



St. George Orthodox Church of Prescott

Sunday, September 11, 2016—Sunday before Holy Cross

Served by Fr. Jeffrey Frate

607 W GURLEY STREET, PRESCOTT, AZ 86305

928-777-8750 WWW.PRESCOTTORTHODOX.COM



METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Gospel Reading is from John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

PRAYER LIST

Kathy, Mary, Dan and Marcia Hill, Valentina Thommen, Fr. Makarios Mwaura and family (Kenya), Amber Brogger & children, Elena Cook, Walt Thayer, Vera Timotijevic, John Walendziak, Cynthia DeLeone, Roman Benyk, Karen Clark, Vadim, Kristina, Rochelle and Wayne Pedersen, Lisa, Mark and Jeannie Panos, Presvy Jenny Nicolaou Newlin, Ben Banks, Maria Carolina, Bill Kountanis, Michele and McKenzie.

For our sons and daughters serving in the U.S. Armed Forces; Jordan Verespe, Don (Spyridon) Hock, Col. Stephen Close, Matthew Bricker, Matt Meyers, Joseph Peck and Brittany Rushing.

And for the departed Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Gabriel Cooke, may his memory be eternal.

And the departed Helen Wells, Bob (Timothy) Hunt, John Tupy, Kayla Mueller, Khrystyna Gavryushenko and the newly departed Kathy Hunt.

As members of an Orthodox Christian family, we are called upon to pray for each other.

If you would like us to remember you or your loved one in our prayers, please contact the church office at 928-777-8750 or e-mail the name of your loved one to jillnormandin@gmail.com

For our Visitors this morning!

If this is your first visit to an Orthodox Christian liturgy we welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The Eastern Orthodox Church traces her lineage back to the Day of Pentecost, the birth of the New Testament Church. We are liturgical in worship, using the liturgies developed in the fourth century and attributed to St. John Chrysostom, and St. Basil the Great, also, the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy attributed to St. Gregory Dialogos, Pope of Rome. Liturgy literally means, "work of the people", and it seems these services are attributed to these three saints because they were in every sense of the word champions of the people, caring for their flocks with true wisdom and discernment, and not afraid to suffer on their behalf, and on behalf of the truth. We are the "Church of the Bible" since it was in the bosom of the Church that the New Testament developed and was given birth. We are hierarchical in structure, visibly witnessing to, and manifesting, the reality that the grace of God flows from our one great High Priest and Hierarch, Jesus Christ, through the communion of hierarchs throughout the world to the entire body of the faithful, even to the smallest child. The apex of our worship experience is to commune with God in the Body and Blood of Christ. He Himself taught in the Gospel of St. John, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh...For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed." (Jn 6:51,55) In light of this, the Divine Liturgy of the Orthodox Church is essentially Eucharistic, meaning it is offered in thanksgiving to the One Triune God who continuously sends down the Holy Spirit upon us and the bread and wine that we offer, making these humble things, for us the unworthy, the precious Body and Blood of Christ. **Please note that Holy Communion is reserved for those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves with prayer and fasting to receive the Holy Mysteries.** We do invite you to receive the blessed bread (antidoron) which is offered to all after the dismissal, and please do join us at the conclusion of the Divine Service for our fellowship meal in the hall next door. May the Lord richly bless your worship with us in this morning's Divine Liturgy!

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

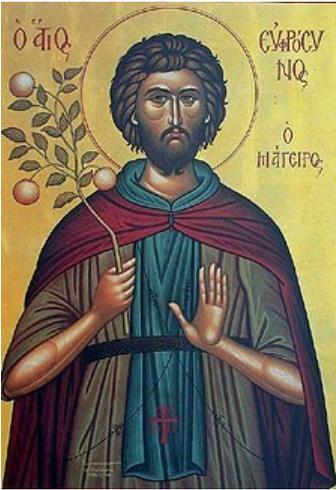
Thy Nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole world; For from thee hath dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, Annulling the curse and bestowing the blessing, Abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

KONTAKION FOR THE NATIVITY

Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death, O Immaculate one, by thy holy Nativity, which thy people, redeemed from the guilt of offences, celebrate by crying to thee: the barren woman giveth birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.



St Euphrosynus the Cook, of Alexandria (September 11)

Saint Euphrosynus the Cook was from one of the Palestinian monasteries, and his obedience was to work in the kitchen as a cook. Toiling away for the brethren, St Euphrosynus did not absent himself from thought about God, but rather dwelt in prayer and fasting. He remembered always that obedience is the first duty of a monk, and therefore he was obedient to the elder brethren. The patience of the saint was amazing: they often reproached him, but he made no complaint and endured every unpleasantness. St Euphrosynus pleased the Lord by his inner virtue which he concealed from people, and the Lord Himself revealed to the monastic brethren the spiritual heights of their unassuming fellow-monk.

