



St George the Great Martyr
Orthodox Church

Weekly Bulletin – Sunday, December 11, 2016

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Baptisms next week. Next Sunday, December 18, we will celebrate the baptism of our catechumens Janice, Daniel, Elizabeth, Donovan, and Delilah. The baptism will take place *before* Divine Liturgy. Due to our tight Sunday schedule it is imperative that we start on time and Father is asking everyone to be in the Church and ready to begin at 8:15. This will give everyone time to settle before the Baptism begins at the back of the Church promptly at **8:30 am**. Our Lord truly is the Good Shepherd and He has called our soon-to-be brothers and sisters to Himself. As Orthodox Christians, it is our privilege and duty to BE PRESENT with them and with each other to witness their rebirth through water and the Spirit and to pray fervently on their behalf. Please keep the Coumpavoules and Womack families in your prayers this week as well as their sponsors as they make their final preparations to become part of the Church.

Christmas Schedule – This year, we will be expanding our liturgical life by serving a more complete schedule of services on Christmas:

Great Vespers on Friday, 12/23 at 6:00pm.

Divine Liturgy of John Chrysostom 12/24 at 10am.

Great Compline & Litya (Blessing of Loaves) 12/24 at 4:30pm

Divine Liturgy 12/25 at 10am

Although Great Compline on Christmas Eve is normally served later in the evening, we are celebrating it earlier at 4:30 to accommodate St Julian's Christmas Eve service which is at 6pm.

It has been a while since we have been able to celebrate Christmas Eve services here at St George. Let us make a special effort to take advantage of the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Our Lord in even more splendor and splendor this year.

Flowers for Christmas/Theophany – We are currently accepting donations for flowers to decorate our temple for the Christmas/Theophany season. Please see Matushka Xenia to make a donation, or if you would like to help decorate, or if you have flowers you think might be appropriate for the Church.

Advent Confession – As 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

December 21st. Father will not be hearing confessions on Christmas Eve, unless it is due to very dire circumstances.

Office Hours and Akathist resume this Wednesday – Father will be in the office on Wednesday this week from 11am to 5:30pm. This is a perfect time to come to confession. Akathist will be at 5:30.

Church Calendars – 2017 Church Calendars are now available. Please take one per family so that we can have enough for everyone. In addition to the beautiful icons, the calendar shows feasting/fasting rules for each day and lists the lectionary readings (Epistle and Gospel) for the entire year.

Calendar of Events – December 11 – 18

Sun 12/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9:40am – Hours and Divine Liturgy
Mon 12/12	Feast of St Spyridon
Tue 12/13	Feast of St Herman of Alaska
Wed 12/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 – 5:30 – Office Hours• 5:30 – Akathist
Thu 12/15	
Fri 12/16	
Sat 12/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5pm – Adult Education• 6pm – Great Vespers
Sun 12/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:30am - Coumpavoules and Womack Baptisms followed by Divine Liturgy

Save the Dates:

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

December 21, 2016 – Last day for confessions before Christmas