr. Adam would be all set for a month or more. And remember, too, that Father can use even those loaves where the seal does not turn out well. So, do your best, and to God be the glory! *Thanks very much for your effort and for your offering!*

Weddings

On Friday evening, June 26th, the marriage of **Keeley Marie Peasley and Nicholas George Leakos** was blessed in the Orthodox Church. **Arthur Brontas** was the sponsor, with twins **Nikko and Drew** as ring bearers.

Best wishes also go out to the **Asimakopoulos family** on the recent wedding, June 27th, of **Alexi Asimakopoulos and Jarrett Greenleaf**.

God bless you all! Na Zisete!

DownEast Divine Liturgy Planned

Fr. Adam is planning to offer a Divine Liturgy on Mt. Desert Island in August for parishioners living along the coast and for Orthodox vacationers in the area. Tentative plans call for a liturgy to be celebrated at the church,

**St. Mary-By-the-Sea, in Northeast Harbor,
on Friday morning, August 21st, at 11 am.**

Please mark this date on your calendar. Also look for more information and directions to St. Mary's in the August Messenger.

American Folk Festival 2009

Festival Committee meeting on Sunday, July 12th following the church coffee.
For more information contact: Lee and Cathy Speronis 942-7822; cathethecook@roadrunner.com

St. George Bottle Redemption

Bottle Redemption helps St. George Church. St. George Church has an "account" at Big Red Redemption Center, on Main Street, Bangor, next to the fire station that is right around the corner from the church. Just drop bottles off there any weekday (they do not need to be counted, despite what the sign says) and make sure to specify that they are for the "St. George Church Account." Recent bottle donations have netted the church \$249! So every little bottle adds up! Sincere thanks to Nikko Turlla at Angelo's Pizza for continuing to donate his business' bottles to the cause. If your business would like to donate your bottles, please contact Presvytera Lisa (947-4709).

Coffee Hour Notice

It has been brought to our attention that some parishioners have allergies to nuts and peanuts. It would be appreciated if dishes with nuts or peanuts could be labeled, so that those with allergies will know to avoid them.

Thanks very much!

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.

Hi All,

Thought you might be interested in this effort to restore Agia Sophia Cathedral in Turkey back to being a Greek Orthodox Church. Best wishes, Polly

AGIA SOPHIA

The European Union Parliament is pressuring the Turkish Government to restore Saint Sophia Cathedral from a museum into a Greek Orthodox Church. However the Parliament has set a requirement of 1,000,000 signatures on a petition before it makes this conversation a prerequisite for Turkey's admission into the European Union.

You are requested to cast your vote by logging on to a link at www.hagiasophiablog.com. This is an opportunity for each of you to have an impact on world events. Get as many Greek Orthodox, other Orthodox and Christian friends of yours to sign the petition and make history.

Metropolis of Boston Summer Camp

The Metropolis of Boston is now taking applications for Orthodox summer camp at the beautiful camp facility in Contoocook, NH. Camp is open to children 8 to 18. There are six week-long sessions, great, well-trained counselors, worship, education in our Orthodox Faith, plus lots of activities, including many water sports. The first session begins June 29th. Scholarships are available. For all the information, please visit the camp website at www.mbcamp.org or call 603-746-4400 or e-mail mbcamp@tds.net.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2009 Stewardship Status (as of 6/14/09)

Stewardship Target \$50,000	Stewardship Gifts Pledged..... \$ 43,689
Stewardship Units pledged..... 75	Stewardship Gifts Rec'd..... - 29,419
Percentage of Goal Achieved..... 87.4%	Current Stewardship Deficit..... \$14,270

