



SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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November 24, 2019

23rd Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 6
Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple
Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria



From the Fathers...

“If you want to serve God, prepare your heart not for food, not for drink, not for rest, not for ease, but for suffering, so that you may endure all temptations, trouble and sorrow.

-St. Sergius of Radonezh



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



Today the city of Alexandria adorns itself with wisdom, O Martyr, / having thy childhood garments within thy holy temple./ Therefore, O Catherine, we also celebrate in reverence thine honored memory.// Pray for those who honor thee!

Today let us celebrate the memory of Catherine,/ for by great word and deed she truly trampled all the powers of the foe/ and the opposition of the orators.// By her prayers, O God, deliver us from the godless enemy!

Rejoice, most glorious and honored Martyr Catherine,/ for the mountain of Sinai / where Moses beheld the bush that burned yet was not consumed/ now keeps thy God-pleasing body,/ translated there by the gracious mercy of Christ// awaiting the time of His second coming!
(Stichera of Lord, I Call)

A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Resurrection Troparion in Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;/ the guards became as dead men./ Mary stood by Thy grave,/ seeking Thy most pure body./ Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it./ Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Entrance of the Theotokos Troparion in Tone 4

Today is the prelude of the good will of God,/ of the preaching of the salvation of mankind./ The Virgin appears in the Temple of God,/ in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all./ Let us rejoice and sing to her:/ Rejoice, O Fulfillment // of the Creator's dispensation!

Great Martyr George Troparion in Tone 4

As deliverer 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.

St. Catherine Troparion in Tone 4

By thy virtues as by rays of the sun thou didst enlighten the unbelieving philosophers,/ and like the most bright moon thou didst drive away the darkness of disbelief from those walking in the night;/ thou didst convince the queen, and didst also chastise the tyrant./ God-summoned bride, blessed Catherine./ Thou didst hasten with desire to the heavenly bridal chamber of the fairest Bridegroom of Christ,/ and thou wast crowned by Him with a royal crown;// Standing before Him with the Angels, pray for us who keep thy most sacred memory!

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over

Resurrection Kontakion in Tone 6

When Christ God the Giver of Life,/ raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,/ He bestowed resurrection on the human race.// He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Great Martyr George Kontakion in Tone 4

As we the faithful flee to thee for refuge and seek thy protection and speedy help,/ We entreat thee, O Champion of Christ, that we who sing thy praises may be delivered from the snares of the enemy/ and from every peril and adversary,// that we may cry: "Rejoice, O martyr George!"

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

St. Catherine Kontakion in Tone 2

Let all of us who love to honor the martyrs/ form a great choir in praise of the most wise Catherine,/ for she preached Christ and trampled the serpent,// despising the knowledge of the orators.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Entrance of the Theotokos Kontakion in Tone 4

The most pure Temple of the Savior;/ the precious Chamber and Virgin;/ the sacred Treasure of the glory of God,/ is presented today to the house of the Lord./ She brings with her the grace of the Spirit,/ therefore, the angels of God praise her:// "Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!"

and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound – think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"

And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Sunday, November 24th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM Church School

Afterfeast of the Entrance into the Temple

Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria

Greatmartyr Mercurius of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Ephesians 2:4-10, Luke 13:10-17

Monday, November 25th

Leavetaking of the Entrance Into the Temple

Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Clement, Bishop of Ochrid

1 Thessalonians 2:20-3:8, Hebrews 9:1-7

Luke 19:37-44, Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Tuesday, November 26th

9:00 AM Office Hours

9:30 AM Cookie Baking

Ven. Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis

Ven. Jacob the Solitary of Syria

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 19:45-48

Wednesday, November 27th

9:30 AM Cookie Baking

Greatmartyr Jacob the Persian

Seventeen Monk-Martyrs in India

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12, Luke 20:1-8

Thursday, November 28th

THANKSGIVING

Monk-Martyr and Confessor Stephen the New

1 Thessalonians 5:1-8, Luke 20:9-18

Friday, November 29th

9:00 AM Office Hours

Martyr Paramon and 370 Martyrs in Bithynia

Hieromartyr Abibus, Bishop of Nekressi in Georgia

1 Thessalonians 5:9-13, 24-48, Luke 20:19-26

Saturday, November 30th

5:00 PM Great Vespers

Holy and All-praised Apostle Andrew the First-called

St. Sebastian of Jackson and San Francisco

2 Corinthians 11:1-6, 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Luke 12:32-40, John 1:35-51

Sunday, December 1st

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM Church School

Prophet Nahum

Righteous Philaret the Merciful of Amnia in Asia Minor

Ephesians 2:14-22, Luke 18:18-27

The Smartest Person in the Room



The Church remembers the Great Martyr Catherine, who lived in the fourth century. As residents of Alexandria, Egypt, her wealthy pagan parents had access to all the city's great institutions of learning. They gave their daughter the kind of education such a place could provide, and Catherine was well-versed in public speaking, sciences, languages, and philosophy. She was a brilliant student, and also a well-mannered and lovely young woman.

