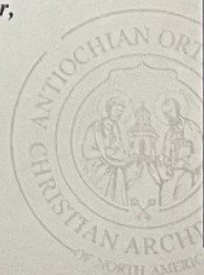


IT'S WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE THAT MATTERS!

Everyone's heard the old adage, "You can't judge a book by its cover." Simply put, it means that the words printed on the inside of any literary work are of far greater worth than the richly embossed exterior of a volume. The same holds true for people as well. In today's society, much emphasis is placed on physical appearance. We laud and seek to emulate our athletes, movie stars and other celebrities, as if they possessed something valuable because of their outward beauty. But the Apostle Paul tells us something completely different in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians. He writes: "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." (2 Cor 4:7) As Orthodox Christians, we realize that our bodies are temporary, fragile and expendable. Yes, we are "temples of the Holy Spirit," but it is what we put into that "temple" that is really important. The most precious treasure we have within us is **THE GRACE OF GOD**. We must allow Him to work within us, guiding our decisions and strengthening our character. How does God become a part of our inner being? By virtue of our baptism, we have "PUT ON CHRIST." Through frequent reception of the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist and through our constant practicing of what has been preached to us, the Lord dwells within us, cleansing us from every blemish and iniquity as He strives to save our souls.

The challenge for each of us is to live our lives in a manner that will enable others to see this "treasure" of which St. Paul writes. Do others see Christ when they look at you? If not, why not? It is something for all of us to ponder.

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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

2709 Washington St. Vicksburg, MS 39180

Parish Office: 601-636-2483

Fr. Gabriel's cell: 713-357-8871

Email: stgeorge2709@gmail.com

web page: www.stgeorgevicksburg.org

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 SUNDAY AUGUST 30, 2026

TONE 4/ EOTHINON 2

Leave-taking of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy

APOLYTIKION OF THE BAPTIST'S BEHEADING IN TONE TWO

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takest away the sin of the world, and granteth us 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.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

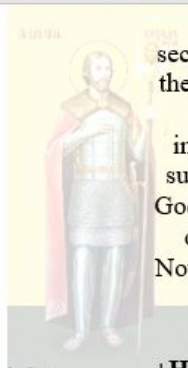
We Celebrate Today

On August 30 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the commemoration of the honorable, glorious **prophet, forerunner and Baptist John**. We also commemorate our fathers among the saints **Alexander, Paul the New, and John**, Patriarchs of Constantinople.

Having escaped the flesh's bonds, O Alexander, Thou hast found the Lord's inheritance as thy portion.

The faces of the Church are gloomy with sorrow, For they cannot bear blessed John's deprivation.

Paul, leaving behind him life's pathways and its courses, Found a pall for his casket and rest from his labors. On the thirtieth, three before the Trinity now stand. Alexander took part in the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in 325, in place of the aged Patriarch Metrophanes, whom he then succeeded. When certain philosophers tried to dispute with him about faith, he said to one of them: "In the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, I command you to remain silent!" The philosophers became dumb from that moment. Alexander died at the age of 98 in the year 340. Paul the New governed the Church for almost six years and renounced the throne to receive the Great Habit



secretly, to repent of his sins when he first supported the iconoclasts. He was the predecessor of the great Tarasius, and entered into rest in 784. John was nicknamed "Scholasticus" because he was originally a lawyer. He became Patriarch in 565. He wrote Canons which have been included in the Nomocanon. In his day, the Cherubic Hymn and the prayer "At Thy mystical supper" were introduced into the Liturgy. He departed this life peacefully and gave his soul to God in 577. On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Phantinos of Calabria; the repose of **Venerable Alexander of Svir**; translation of the relics of **Alexander Nevsky**, prince of Novgorod; and **Cyril and Makarios**, patriarchs of Serbia. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Bishop Nicholas, Fr. Paul, Dea. Terry, Kh. Janet, Joy Logue, Dolores Nosser, Rick Collins, George Michael Nasif, Lynne Abraham, Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas, Michael Farris, Athena, Georgia, Andrea Simon, Chuck Abraham, Carla Leese, Drew, Robert Taylor, Michael Lekas, Gregory Thomas, Janice Strickland, Helen Abraham, Hannah Bonelli.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries, Sept. Richard Thomas, Tori Thomas (3) David & Carla Leese, Tony & Diala Maida, Anna Ioannides (4), Jeff Mitchell (5), Bill Thomas (7).

+Holy Bread and Coffee Hour are offered by Wayne & Donna Thorton, Ben & Paula Shaw and their families.

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Who is preparing himself for the Holy Sacrament of Chrismation.

+Sunday School Classes will start Sunday September 13th. After Divine Liturgy.

+Upcoming. Beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Liturgical Church Year on September 01.

* Feast of the **Nativity** of the Theotokos September 08.

* **Feast of the Elevation** of the Holy Cross September 14. (strict Fast)

* **120th Anniversary** for St. George Church. A 3-part series "reflection of our Ancestors". Wednesday September 23rd, Wednesday October 21st and Saturday November 14th.

The Church Fathers Teach

As we commemorate this solemn and holy day of the Church, that of the beheading of St. John the Baptist, it is interesting to think of the similarities between the Theotokos and the Forerunner. We have only recently remembered the falling asleep of the Theotokos, and it should come as no surprise, as we remember St. John's beheading that these two would be seated at the right and left hand of Christ.

Both were humble and obedient. Mary accepts God's will that she conceive and bear the Word of God ("Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38), John obediently prepares for the coming of the Word of God. Despite his growing fame amongst the people, he humbly retreated to the background when Christ was ready for His earthly ministry to begin ("He must increase, but I must decrease." (Jn. 3:30). His obedience to his role as forerunner continued even beyond his death, as he preached Christ to those in Hades, preparing them for Christ's glorious Resurrection.