PLEDGES RECEIVED AS OF JUNE 14, 2009

Anonymous	Gressitt, Stevan	Pearce, Bryan & Deta
Alling, Charlene	Indianos, Rose	Petrides, Christos & Vassiliki
Aloupis, Angela	Ireland, Cynthia	Petrikas, George
Aloupis, Athena	Jolander, Katherine Haliotis	Predaris, George & Norah
Aloupis, Vance	Jonason, Leonidas & Susan	Predaris, Jon & Mary
Andreescu, Astrid	Karagiannes, Christos & Alice	Rees, Penny
Angel, Richard & Eleni	Karris, Lambros & Cynthia	Rozos, John S.
Aretakis, Jonathan &	Kelley, Phyllis	Shaw, Allen & Joan
Ann Cannizzaro	Kesaris, Nicholas & Callie	Skoufis, Mrs. Peter J.
Barbalias, Louis	Kulikowski, Timothy & Allison	Smith, Barbara
Brountas, Arthur & Maria	Leakos, George	Smitherman, Ambrose & Marina
Brountas, Helen	Limberis, Mary	Soulas, Doris and †Bob
Brountas, Jeannie	Lourides, Peter & Glenna	Speronis, Lee & Cathy
Brountas, Mark & Susan	Markides, Kyriacos & Emily	Spofford, John & Koula
Brountas, Peter	Markowsky, Elizabeth	Stamos, Paula Pangakis
Burgess, Paul & Polly Moutevelis	McCarthy, Ken & Metrona	Stanley, Anna
Christakos, Dianna	Metropoulos, Rev. Adam & Lisa	Stroian, Anne-Marie & Matei Ilina
Cox, John & Debra Sinclair	Metropoulos, Stephen	Theohoridis, Steven & Lisa
Cox, Kevin & Sherri	Michaud, Bert & Patty	Vafiades, Scott & Domenica
Cox, Thomas & Catherine	Mihalopoulos, John & Eleni	Vardamis, Alex & Fran
DeSiervo, Auggie	Montgomery, Jack & Hope	Walter, Dr. David & Donna
Duddy, Athena	Muller, Eugene & Maria	Wells, Joe & Olga
Eleftheriou, Basil & Barbara	Page, Brian & Paula	Wirta, Sophia
Fitzpatrick, Chip & Kathy	Panakis, Athanasios & Vasiliki	Zacas, Miltiades & Dora Klimis-
Flanzala, Paul & Maria	Pangakis, Jerry & Martha	
George, Nicholas & Grace	Paul, Georgia	

Thank you and may God bless us, everyone!

Hope P. Montgomery, Chair
Stewardship Committee '09

FINANCIAL STATEMENT as of June 28, 2009

	<u>June 28 '09</u>	<u>YTD '09</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	\$ 2,456.00	\$ 38,628.32
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	\$ 7,186.51	\$ 44,704.31
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$ 4,730.51)	(\$ 6,075.99)

We Give Thanks

To our Prosforo Bakers: **Maria Flanzala, Vasiliki Panakis, Marina Smitherman and Presvytera Lisa.**

To Sunday School Director **Kathy Fitzpatrick** for organizing the great end-of-the-year activity for the St. George youth. After church on Sunday, June 14th, the students were treated to an afternoon at Blackbeard's. Mini-golf was rained out, but students, teachers, and parents still had a lot of fun in the arcade and ice cream parlor, not to mention the fact that everyone was treated to a huge surprise... Kathy's husband, **Chip**, a professional limousine driver, arrived at church with a luxury limousine in which he transported all the children to and from the amusement park! Sincere thanks, Chip, for making this fun afternoon so very memorable!

To **Sophia Wirta** for her gift of a beautiful new gazebo for use at church yardsales. Sure hope we will have the opportunity to use it this summer, Sophie!

To **Maria Brontas** for preparing the Kollyva for the memorial for **Earl and Rita Zoidis.**

For the donation to the church of **Vangel Asimakopoulos'** electric wheelchair. Vangel always had concern for others in need, and so it is fitting that his wheelchair is now available to help someone who will certainly appreciate it.

Heartfelt thanks from **Fr. Adam** to everyone for your wishes and gifts on his birthday, which coincided this year with the **birthday of Christianity, Pentecost!**

The St. Nicholas Greek Festival

July 17, 18 & 19 rain or shine!

Hours: Friday 5 - 11 pm, Saturday 12 - 11 pm, Sunday 1 - 6 pm

Music & Dancing, Greek Food, Greek Gifts, Children's Activities

www.portsmouthgreekfestival.com

A Notice to Parents

We all want our St. George children to be safe. Please keep aware of where your children are, especially after Liturgy during Coffee Hour on Sundays. Children should be supervised and should not be in the church sanctuary, church office, or in the upstairs meeting room by themselves.

Thanks for being vigilant in this regard!

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 meeting is to be announced.

For more information or if you know of a need the Committee could meet,
Please contact Presvytera Lisa (947-4709)

Donate "In Kind" to Church Coffee Hours

When grocery shopping, just pick up one non-perishable item that could be used at a church coffee hour and leave it on the counter in the church kitchen the next time you are there. Items that could be used include: bread and boxed pastries (that can be put in the kitchen freezer), crackers, chips, canned tuna, canned fruit, salad dressing, cookies, napkins, large zip-lock bags, and paper plates. Your offering will be much appreciated! Sincere thanks to **Augie DeSiervo** for his donation of chicken for the recent church coffee hour.

