

✠ THIS WORLD OF OURS ✠

The Fall is a lovely time of the year. One thinks of the words of the Psalmist: *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork."* People leave the highways and go onto country roads that display the splendor of the season. It is a sight to behold, the colors of red, orange, yellow and brown.

But Autumn is also a sad time of the year, if we reflect that the trees and flowers lose their lovely foliage and seemingly fall asleep for the Winter season. Yet, this is precisely what preserves the life of those plants. This is God's provision for the continuation of life.

The cycle of Nature goes on, season upon season, year after year. We, too, are part of this vast cycle of life. The more we alienate ourselves from Nature, the worse off we are. We are now reaping the bitter harvest of decades of pollution of the earth, the air and the water of our world. *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof,"* said King David long ago, and we are slowly learning the lesson of preserving this blue planet that is but a speck in the vast universe.

The Church has always considered God's creation, now redeemed and restored, as sacred. Water and food are blessed. Branches and palms are blessed. God breathed into man to give him life. Jesus breathed upon the Apostles, giving them the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins Yes, indeed, this world bears the imprint of the Lord's glory and love.

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A Gift of Blessing

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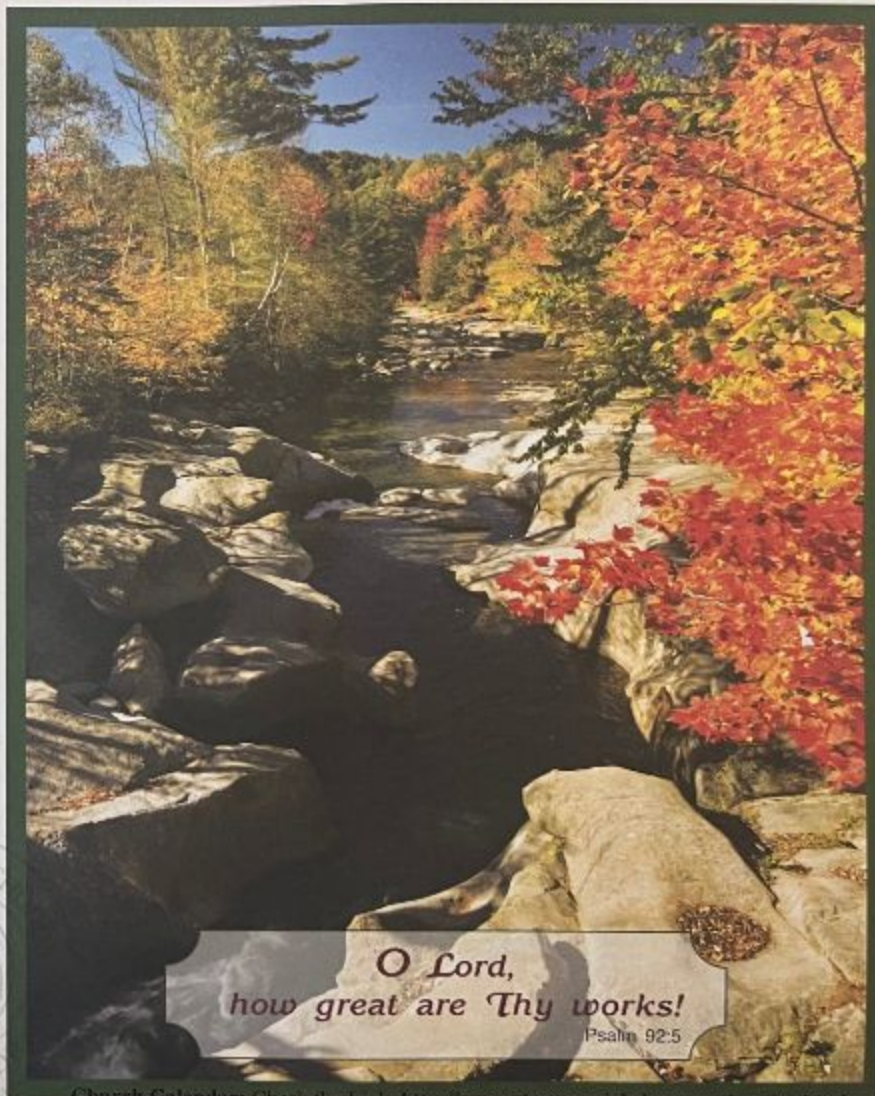
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*O Lord,
how great are Thy works!*

(Psalm 92:5)

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, OCTOBER 12, 2025

TONE 1 / EOTHINON 7

SUNDAY OF HOLY FATHERS OF SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL,

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

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.

We Celebrate Today

On October 12 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Probos, Andronikos and Tarachos at Tarsus; Martyr Domnina at Anazarbus in Cilicia; and Virgin Martyr Anastasia of Rome.

On this day, we commemorate the holy and blessed Fathers who came together for the second time in Nicaea, during the reign of the pious and Christ-loving Sovereigns Constantine and Irene, against those who impiously, ignorantly and foolishly asserted that the Church of God worshippeth idols, and rejected the august and holy icons.

Verse

Thy champions, O Word, with words as their weapons,

Turn to flight the foes of the venerable icons.

The Council met in 787 to refute the Iconoclast heresy, whose camp believed that all depictions of Christ, His Mother and the saints should be destroyed. The iconophiles believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; and they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty. The council decreed that the

reverence of icons was not idolatry (Exodus 20:4-5), because the honor shown to them is not directed to the wood or paint, but passes to the prototype, or the person depicted. It also upheld the possibility of depicting Christ, Who became man and took flesh at His Incarnation. The Father, on the other hand, cannot be represented in His eternal nature, because "no man has seen God at any time" (John 1:18).

By the intercessions of all Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

+Birthdays & Anniversaries Oct. Alexandra Tzotzolas (13). Debbie Abraham, Pam Smith, Joe & Eleanor Durst (14), Albert Dornbusch (15), Greg Hull (16), Ali Grace Luke (17). Ann Garrison Thomas (20).

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+Fall Festival Sunday October 26th at 5 to 8 pm. Activities and dinner. Costume parade, Games, Cake Walk and Bingo.

+Parish Council Meeting Tuesday October 21 at 6 pm.

+Fall Kibbee Sale Saturday November 22.

+Christmas Poinsettia. If you would like to purchase one for someone special to adorn the church for the Nativity Season. Order an 8-inch Poinsettia in either memory or honor of an individual. (Antiochian women)

+Good Shepherd. Essential Needs. A collection box with a list of needed items is placed in the church hall. Please consider donating to their cause.

Next month we will also have a collection box for Thanksgiving food items that will be used for Thanksgiving baskets for elderly people in need in our community.

The Church Fathers Teach

I am your father, I am your brother, I am your bridegroom, I am your home, I am your sustenance, I am your root, I am your foundation, You have need for nothing. I will work for you; I have come to serve and not be served. I am your friend, I am the foreigner I am the head, I am your brother, I am your sister, I am your mother, I am all things. Only abide in Me. I am a pauper and vagabond for you I have been placed on the Cross for you, I have been placed in the Tomb for you, Above, I am with the Father for you, Below, I intercede for you before the Father. You are everything to Me: My brother, My co-heir, My friend, My member. What more do you want? Our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. John Chrysostom

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 OCTOBER 12, 2025

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

SUNDAY OF HOLY FATHERS OF SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

THE EPISTLE

(For the Holy Fathers)

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus. (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

((For the Fourth Sunday of Luke))

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A Sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As Jesus said this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."