



**St George the Great Martyr  
Orthodox Church - Weekly Bulletin**

Sunday, September 9, 2018

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**SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 9 TONE 6, 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos/Holy and Righteous  
Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna**

**Tone 6 Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; / the guards became as dead men. / Mary stood by Thy grave, / seeking Thy most pure body. / Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. / Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

**Tone 4 Troparion** *(Nativity of the Theotokos)*

Thy nativity, O Virgin, / has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! / The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, / has shone from thee, O Theotokos. / By annulling the curse, / He bestowed a blessing.// By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

**Tone 1 Troparion** *(Joachim and Anna)*

Since ye were righteous under the law of grace, O Joachim and Anna,/ ye gave birth to the God-given infant for our sake./ Therefore, the mmdivine Church radiantly keeps feast today,/ Joyfully celebrating thine honorable memory and giving ^glory to God,// Who has raised up a horn of salvation form the house of David.

**Tone 6 Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

When Christ God the Giver of Life, / raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, / He bestowed resurrection on the human race.// He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

**Tone 2 Kontakion** *(Joachim and Anna)*

Anna is now no longer barren / and nurses the all-pure one. / She rejoices and calls us all to sing a hymn of praise to Christ,// Who from her womb gave mankind the only Ever-virgin Mother.

## Matthew 22:35-46 (Gospel)

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

### Humility

In the Orthodox tradition, humility has often been called the “mother of all virtues,” and pride has been named “the cause of all sin.” The wise and honest person is the one who is humble. *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor, than to divide the spoils with the proud. A man’s pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will retain honor* (Prov 16.18, 16.19, 29.23). According to the Gospel, in the Song of the Virgin, the Lord scatters the proud in the imagination of their hearts and exalts those who are humble and meek (cf. Lk 1.51–52). This is the exact teaching of Jesus. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted (Lk 14.11, 18.14, Prov 3.34). Humility does not mean degradation or remorse. It does not mean effecting some sort of demeaning external behavior. It does not mean considering oneself as the most vile and loathsome of creatures. Christ Himself was humble and He did not do this. God Himself, according to the spiritual tradition of the Church, has perfect humility, and He certainly does not act in this way. Genuine humility means to see reality as it actually is in God. It means to know oneself and others as known by God—a power, according to Saint Isaac, greater than that of raising the dead! The humble lay aside all vanity and conceit in the service of the least of God’s creatures, and consider no good act as beneath one’s dignity and honor. Humility is to know oneself, without the grace of God, as dust, sinful and dead.

God is humble because He cares about the least: the birds in the air, the grass in the fields, the worst of sinners (cf. Mt 6.25–30). Christ is humble because He associates with the lowly, becoming the slave of all in taking on Himself the sins of the world. *If I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you* (Jn 13.14–15). *You know that the rulers of the pagans lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave; even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many* (Mt 20.25–28). All Christians are to follow the example of Christ in His divine humility. Saint Paul teaches: *Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus, who though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father* (Phil 2.3–11). The exaltation of Jesus as a man depended entirely on His self-emptying humility. True greatness, divine greatness, is the ability to be the least, and to the least with the absolute certitude that it is externally and divinely important, that it is an imitation of God Himself. True humility for the sinful man is to know that indeed, according to one's own possibilities and gifts, each one is truly the first and greatest of sinners (cf. 1 Tim 1.15), for each one has sinned in his own way "like no other man" (Saint Andrew of Crete, 7th c., *Penitential Canon*). The truly humble person is the one who, confessing his sins, is "faithful over little," and doing so, is exalted by the Lord and is "set over much." Only such a person will "enter into the joy of his Master" (Mt 25.14–23, Lk 19.17). Fr Thomas Hopko, *The Orthodox Faith*, Vol. 4—Spirituality. Copied from OCA website.

## Calendar of Events – Starting today: September 9

Sunday	9/09	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy
Monday	9/10	
Tuesday	9/12	
Wednesday	9/13	<b>2:00-5:00pm</b> Office Hours
Thursday	9/14	<b>6:00pm</b> - Great Vespers with Litiya
Friday	9/15	<b>Exaltation of The Cross</b> <b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy
Saturday	9/16	<b>6:00pm</b> - Great Vespers, confessions
Sunday	9/17	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy

### Weekly Announcements

- ◆ Office Hours this Wednesday 2-5pm.
- ◆ On Saturday **September 29th** our parish will be holding a carwash from 9am-12noon. Vespers will coincide with completion of the fund raising activities, so bring your car in for a shine, come help out, and pray with us. **Please add your name to the Signup sheets**, located by the church door.
- ◆ Our church school will resume on September 23rd.
- ◆ **Sunday, September 17, we will have a Church School parents meeting during coffee hour.**
- ◆ The next parish council meeting is **Saturday September 22nd**. After Vespers.

**Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers during the week.**

**For good health and healing:** Abram, Souraya, Alice, Basil, Jacob, Collette, Christina, Connie, Eddie, Peter, Nikos, Gary, Gary, Georgia, Ruth.

**For a new Job:** Mario, Jason, Janice, Jamileh.

**Special prayers:** for the firefighters and those in fire areas.

Lord Jesus Christ, please give them strength and preserve them.