

"TAKE AND EAT . . ."

Every Sunday, our Holy Orthodox Church offers us a remarkable spiritual experience: the Divine Liturgy. Week after week, we find ourselves surrounded by God's saints depicted in our parish's iconography as we listen to the Word of God and join in with the singing of our sacred hymns. As awesome as all of this is, it is greatly overshadowed by the most important aspect of the Divine Liturgy: the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. At every Divine Liturgy, we are invited to "come forward with faith and with love" and partake of this Sacrament for the healing of our soul and body, for the remission of our sins and for life everlasting.

Christ Himself instituted the Divine, Life-creating Mystery of Holy Communion at the Last Supper. That fateful evening, He broke bread and offered it to His Apostles, saying: "Take and eat, this is My Body which is broken for you . . ." and gave them the cup saying: "All of you drink of this, this is My Blood of the New Testament . . ." At last, the Apostles understood what their Master meant when He taught that "unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you have no life in you." (John 6:53) Far from being a mere symbolic gesture, our Holy Orthodox Church instructs us that at every Divine Liturgy, we find ourselves RELIVING the Mystical Supper as bread and wine is miraculously transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

The importance of the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist should not be lost on us. Our Lord tells us plainly that eternal life is found through Holy Communion. May everyone present today respond positively to our Lord's offer to be united with Him in this most special way.

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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.

A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

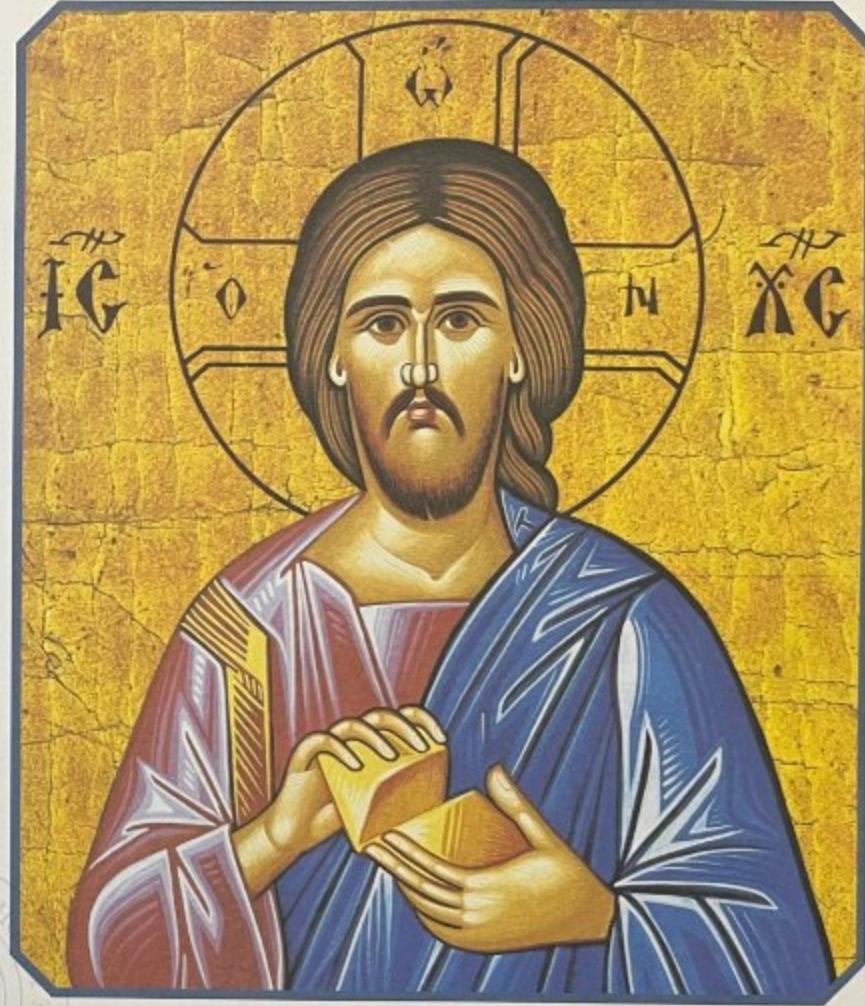
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THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 5:30 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

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

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2026 TONE 1 / EOTHINON 1

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN & FOREFEAST OF THE PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF CHRIST

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 FOREFEAST OF THE PRESENTATION IN TONE ONE

*(**The soldiers standing guard***)*

The Heavens' choir looked down from the vaults of the Heavens, * and gazing on the earth, they beheld with amazement * the First-born of all creation brought forth as a suckling babe * to the Temple by a pure and virginal mother; * and with us, they now do sing a hymn for the Forefeast, * astonished and full of awe.

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.

KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE PRESENTATION IN TONE FOUR

*(**On this day Thou hast appeared***)*

On this day doth Simeon * receive with gladness * God, the giver of the Law; * and he doth cry to Him in fear: * Let me depart now, O Master Christ, * for I have seen Thee, the glory of Israel.

We Celebrate Today

On February 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate **Martyr Tryphon** of Syria; and **Martyr Perpetua** of Carthage and her four companions.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

Verses

If you resemble the Pharisee, run far away from the Temple;
For inside is Christ before Whom only the humble are acceptable.

Verses for the Triodion

O Creator of everything heavenly and earthly, receive Thou from the Angels a Trinitarian song.
And from us men a noble and reverent Triodion.

In our Savior's parable, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men. We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert and prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights.

Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Healing & Recovery Fr. Paul Yerger. Fr. Leo . Deacon Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue. Sue Thomas. Dolores Nossler. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith. Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Timmie Fedell. Alan Evans. Janice Strickland. Drew Anderson. Jackson ballinger. Carla Leese.

Birthdays & Anniversaries Feb. Suzanne Hull (1), Ellison Gleason (4), Meredith Hull (9). Clyde Ellis (13). Anthony Karam, Albert & Gloria Dornbusch (14). Maha Habeeb, (15). Elena Kabanova (19).

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

House Blessing Make your arrangement with Fr. Gabriel to bless your home.

Holy Bread & Coffee Hour 2026 If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please call Mrs. Paula Shaw 601-218- 9448

Today Sunday is the last day of the preparation for the Annual Lebanese Dinner. Make your plan to stay and help in boxing the Sweets and preparing the dining room.

The Annual Lebanese Dinner, Tomorrow Monday February 02. Work and preparation will Start at 8am. Tickets are available at the door. Come and help, it is a day which bring many memories back and continue the legacy of St. George family in Vicksburg community.

The Church Fathers Teach

, Do not say: "I have sinned much, and therefore I am not bold enough to fall down before God." Do not despair. Simply do not increase your sins in despair and, with the help of the All-merciful One, you will not be put to shame. For He said, "he who comes to Me I will not cast out." (John. 6:37) And so, be bold and believe that He is pure and cleanses those who draw near to Him. If you want to accomplish true repentance, show it with your deeds. If you have fallen into pride, show humility; if into drunkenness, show sobriety; if into defilement, show purity of life.

For it is said, "Turn away from evil and do good." (I Pet. 3:11)

(St. Gennadius of Constantinople. The Golden Chain. 87-89)

DIVINE LITURGY FEBRUARY 01, 2026

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN & FOREFEAST OF THE PRESENTATION (MEETING) OF CHRIST

THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

My son Timothy, you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, patience, persecutions, sufferings, what things befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured! And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Indeed, all who would live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But people who are wicked and deceivers will proceed from worse to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and how from infancy you have known the sacred temple writings which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you; this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."