

THE HOLY PROTOMARTYR & ARCHDEACON STEPHEN

Each year on the third day of our celebration of the Nativity of Jesus Christ, our Holy Orthodox Church remembers St. Stephen. We read in the Book of Acts of a growing concern in the early Christian Church. The Church was growing so rapidly that the work of the Apostles was becoming overwhelming for them. The daily care for the widows, as well as the poor and needy was infringing on their real task of preaching and spreading the gospel. To offer them some much-needed assistance, seven deacons were elected to minister to the material needs of the faithful.

The first of these deacons was a young man named Stephen. Stephen soon developed a reputation for being a brilliant orator. He could more than "hold his own" when it came to debating theological issues with the Jewish leaders. It wasn't long until they could no longer tolerate Stephen constantly getting the better of them in any discussion. Stephen was accused of blasphemy — slandering God — and was brought before the Sanhedrin to defend himself. After false witnesses spoke against him, Stephen was given an opportunity to speak. His words, which are found in the 7th chapter of the Book of Acts, carefully traced the history of the Israelites and all their accomplishments. Midway through his presentation, his focus changes dramatically, as he points out how the Jews repeatedly opposed the will of God, turning their wrath on the prophets and ultimately putting the Son of God to death. When Stephen began speaking of seeing Christ in heaven at the right hand of the Father, the Sanhedrin had heard enough. Stephen was dragged outside the gates of the city, where he was stoned to death, thus becoming the first Christian martyr. His dying words have long been the cry of other martyrs throughout the ages: "Lord, do not charge these men with this sin."

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin West L. Cliffwood, New Jersey Likho in USA.

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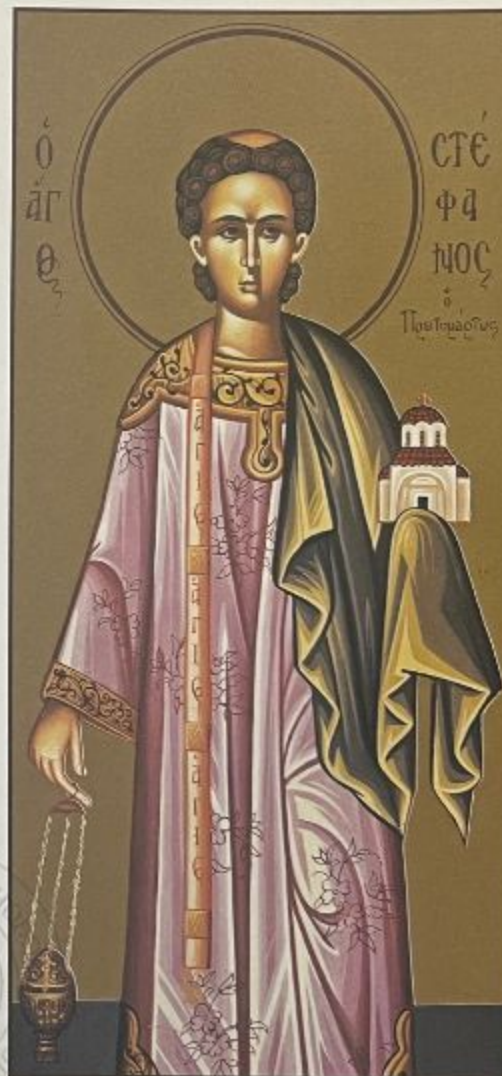
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SAINT STEPHEN

has the unique
honor of being
both the first
of the seven
deacons appointed
by the Apostles
and the first
Christian martyred
in the name
of our Lord.

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 05, 2025

TONE 8/ EOTHINON 6

HOLY MARTYR CHARITINA OF AMISOS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, 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 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Charitina of Amisos.

Verses

That for which she prayed, the loosing of the body, Charitina receiveth, behold, by praying.

On the fifth Charitina entered the city of God.

Orphaned young, Charitina was adopted by an eminent Christian man called Claudius, who brought her up as his own daughter. Charitina studied the law of God, day and night, and vowed to live in perpetual virginity as a true bride of Christ. The governor Dometius wanted to kill Charitina because she led many to the Lord. A judge ordered that her hair be cut off and live coals put on her head, but the maiden was preserved by God's power. She was bound to a wheel which began to turn, but an angel of God stopped the wheel and Charitina remained unharmed. Then the wicked judge sent some dissolute youths to take her virginity. Fearing this attack, Charitina knelt in prayer to God to receive her soul before that could happen. At that moment, her soul soared to the immortal Kingdom of Christ in 290.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable John, bishop of Euchaita; and Venerable Eudokimos of Vatopedi monastery on Athos. By the intercessions of 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 Nosser, 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. Leigh Ann Nosser, Evangelia Ioannides (4), Michael Saway, Dorothy Mauro (5), Norma Massey, Bruce Mackay, Jim Angelo (6), Ellis & Laura Thomas, Charles Moses (7), 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).

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour are offered by Tasos & Anna Ioannides and their family.

+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. Due to changes in federal funding, they lost a lot of funding. 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

Lust is as it were desire and desire, will which extend beyond the natural will, passionate, not governed by the law and moderation. There are thus many forms of lust, like the many forms of sin ... Lust does not approach the soul in the form of a warlike enemy, but in the form of a friend or a pleasant servant. It suggests some sort of pleasure or illusory good. But this is only a trick by which the malicious angler strives to lead astray and catch the poor soul. Remember this when you are tempted by lust.

(St. Philaret of Moscow, Sermon on the 5th of July, 1845)

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 05, 2025

“DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM”

THE EPISTLE

{For the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost}

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:16-7:1)

Brethren, we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from them, and be separate from them,” says the Lord, “and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

THE GOSPEL

{For the Second Sunday of Luke}

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (6:31-36)

The Lord said: “As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”