

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

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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 SUNDAY OCTOBER 11, 2026

TONE 2/ EOTHINON 8

SUNDAY OF HOLY FATHERS OF SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

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.

Prayer after any meal

We thank thee O Christ our God, that thou hast satisfied us with thine earthly gifts, deprive us not of thy heavenly kingdom; but as thou camest into the midst of thy disciples, O Saviour, and gavest them peace, come also among us and save us. Amen.

We Celebrate Today

On October 11 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the **Apostle Philip**, one of the Seven Deacons; and **Venerable Theophanes** the branded.

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.

Verses

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

Turn to fight 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 serve 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 veneration 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 . Dea Terry, Kh. Janet . Joy Logue, Dolores Nossner, Rick Collins, George Michael Nasif, Lynne Abraham, Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas, Michael Farris, Athena, Georgia, Andrea Simon, Chuck Abraham, Carla Leese, Drew, Robert Taylor, Gregory Thomas, Helen Abraham, Hannah Bonelli, Alan Evans.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries. Chase Abraham, Nadia Rantisi Maxwell (8). Heather Farris, Lyndsey Freeny Henley, Scott Blackburn (10), Ilana Dallaire (11) Alexandra Tzotzolas (13). Debbie Abraham, Pam Smith, Albert Dornbusch (15), Greg Hull (16), Ali Grace Luke (17). Ann Garrison Thomas (20).

+ Prepare and Share. A Potluck branch after the Liturgy, **Today Sunday Oct. 11.** For any question contact Angela Angelo 601-372-6797.

+Lazarus Account. Has been reestablished to help people in dire need of financial support. If you would like to help, make your donation online, cash or by check to st. George, earmark "Lazarus Fund".

+Upcoming Events: +Fall Festival, Sunday November 1 @ 4pm. We will have a cake walk, bingo, cotton candy and popcorn. Hotdogs, chili and all the fixings will be provided by volunteers and will be cooked in our kitchen. please bring sweets and prizes for bingo.

+Fall Kibbee Sale, Saturday October 17.

+ 120th. Anniversary's Celebration for St. George Church. Save the Dates.

A 3-part series "reflection of our Ancestors"

Wednesday September 30th Wednesday October 21st and Saturday November 14th.

The Church Fathers Teach

In many modern Christian circles, icons are misunderstood. Some see them as unnecessary religious decoration. Others mistakenly believe that Orthodox Christians "worship images." Yet for the Orthodox Church, icons are neither decoration nor idols.

They are deeply theological, profoundly biblical, and inseparably connected to the mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Icons matter because Christianity is not merely an abstract philosophy. Christianity is the revelation of God in history, in matter, in flesh, and in visible reality. The Son of God became visible. Because He became visible,

He can be depicted. The icon is therefore not an optional artistic tradition. It is a confession of faith.

Saint Basil the Great wrote: "The honor paid to the image passes to the prototype."

DIVINE LITURGY OCTOBER 11, 2026

“DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM”

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.”