A LESSON FROM AN UNLIKELY SOURCE

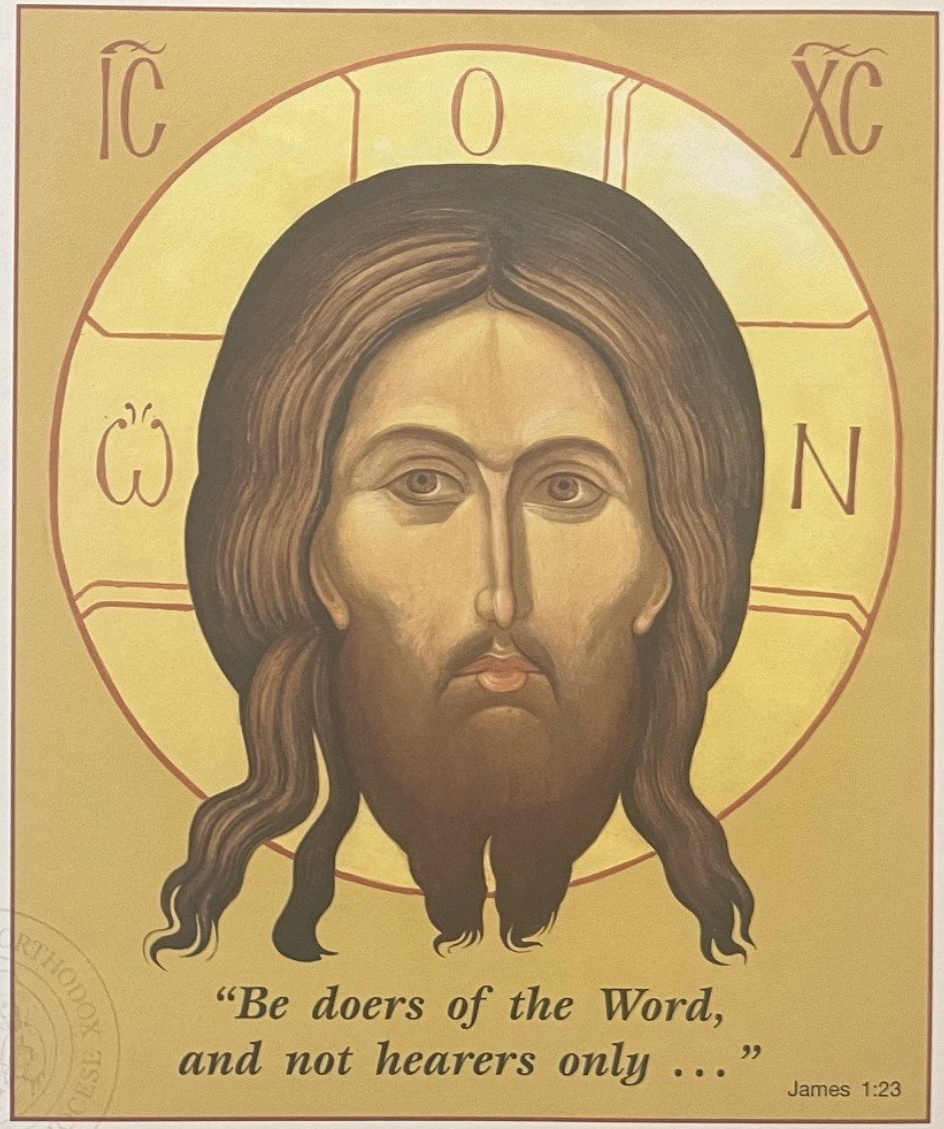
A profound Christian message is found in the following statement: "THE WEAK CAN NEVER FORGIVE. FORGIVENESS IS THE ATTRIBUTE OF THE STRONG." Do you know to whom this quote is attributed? Are they Christ's words? Were they uttered by one of our Church Fathers? It may surprise you to know that they are the words of Mahatma Gandhi, the great Hindu leader of India in the 20th century! Nonetheless, they teach us a lesson that is especially important to us during our Great Fast.

Unfortunately, life is not always fair, and we find ourselves being wronged almost on a daily basis. Often it is the people who are dearest to us who cause us the most pain. When this happens, there is a part of us that is not interested in making peace with those who have hurt us. Anger dominates our thoughts — the desire for revenge fills our hearts. Often we are not willing to pardon mistakes and move on. Many a family or friendship has been ruined by this type of attitude.