One of the priests of the monastery prayed and asked the Lord to show him the blessings prepared for the righteous in the age to come. The priest saw in a dream what Paradise is like, and he contemplated its inexplicable beauty with fear and with joy.

He also saw there a monk of his monastery, the cook Euphrosynus. Amazed at this encounter, the presbyter asked Euphrosynus, how he came to be there. The saint answered that he was in Paradise through the great mercy of God. The priest again asked whether Euphrosynus would be able to give him something from the surrounding beauty. St Euphrosynus suggested to the priest to take whatever he wished, and so the priest pointed to three luscious apples growing in the garden of Paradise. The monk picked the three apples, wrapped them in a cloth, and gave them to his companion.

When he awoke in the early morning, the priest thought the vision a dream, but suddenly he noticed next to him the cloth with the fruit of Paradise wrapped in it, and emitting a wondrous fragrance. The priest, found St Euphrosynus in church and asked him under oath where he was the night before. The saint answered that he was where the priest also was. Then the monk said that the Lord, in fulfilling the prayer of the priest, had shown him Paradise and had bestowed the fruit of Paradise through him, “the lowly and unworthy servant of God, Euphrosynus.”

The priest related everything to the monastery brethren, pointing out the spiritual loftiness of Euphrosynus in pleasing God, and he pointed to the fragrant paradisaical fruit. Deeply affected by what they heard, the monks went to the kitchen, in order to pay respect to St Euphrosynus, but they did not find him there. Fleeing human glory, the monk had left the monastery. The place where he concealed himself remained unknown, but the monks always remembered that their monastic brother St Euphrosynus had come upon Paradise, and that they in being saved, through the mercy of God would meet him there. They reverently kept and distributed pieces of the apples from Paradise for blessing and for healing.

Theodora of Alexandria (September 11)

This saint lived in the fifth century. Out of remorse for the adultery that she committed with another man, she fled from her husband's house, renamed herself Theodore, clothed herself as a man, and pretending to be a eunuch, entered a monastery of men. Her identity as a woman was discovered only after her death.



Prayer for Evangelism in Ourselves and in Our Community

God of truth and love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Hear our prayer for those who do not know You. That they may come to a saving knowledge of the truth, and that Your Name may be praised among all peoples of the world. Sustain, inspire, and enlighten Your servants who bring them the Gospel. Bring fresh vigor to wavering faith; sustain our faith when it is still fragile. Continually renew missionary zeal in ourselves and in the Church, and raise up new missionaries who will follow You to the ends of the world. Make us witnesses to Your goodness full of love, full of strength, and full of faith for Your glory and the salvation of the entire world. Through the prayers of all the missionary saints, Have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

This Week at St. George

Sunday, September 11, 2016

8:30AM

Orthros

9:30AM

**Divine Liturgy
Children's School—Immediately Following Communion**

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

6:00PM

Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Friday, September 16, 2016

6:30PM

Family Bunco Night

Saturday, September 17, 2016

3:45PM

Children's Pre-Vespers School

5:00PM

Great Vespers

Church School

Today is our first Sunday of Church School. Church School will begin immediately after the children have received Holy Communion at the Divine Liturgy. Please allow the children and their teachers to receive Holy Communion first so that they may go to their classes.

Bunco Night

The Ladies Group is planning a family fun night of bunco on Friday, September 16 at 7 pm. Everyone (young, old, individual, family, male, female) is invited to an evening of fun and bunco in the church hall. No knowledge of the game is necessary, if you can roll dice, you can play. Mark your calendars and save the date. We are asking \$5 per family and all funds raised will go towards the St. George Sisterhood's charitable projects during the year. Hope to see you there!

Dogtoberfest

Dogtoberfest volunteers are needed on Sunday, October 2. Our church will participate with a booth where we will sell crafts and hand out information about Orthodoxy. In addition, Fr. Jeffrey will conduct a blessing of the dogs during the event which is held at the Prescott Court House Square. Please volunteer for set-up, booth duty or tear down by seeing Gina and Deirdre after Church. This is an outreach event for St. George.

Men's Group

Raymond Zogob, and Jesse Lall are in the process of developing a Men's Group here at St. George. The first several sessions will be based on a curriculum we've obtained from the Antiochian Archdiocese. The first meeting is scheduled for September 19th at 7pm.

Readers Needed

If you are an Orthodox steward of our parish and interested in reading the Epistle occasionally on Sunday mornings, please see Fr. Jeffrey or Kenny.

If you have bulletin announcements, please contact Jill Normandin by Thursday to have your announcement included in the Sunday bulletin. Email jillnormandin@gmail.com or call 928-533-3977 (email is preferable so no details are missed).

St. George Parish Council: Gina Clark, President, George Rizk, Vice President, Kally Key, Treasurer, Matt Maxwell, Secretary and Council Members, Ty Freedman, Laretta Gioia, Kenny Scott, Robert Smith, and Raymond Zogob.