With all these desirable attributes, the young Catherine still had a big problem. There was no shortage of men who wanted to marry her, but there was a definite lack of men who could measure up to her. She told her mother, with a strong note of complaint, that all the men she knew were boring and shallow, and that she feared she might never find one who could be her equal. Catherine knew the loneliness often felt by the child who is perceived by others to be the brightest in the class, with nobody to challenge her in argument or conversation. She also must have felt the boredom of inevitably being the smartest person in the room—any room. And if some envied her wealth and beauty, that envy could isolate her even more.

Catherine's mother was worried. As a secretly-practicing Christian, she decided the best person to help and advise her daughter was a holy elder. This man instructed Catherine in the faith, guiding her prodigious intelligence toward a relationship with Christ. After much prayer and fasting, Catherine had a vision of Christ and His mother. She saw the Lord's beauty and brilliance, so much greater than her own. She wanted to dedicate herself to Him, happily giving up the idea of finding a human partner.

But it was not to be that easy. In another vision, Christ would not even look at her, declaring her unworthy or unready. It was quite a new experience for the sought-after, bored beauty. Yet there was already a new element of humility developing in Catherine, for on the advice of the elder she continued to study, pray and fast, and finally received baptism. She had a third vision of Christ and His mother receiving her joyfully and placing a ring on her finger. When she awoke the ring was still there.

Catherine would later confront the pagan Emperor Maximian, publicly challenging his gory sacrifice to the gods by saying that the true God loves life and true wisdom, not senseless bloody slaughter. Seeking to put the outspoken female in her place, he called together fifty philosophers to persuade her that her beliefs were mistaken. But instead she convinced several of them to become believers.

Once again, Catherine had been the smartest person in the room. But this time, her intelligence didn't bring her boredom and loneliness. It brought her the chance to witness with power and readied her, the "God-summoned bride", to die as a martyr for the Bridegroom she had learned to love so much.

HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

2019 Advent Celebration

In the spirit of St. Nicholas, we will once again celebrate the season of giving through our 2019 Advent Celebration. Families will be assigned **TODAY**. Please see Cindy Hopper for your family assignment. Remember, there is no prize for being under budget! Be generous! Advent Celebration: **December 15th**.

Nativity Fast

The Nativity Fast began on **Friday, November 15th**. During this time, Orthodox Christians traditionally abstain from meat and dairy products until the Feast of the Nativity of Christ. Fish is generally allowed on Saturdays and Sunday until **December 20th** when we enter the Forefeast of the Feast. Considerations are made for those are elderly, ill, or pregnant and nursing mothers. Please discuss any questions about fasting with Fr. Gregory.

Psalter Prayer Group

The Psalter Prayer Group has started, but there is still room for more participants! The Psalter is made up of 20 Kathisma and each Kathisma is made up of a group of Psalms. The goal is to read the entire Book of Psalms every day of the Advent Fast by having 20 people reading an assigned Kathisma every day to help us with our spiritual journey. This a 20 minute daily commitment throughout Advent. Questions? Cindy Hopper.

2019 Holiday Cookie Sale

The 2019 Holiday Cookie Sale will be **Saturday, December 14th**.

How can you help?

- 1) Come to church on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30am** to bake cookies in the hall.
- 2) Bake cookies at home and bring them for the sale.
- 3) Donate financially or with supplies to assist those who are baking cookies.
- 4) Advertise the Cookie Sale with your family and friends.
- 5) Pray for the bakers, helpers, coordinators, and all those involved for a successful event.

Parish Directory Update

We are updating the parish directory. Forms are available in the Narthex. Please submit forms to Barbara Ranjo by January 31st.

Pan-Orthodox Vespers

There will be Pan-Orthodox Vespers on **Saturday, January 4th** at 6:00pm at St. George (Woodley).

Pan-Orthodox Game Night

There will be a Pan-Orthodox Game Night on **Sunday, January 19th** at St. George (Woodley).

Pan-Orthodox Facebook Page

Please consider “liking” the new Pan-Orthodox of Toledo Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Pan-Orthodox-Toledo-106460247494055

We are praying for...

Departed:

Marcia

Health and Well-Being:

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

Catechumens:

Tyson, Jessica, Marilla, Harry, Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

The sanctuary lamp is lit today by Mary Gresko and Julie Olmstead in memory of their father, George, for what would have been his 94th birthday. May his memory be eternal!



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Stephanie Timofeev (11/24)
Deborah Serdar (11/24)
Olivia Barton (11/27)
Artem Savin (11/27)
Lora Kneisel (11/28)

Name's Days:

Kathleen Killian (11/24)
Carol Yonov (11/24)
Kathy Dimitroff (11/24)
Karen Beleny (11/24)
Stan Ostas (11/26)
Andrea Timofeev (11/30)
Andrew Pappas (11/30)
Andrew Ghareeb (11/30)
Derek Corey-Goodman (11/30)