And to all those who continue to bring offerings to the coffee hours from week to week!

BIBLE READINGS JULY 2009

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. 1 Corinthians 12:27-31;
13:1-8
Matthew 10:1, 5-8</p> <p>2. Luke 1:39-49, 56
Hebrews 9:1-7
Luke 1:39-49, 56</p> <p>3. Romans 11:25-36
Matthew 12:1-8</p> <p>4. Romans 6:11-17
Matthew 8:14-23</p> <p>5. Luke 24:1-12
Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
Matthew 8:5-13</p> <p>6. Romans 12:4-5, 15-21
Matthew 12:9-13</p> <p>7. Romans 14:9-18
Matthew 12:14-16; 22-30</p> <p>8. 1 Timothy 4:9-15
Luke 6:17-19, 9:1-2,
10:16-22</p> <p>9. Romans 15:17-29
Matthew 12:46-50; 13:1-3</p> <p>10. Romans 16:1-16
Matthew 13:3-9</p> <p>11. 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Luke 7:36-50</p> <p>12. Luke 24:13-35
Romans 10:1-10
Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1</p> <p>13. Hebrews 2:2-10
Matthew 13:10-23,43</p> <p>14. 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Matthew 13:24-30</p> <p>15. 1 Corinthians 13:11-14;
14:1-5
Matthew 17:24-27; 18:1-4</p> | <p>16. 1 Corinthians 3:18-23
Matthew 13:36-43</p> <p>17. Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
Mark 5:24-34</p> <p>18. Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 9:18-26</p> <p>19. Luke 24:36-53
Titus 3:8-15
Matthew 5:14-19</p> <p>20. James 5:10-20
Luke 4:22-30</p> <p>21. 1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:1-12
Matthew 14:1-13</p> <p>22. 1 Corinthians 9:2-12
Luke 8:1-3</p> <p>23. 1 Corinthians 7:24-35
Matthew 15:12-21</p> <p>24. 1 Corinthians 7:35-40;
8:1-7
Matthew 15:29-31</p> <p>25. Galatians 4:22-27
Luke 8:16-21</p> <p>26. John 20:1-10
Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
Matthew 9:27-35</p> <p>27. 2 Timothy 2:1-10
Luke 21:12-19</p> <p>28. Acts 6:1-7
Matthew 16:6-12</p> <p>29. 1 Corinthians 10:12-22
Matthew 16:20-24</p> <p>30. 1 Corinthians 10:28-33;
11:1-8
Matthew 16:24-28</p> <p>31. 1 Corinthians 11:8-23
Matthew 17:10-18</p> |
|---|---|

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU!

**Louis Barbalias ☩ Marianna DeJesus
Fletcher Frost ☩ Kay Gaddis
John Howard ☩ Mary Limberis
☩ The son of Joanne Brountas Levine ☩
Hope Montgomery ☩ Mike McNamara
Juanita Pellon ☩ Kosta Shanos
Joel Smitherman ☩ Alyce Speronis
☩ Kyvele & Sheldon St. Peter ☩**

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE SPECIAL PEOPLE IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

MEMORIAL SERVICES OFFERED

June 21st - by Bert and Patty Michaud, a 20-year memorial for the soul of Patty's mother, Aretia (Rita) Zoidis, and a 16 - year memorial for the soul of Patty's father, Evangelos (Earl) Zoidis.

June 28th - by Dee and Gerry Immonen, for the soul of their son Mikos Lukas.

✠ MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL ✠

RECENT BIRTH

It is a joy to announce the birth of baby **Ari Alexander**, born on June 22nd to **Aaron and Sarah Asimakopoulos**. Congratulations to the whole family, including new grandmother, **Nancy Asimakopoulos**.

NA SAS ZISI!

COFFEE HOUR * *BOUQUETS

June 7th - Sophia Wirta in loving memory of her mother, **Eleftheria George** who passed away 50 years ago, and of her father, **Naum**.

June 14th - The Church

June 21st - The family of Rita and Earl Zoidis, lovingly in their memory.

June 28th - The Church

Thanks to those who offered Coffee Hours during this past month!