Yet that is precisely what our Lord wants us to do: FORGIVE AND FORGET. When His Apostles asked Him to teach them how to pray, Christ gave them the "Our Father" prayer, which clearly points out our need to "... forgive those who trespass against us." When He hung from the Cross — a Victim of hatred and jealousy — He implored His Heavenly Father to forgive those who were responsible for this vilest of crimes.

Only a person with a strong faith and a strong character can forgive. As we continue on our Lenten journey, may we SEEK forgiveness from God for our many transgressions, and may we SHOW similar forgiveness to those who have sinned against us.

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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 ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

TONE 7 / EOTHINON 2

MARTYRS GURIA, SHAMUNA AND HABIB THE DEACON OF EDESSA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

APOLYTIKION FOR SS. GURIA, SHAMUNA AND HABIB IN TONE FIVE

Since Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy holy Martyrs Guria, Shamuna and Habib as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strengthen the faith of Orthodox Christians, since Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

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 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, * the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, * the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, * into the House of the Lord * on this day is brought forward * and bringeth with herself the grace * of the Most Divine Spirit; * her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, * for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

We Celebrate Today

On November 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy **Martyrs and Confessors of Edessa in Syria: Guria, Shamuna and Habib the Deacon.**

Verses

Shamuna and Guria the sword perfecteth,
Habib, the flame; to them flame and sword were gladness.
Fire the fifteenth slew Habib, bronze the others.

Guria and Shamuna contested during the reign of Diocletian, in 288; Habib contested in the days of Licinius, in 316; he was buried with Guria and Shamuna. The three have one common feast and they are always portrayed together in icons. They are invoked for help in marital difficulties. A certain Goth had come with the Roman army to Edessa and was quartered in the house of a pious widow named Sophia. The Goth asked Sophia for the hand of her daughter, Euphemia; reluctantly, Sophia at last agreed. She made the Goth vow by the power of the holy Martyrs Shamuna, Guria, and Habib to keep Euphemia as the apple of his eye. As he was nearing his home, however, the treacherous man revealed to Euphemia that he already had a wife. Euphemia became the Goth couple's slave which dealt with her mercilessly. After extreme sufferings, which included being sealed alive in a tomb and left there to die, Euphemia begged the Saints to save her, and they miraculously conveyed her to Edessa, to the very shrine of the holy Martyrs. Euphemia was reunited with her mother through their holy prayers.

On this day, we also commemorate **Thomas the New**, patriarch of Constantinople; and **Venerable Paisios Velichkovsky**. By their holy intercessions, O 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. Robert Taylor. Gregory Thomas. Helen Abraham.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries Nov. George & Miriam Jabour (18), Jake Dornbusch, Timmie Fedell (19). David Leese (21), Jackson Randall Wright (22). George Habeeb Jr., Wayne Thornton (28)

+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.

+ 120th. Anniversary's Celebration for St. George Church. Save the Date November 14 &15. His Grace Bishop Nicholas will be with us. 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.

+Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, Saturday November 21.
Orthros and Liturgy Friday Nov. 20th @ 5 pm.

+ New Calendar 2027 is available in the Narthex.

+ Parish Council Meeting Tuesday Nov.7th @ 6pm.

The Church Fathers Teach

The Orthodox Church throughout the ages has maintained a continuity of faith and love with the apostolic community which was founded by Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Orthodoxy believes that she has preserved and taught the historic Christian Faith, free from error and distortion, from the time of the Apostles. She also believes that there is nothing in the body of her teachings which is contrary to truth or which inhibits real union with God. The air of antiquity and timelessness which often characterizes Eastern Christianity is an expression of her desire to remain loyal to the authentic Christian Faith. Orthodoxy believes that the Christian Faith and the Church are inseparable. It is impossible to know Christ, to share in the life of the Holy Trinity, or to be considered a Christian, apart from the Church. It is in the Church that the Christian Faith is proclaimed and maintained. It is through the Church that an individual is nurtured in the Faith. God is the source of faith in the Orthodox Church.

DIVINE LITURGY NOVEMBER 15, 2026

"DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM"

THE EPISTLE

(For the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So, then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Eighth Sunday of Luke)

The reading from the holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (10:25-37)

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read?" And the lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise.