



St George the Great Martyr Orthodox Church

Weekly Bulletin – Sunday, November 20, 2016

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UPCOMING SERVICES

November 21 – Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. This feast commemorates Mary being brought by her parents to the Jerusalem Temple, where she was raised until her betrothal to Joseph. This is one of the 12 Great Feasts of the year, and we will celebrate this event in our salvation history with **Great Vespers tonight, November 20th, and Divine Liturgy on Monday morning, November 21st.**

Giving Thanks on Thanksgiving –

On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well (Lk 17.11-19).

On Thanksgiving Day at 9 am we will be singing the Akathist "Glory to God for All Things." This is a beautiful hymn which gives glory to God for all the wonderful things in His creation. Please take a moment out of

your Thanksgiving Day preparations to pray with us and offer thanks to God for our families, our country, and the world He has given us. It takes only about forty minutes and is a God-pleasing way to remember what this holiday is all about.

Advent Confession – As Orthodox Christians, we struggle constantly to grow in our relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, time after time, all of us fall and suffer the effects of our own sinfulness. The Church provides us with the sacrament of Confession so that we may participate in the healing and saving grace of forgiveness. During this season of advent, it is imperative that all of us take advantage of this opportunity to come before the Lord and confess our sins. When we do this with sincerity, He will wash us, bind up our wounds and heal us, so that we can continue our journey towards Him and celebrate His Nativity and Baptism in faith and love.

Father Michael is available to hear confessions after Great Vespers on Saturdays as well as during the week, especially on Wednesdays during his regular office hours. If you would like, you can even make an appointment. Please be sure to come to confession no later than November 21st. Father will not be hearing confessions on Christmas Eve, unless it is due to very dire circumstances.

Pledge Cards

This is the time of year for each of us to prayerfully, thoughtfully and intentionally consider the gifts that God has placed in our care and to plan how we can offer it back to Him for his blessing and glory. **Please be sure to take a pledge card and return it no later than December 4th.**

Trip to Saint Barbara's Monastery – We have successfully signed up a van-load of catechumens and parishioners for our trip to Santa Paula where we will celebrate the Monastery of Saint Barbara's Altar feast with Archbishop BENJAMIN and other pilgrims from around the Diocese on December 3rd. The total cost is for the van is \$400, and we are still accepting donations from anyone who is so inclined. We will be leaving from the Church parking lot at 6am on Saturday December 3rd.

No Choir Practice this week – Due to the holiday weekend, we will not be having Choir practice before Vespers this week. Choir practice will resume the following week. **Please note that we will be having Vespers as usual at 6pm however.**

No Adult Education Classes this week – Due to the holiday weekend, we will not be having Adult Education before Vespers this week. Adult education will resume the following week. **Please note that we will be having Vespers as usual at 6pm however.**

Memorial next Sunday – There will be a general memorial service for all departed members of our parish next Sunday after Liturgy on Nov 27th. Please give Dn George the names of anyone you would like to especially remember on that day this week.

Office Hours – Father will be at the Church for office hours on Wednesdays from 11 am to 5:30 pm. Feel free to stop by for a chat or to come to confession. While Wednesday is Father's "official" office day, please don't hesitate to call between 9am and 6pm on other days if there is something you need to discuss. Of course, in an emergency, you may call any time.

Akathist on Wednesdays – Before Father heads home on Wednesdays, he will offer an Akathist at 5:30pm. This is a short service where we pray and sing to one of the Saints of our Church. If you're in the area, it is a lovely opportunity to stop by and say a prayer together in the evening and to learn a little about the many saints whose icons we have on the walls of our temple.

Calendar of Events – November 20 – 27

Sun 11/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:40am – Hours and Divine Liturgy • 6:00pm – Great Vespers with Litya
Mon 11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE • 9:40am Hours and Divine Liturgy
Tue 11/22	
Wed 11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11am-5:30pm – Office Hours • 5:30pm Akathist
Thu 11/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanksgiving Day • 9:00am Akathist – “Glory to God for All Things”
Fri 11/25	
Sat 11/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO Choir practice or Adult Education • 6:00pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sun 11/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:40am – Hours and Divine Liturgy • General Memorial after Divine Liturgy

Save the Dates:

December 3, 2016 at 6am – Trip to Saint Barbara’s Monastery

December 4, 2016 – Return Pledge Cards

December 18, 2016 at 8:30am – Baptisms/Chrismations

November 21, 2016 – Last day for confessions before Christmas