

LIVING IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT BEING OF THE WORLD

Living a proper Orthodox Christian life is not easy in today's world. Sadly, the morals and values that the Church tries to teach us and instill within our hearts are not shared by most of society. Because of this, we are constantly placed in situations where we must dare to be different. Yet we are only human, and the temptation is always there to give in to the pleasure-motivated, material lifestyle that we see exhibited all around us. In such moments of weakness, it is helpful for us to remember that not much has really changed since the days of the early Church. The world in which the Apostles had to preach the Word of God looked remarkably similar to ours. The immoral influence of a pagan culture was, perhaps, even more prevalent in those days than it is today. The temptation to give in to its alluring attraction was a tremendous battle for the members of the early Christian community.

In his 2nd Letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul takes note of this. He reminds the faithful that they are living in a **"spiritual war zone,"** entrenched in patterns of sin that threaten their very souls. He urges them to distance themselves from the unbelievers who are shrouded in darkness and evil, extolling them to **"Come out from among them and be separate."** (2 Cor 6:17) St. Paul also commands them to **"cleanse themselves"** through repentance and to strive to constantly live in a state of holiness.

As we struggle to live in the world and not be of the world, the same advice is given to us. Doing so is difficult, but not impossible. We, too, must confess our sins and seek the holiness in our lives that is pleasing to God. We, too, must separate ourselves from those who would bring us down to a level unbecoming a follower of Jesus.

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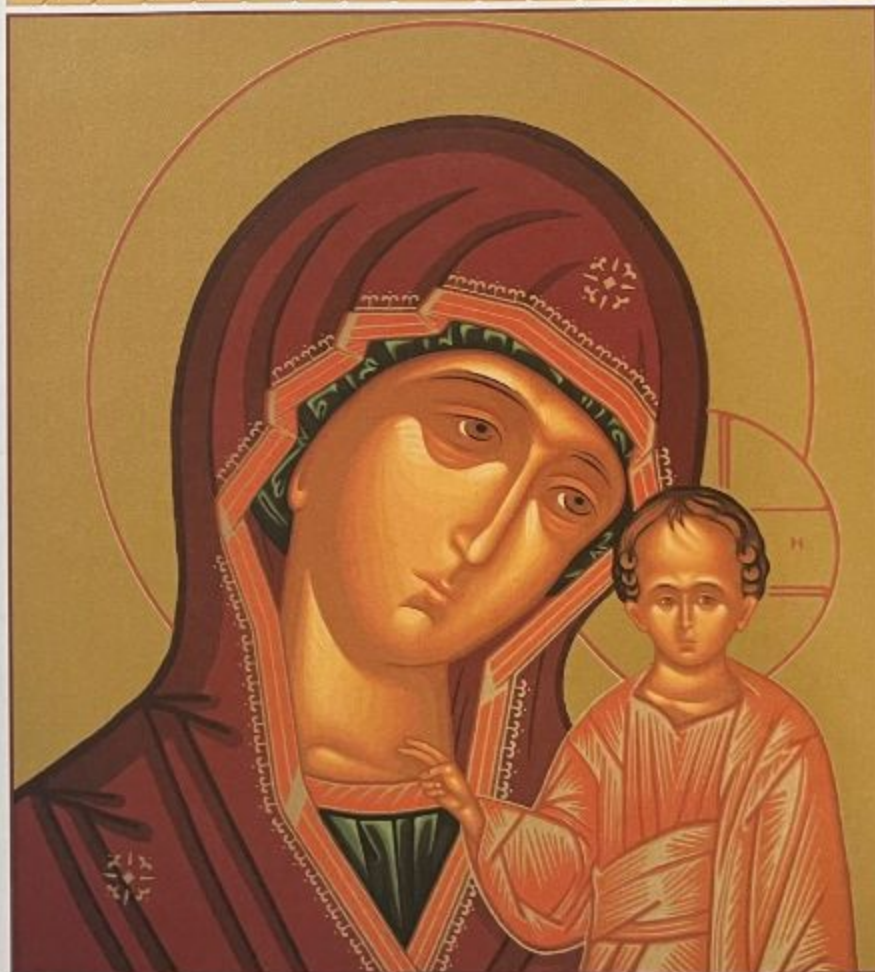
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Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JULY 06, 2025

TONE 3 / EOTHINON 4

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

FOR SS. PETER, PAUL & THE 12 APOSTLES

O Lord, Thou hast translated to bliss and the enjoyment of thy blessings Peter and Paul, those two trustworthy preachers, theologians and heads of Thine Apostles; for thou didst accept their struggles and death as better than any sacrifice, O Thou Who alone knowest the secrets of our hearts.

Make my tongue to speak plainly, O my Savior; enlarge my mouth and fill it, and give my heart compunction that I may be the first to follow what I say and to do what I teach; for everyone that doeth and teacheth, it saith, the same is great. For if I speak without doing, I am reckoned as sounding brass. Wherefore, grant me to say what is needful and to do what is expedient, O Thou Who alone knowest the secrets of our hearts.

We Celebrate Today

On July 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Righteous Father Sisoës the Great of Egypt.

Verses

When he died, this was written upon the tablet: Sisoës, the tablet of the Divine Spirit.

On the sixth, Sisoës went blameless from earth to Heaven.

Sisoës was a disciple of St. Anthony the Great. Imposing difficult ascetic labors on himself in the wilderness for 60 years, Sisoës humbled himself so much that he became meek and guileless as a lamb. God endowed Sisoës with abundant grace so that he was able to heal the sick, drive out

unclean spirits and resurrect the dead. Sisoës taught those who visited him: "Regardless in what way temptation comes to man, a man should give himself to the will of God and to recognize that temptation occurred because of his sins. If something good happens, it should be said that it happened according to God's Providence." Sisoës died peacefully in extreme old age in 429.

On this day, we also commemorate the Apostles Archippos, Philemon and Onesimos of the Seventy. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Joy Logue. Sue Thomas. Dolores Nosser. Hugh Cummings. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Kh. Janet Henderson. Pam Smith. Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. George Nasif. Deacon Terry. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Fr. Paul Yerger. Timmie Fedell. Jeff West.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries Jaime Thomas (30). July Roxy Kabanova (4). Hugh Cummings (8). Kathy Saikley Saway (13). Emil Ellis (14). Haylee Hull Nix (19). Mark & Rebecca Antwine (21). Nicholas Saway (22). Joy Logue, Jarret & Jori Whitley (23). Claire Griner. Lauren Nosser (24). Taylor Thomas, Marlene Middleton (25). Cynthia Freeny (26). Mattie Sue Antwine (27). Alan Evans (28). Mary Claire Lovins, Robert Abraham, Robert Angelo (29).

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan.

Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+The 57th Biennial Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese Convention July 20-27, 2025, hosted by St. George Church, Cicero Chicago.

+Upcoming. Feast of the Great Prophet Elias, Sunday July 20
Holy Dormition Fast, start on August 1

The Church Fathers Teach

When are we living in Christ? When we live according to His Gospel and His Church. For He Himself, and not only His Gospel, is in the Church with all of His perfections and virtues. The Church is the eternally living Body of the God-man Christ. In her we find the medium of the holy mysteries. In her we find the means of holy good deeds. Our Lord Jesus Christ abides inseparable from the Church in this world. He abides with each member of the Church throughout all ages. He has His entire self for us in the Church, and continually gives Himself to us entirely, so that we might be enabled to live in this world as He lived.

(St. Justin Popovich, Explanation of I John, 4:9, 17)

Whoever fears God stands above all manner of fear. He has become a stranger to all the fear of this world and placed it far from himself, and no manner of trembling comes near him.

(St. Ephraim the Syrian, On the Fear of God and the Last Judgement)

Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

DIVINE LITURGY JULY 06, 2023

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM****

SUNDAY OF GREAT AND ALL-HOLY PASCHA

THE EPISTLE

(For Fourth Sunday after Pentecost)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands all ye peoples.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (6:18-23)

Brethren, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fourth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:5-13)

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching Him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered Him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, He marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.