Prayer is the most sublime experience of the human soul, and worship is the most profound activity of the people of God. "There is no life without prayer. Without prayer there is only madness and horror. The soul of Orthodoxy consists in the gift of prayer." (Vasili Razonov)

My Brothers and sisters in Christ, the importance of prayer in our daily lives is essential for spiritual growth and survival. Prayer helps us on our road towards theosis. Combined with personal inner purification and a regular sacramental life, a life of prayer will help significantly in our faith especially during this difficult period in which we live where any form of Christian activity is deemed against the norm or antisocial.

Whatever preoccupies the mind controls the actions of the individual. If our minds are on Christ, then we will do what Christ commands us (to love God and to love one another). But if our minds are centered on the earthly pleasures that detract from our salvation, then we become lost in the myriad passions that lead to spiritual destruction. Preoccupation with vain things and malicious conversations totally incapacitate the spirit of prayer.

Read the Scriptures and study the writings of the Fathers, for they help in our effort to pray by strengthening and invigorating us. A spiritual father once said, "When you arise in the morning, before you begin your work, study the words of God. When you have the words of God as your constant companion, you will not be preoccupied with worldly matters, you will not be troubled, you will not sin." St. Ephraim the Syrian adds this: "The words of God refresh the heat of the soul. Suckle the words of God like an infant so that you may grow."

"For one who desires to live the life of prayer, daily nourishment from Sacred Scripture is indispensable. Study of the Bible expedites the intervention of God in our life. And it is good for such study to precede prayer. In addition to Sacred Scripture, particularly Psalms, the life of the saint of the day and a selected ascetic text from the Fathers can provide relief from the confusion and distress of the day, and help us prepare to surrender to God. And let it be emphasized that God is not to be dealt with in a few minutes out of the entire twenty-four hour period. God is for the entire day. His abiding presence should accompany us continuously so that all our activities are a preparation for the sacred hours when we embrace God. And, in turn, these sacred hours of prayer will strengthen us for the struggles that follow." (From Monk Moses; goarch.org website)

Whereas sacred books lead us to prayer, nothing is greater than prayer itself in which the body becomes the temple and the soul a sacred place of sacrifice. The essence of prayer becomes clear from what it offers. St. John of the Ladder says that prayer is the means, which unites man with God.

St. John Chrysostom says: "Prayer is a harbor in the storms of life, an anchor for those who are storm-tossed, the treasure of the poor, the security of the rich, the healing of the sick, the preservation of health. Prayer banishes evil things, and preserves the good." And the God-bearing ecumenical father continues: "Prayer silences the passions of the soul, assuages the rebellion of anger, dismisses envy, dissipates evil desire, withers the love of worldly things, and brings great peace and serenity to the soul."

Our Lord and Savior is not looking for us to pray with beautiful words and exquisite poetry, but only that what we say should emanate from a beautiful soul. After all, God already knows what we pray for even before we speak, but that which is lacking is a contrite heart and submissive spirit to His will. We pray with contrition, humbly asking for forgiveness and forgiving others so that spiritual progress can be made.

Monk Moses says that a soul who loves God cannot live without prayer. God draws the soul to himself through prayer. Only to the humble person will God give the taste of the sheer sweetness of prayer. Only the prayer of the humble person can be pure. May God guide us in our daily prayers.

Peace,

+Fr. Adam

JULY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Fr. Adam &	1 Presvytera on	2 Vacation until	3 July 10th	4 NO GREAT VESPERS
5 10 am The Church will be open for lighting Candles and for prayers	6 VACATION	7 VACATION	8 VACATION	9 VACATION	10 VACATION	11 NO GREAT VESPERS
12 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for 5th Sunday of Matthew	13	14	15	16 5:30 pm Vesperal Liturgy for St. Marina	17	18 6 pm Great Vespers
19 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for 6th Sunday of Matthew	20 Father Adam	21 Will be at the	22 Metropolis	23 Camp until	24 Friday after- noon	25 6 pm Great Vespers
26 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for 7th Sunday of Matthew	27 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for Saint Panteleimon	28	29	30	31	August 1 NO GREAT VESPERS Dormition fast begins
August 2 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for 8th Sunday of Matthew	August 3 6:30 pm Paraclesis	August 4	August 5 6:30 pm Paraclesis	August 6 9 am Orthros with Liturgy following for Transfigura- tion of our Lord	August 7 6:30 pm Paraclesis	August 8 CHURCH YARD SALE NO GREAT VESPERS

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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

**This issue of *The Messenger*
is sponsored by
Fr. Andrew &
Presvytera
Maria George
on the joy of their
daughter Kassiane's
Marriage**

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