



St George the Great Martyr  
Orthodox Church

Weekly Bulletin – Sunday, February 5, 2017

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**Father will be away this week, February 7-9** attending the Mission Deanery Meeting in Oregon. There will be **no office hours this Wednesday.**

**We will hold our annual parish meeting on February 19<sup>th</sup>. To be considered a voting member of St George, one must participate in the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion at least once during the last year and submit a pledge card. We would like to finalize the list of voting members no later than February 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Church School**

Matushka Xenia and Jamileh Berni are working on restarting a church school program at St George's. **The first class will be held 915am Sunday Feb 12<sup>th</sup> before Divine Liturgy.** If you are a parent and would like to enroll your child in Church school, please contact Fr Dn George so he can collect your information.

## **Pledge Cards**

The pledge cards continue to trickle in, but St George's parish needs your help to have all cards turned in as quickly as possible. We will be having our annual parish meeting on February 19th and we need to have those cards to make a roster of voting members. Once again, one must go to Confession, receive the Eucharist at least once a year, and *offer a pledge* (of any amount) in order to be considered a member in good standing at St George's.

**Please fill out and submit your pledge card to Dn George as soon as possible – To date, we still only have 13 pledges.**

## **House Blessings**

House blessings are an annual Tradition for all Orthodox Christians, where we offer back to God the homes He's given us, through prayer and 'baptizing' them with holy water. Non-Orthodox homes may also be blessed. A signup sheet is available during coffee hour. **Please pick a date for your visit and a preferred time of day (morning, afternoon or evening). Great Lent is fast approaching, so please schedule your visit Feb 13-17.** Father will schedule appointments on a first come, first served basis, using the signup sheet. Here's what you'll need:

- A suitable location, such as your icon corner, for Father to set up a few liturgical items in. If your house doesn't have an icon corner, you might clear your dining room table and put an icon on it.
- A bowl for Holy Water. Father will bring some for backup, but first will use what you have brought home from church. Orthodox Christians should keep a supply of Holy Water at home, to reverently drink when they must miss Divine Liturgy due to sickness.
- A candle for you to carry during the procession through your home (and matches or a lighter).
- A slip of paper with the saint's names of those living in the home, so Father can sing them "Many Years."
- The blessing begins and ends with a prayer in your icon corner, and in between it involves a procession through

your home. You'll carry a candle and lead Father, who sprinkles the house with Holy Water as he sings the Theophany troparion, which you're welcome to join in:

*When Thou, O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan  
The Worship of the Trinity was made manifest  
For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee  
And called Thee His beloved Son  
And the Spirit in the form of a dove  
Confirmed the truthfulness of His Word  
O Christ, our God who hast revealed Thyself  
And hast enlightened the world, Glory to Thee!*

- After the short service of blessing has concluded, Fr. Michael would be happy to visit with you for a bit. When possible, he will bring Matushka.

Many times, Father Michael is busy after the Liturgy on Sunday and there never seems to be enough time to visit with everyone. This is an opportunity to visit one-on-one in your home with him and Matushka if you wish. There is no need to offer a meal or snack, but if you'd like Father and Matushka to stay for something, please indicate that on the sign up and he will try to accommodate.

If you have any questions about this service or scheduling it, please speak with Fr. Michael.

**Preparing for Great Lent** – The Sundays leading up to Great Lent help to prepare us for the Great Fast. Starting with this Sunday, we commemorate:

**The Publican and the Pharisee** – As we prepare to practice works of fasting, praying, and almsgiving this season, we remember that nothing we do – no ritual, no custom, no tradition – nothing can make us worthy of God’s blessings. Instead this Sunday reminds us all that our efforts are merely tools to help us cultivate what is really important – a spirit of repentance and total reliance on God’s mercy.

**The Prodigal Son** – Though we tend to focus and identify ourselves with the Prodigal Son in the Gospel reading of this Sunday, we must not forget to recall the Loving Father of this story. None of us is every so far away from God that He does not reach out to us. Now is the time to act! Now is the time to turn from wherever we are and to take that first step toward our Merciful and Loving Father.

**The Last Judgement** – Even though there is nothing we can do to win God’s Love, the fact remains that those who truly love and know God act and behave in a particular way. They clothe the hungry, feed the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned. These things help us to recognize Christ, because when we show real, practical love to ‘the least of these’ we show our love for the One who died for us. On This Sunday, we remember the Day of Judgement and once again ask God to have mercy on us, knowing that efforts we begin this Lent have an eternal impact on our souls and in our life to come.

**Forgiveness Sunday** – This Sunday is actually a commemoration of the Expulsion of Adam and Eve from paradise. On this day we pause to reflect on how far we have fallen short of the life that God had prepared for us in Paradise. By our own individual actions, and by our collective actions, we see the state of our own souls and of the world around us and we mourn. But we do not mourn without out hope, because God has prepared the way back to Himself. And through His Son Our Lord, Jesus Christ, he even promises to raise us up higher than the glory we once had. Now we prepare for a journey: one which begins outside of Paradise and which will bring us to the foot of the Cross and beyond. In imitation of Our Lord, we forgive all of our brothers and sisters even as we humbly ask that they forgive us.

## Calendar of Events – February 5 – 12

<b>Sun</b> <b>2/5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:40am – Hours and Divine Liturgy</li></ul>
<b>Mon</b> <b>2/6</b>	
<b>Tue</b> <b>2/7</b>	Fr Michael away at Mission Deanery Retreat
<b>Wed</b> <b>2/8</b>	Fr Michael away at Mission Deanery Retreat
<b>Thu</b> <b>2/9</b>	Fr Michael away at Mission Deanery Retreat
<b>Fri</b> <b>2/10</b>	
<b>Sat</b> <b>2/11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6:00pm – Great Vespers</li></ul>
<b>Sun</b> <b>2/12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9:40am – Hours and Divine Liturgy</li></ul>

### Save the Date:

**Feb 12 – 915am - First Sunday School Class**

**Feb 19 – Annual Parish Meeting**

**Feb 26 – Forgiveness Sunday**

**Feb 27 – FIRST DAY OF GREAT LENT**

**March 1 – First Presanctified Liturgy**

**March 10 – First Akathist**

**April 8 – Lazarus Saturday**

**April 9 – Palm Sunday**

**April 21 – Good Friday**

**April 16 - PASCHA**