THE GREAT MARTYR ANASTASIA

When we read about the lives of the saints of the early Christian Church, we cannot help but be touched by the love and compassion that they had for one another. These saintly men and women knew no fear — often risking their own lives for the sake of others in their community. One such person was the Great Martyr Anastasia. Anastasia was born into a wealthy family in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian. Her mother was a devout Christian; her father a pagan. Although Anastasia followed Christ from her youth, she yielded to pressure from her father and married a pagan landowner named Publius. Anastasia and Publius were husband and wife in name only. She would secretly visit the imprisoned Christians in Rome, ministering to their needs and cleaning their wounds. When her husband discovered the acts of Christian kindness that his wife was performing, he subjected Anastasia to brutal beatings and torture at his hands. When Publius died, Anastasia was free to, not only continue to openly help persecuted Christians, but she was also able to share her substantial wealth with the poor. Her life was now one of constant caring for the needs of others, and she travelled throughout the Empire, bringing comfort to suffering Christians everywhere.

It was not long before the merciful lifestyle of Anastasia was noticed by the Roman authorities. Several times she was arrested herself, but she steadfastly refused to renounce her Savior, even when offered gold, jewels and other riches. Seeing that Anastasia would never give up her Christian Faith, a Roman magistrate ordered that she be thrown in prison and starved to death. Amazingly, Anastasia went for 60 days without food, and still survived! She was finally burned to death around 300 AD. In the fifth century, her relics were taken to Constantinople, where they were enshrined in a church built there in her memory.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

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 ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2026

TONE 5 / EOTHINON 11

UNMERCENARIES COSMAS AND DAMIAN OF ASIA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him * that with the Father and Spirit is co-beginningless God, * Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; * for he was pleased to mount the Cross * in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. * And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

APOLYTIKION OF SS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN OF ASIA IN TONE EIGHT

O ye silver-hating, wonderworking saints, Cosmas and Damian, visit our sicknesses. Freely ye received, freely give unto us.

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 November 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy and **wonderworking Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian**, the sons of Theodota of Asia.

Verses

The two Unmercenaries, from earth departed,
Yet again, as before, fill the earth with wonders.
November first they flew from earth, O healing Light.

The brothers were from Mesopotamia in Asia Minor. After the death of their pagan father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue, and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike; because of this, Cosmas and Damian are called "Unmercenaries." They fulfilled Christ's command: "Freely have ye received; freely give" (Matthew 10:8). And thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace. Even after their deaths, Cosmas and Damian worked healing miracles for all who called upon their names.

On this day, we also commemorate the **Venerable-martyr James** and his disciples **James the deacon and Dionysios** of Prodromou Skete on Athos; and **Venerable David** of Evia in Greece. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon 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. Gregory Thomas. Helen Abraham. Hannah Bonelli.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries Nov. Eleanor Durst (2), Jacob Jay West (3). Joey Bonelli, Danielle Thornton, (4) Steven Tzotzolas (8), Nancy Thomas, (10), Joni Nosser, Ellis Thomas (12). Morgan Tzotzolas (13). George & Miriam Jabour (18), Jake Dornbusch, Timmie Fedell (19). David Leese (21), Jackson Randall Wright (22).

+The Nativity Lent: Is divided into 2 Periods: (1)- Nov.15 through Dec. 19 when traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish &wine) is observed daily, with katalysis for wine & fish on Mon. Tue. Thur. Sat. & Sun. (2)- The period of the forefeast, Dec.20-25. When the traditional strict fasting is observed all days of the week.

+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, Today 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.

+ 120th. Anniversary's Celebration for St. George Church. Save the Date November 14 &15. His Grace Bishop Nicholas will be with us. The schedule of services and events will be sent. A Historic picture of the church family will be taken with his grace and Fr. Gabriel. Bring your elderly parents and children, and be a part of a historical event to remember.

+Up Coming: Parish Council Meeting Tuesday Nov.17th @ 6pm

+Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, Saturday November 21.

The Church Fathers Teach

Some people by the word freedom understand the ability to do whatever one wants ... People who have the more allowed themselves to come into slavery to sins, passions, and defilements more often than others appear as zealots of external freedom, wanting to broaden the laws as much as possible. But such a man uses external freedom only to more severely burden himself with inner slavery. True freedom is the active ability of a man who is not enslaved to sin, who is not pricked by a condemning conscience, to choose the better in the light of God's truth, and to bring it into actuality with the help of the gracious power of God. This is the freedom of which neither heaven nor earth are restrict.

(St. Philaret of Moscow, Sermon on the Birthday of Emperor Nicholas I, 1851)

DIVINE LITURGY NOVEMBER 01, 2026

"DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM"

THE EPISTLE

(For Ss. Cosmas and Damian of Asia)

In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous.
I beheld the Lord ever before me.

The reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (12:27-13:8)

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (16:19-31)

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"