



# SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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**December 8, 2019**

25th Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 8

Ven. Patapius of Thebes

Martyr Anthusa, at Rome



**From the Fathers...**

“A person has two joys: one when he accepts, and the other when he gives. The joy that they experience when giving is incomprehensible with that which they feel while accepting something. A person, in order to understand whether he is succeeding in spiritual matters, must first of all test himself, whether he rejoices by giving, not accepting.”

-St.Paisios the Athonite



**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.



O Father Patápius, / thou didst quench the fires of fleshly passion with abstinence./ Like Elijah of old thou didst live in the desert; / thou didst purify thy mind with incessant prayer to God.// Pray now that He may grant our souls peace and great mercy!

O Father Patápius, / thou didst enroll thyself in the ranks of those who fast, / clothing thyself with dispassion. / Now thou dost live in the mansions of the ven'erable ones, / where the light does not fade and the Tree of Life stands:// Pray now that peace and great mercy may be granted to our souls!

O Father Patápius, / thou didst shine forth as a beacon from Egypt, / enlightening the world with the brightness of thy miracles./ Thou didst dispel the gloom of soul-destroying infirmities, / driving off the darkness of demons.// Pray now that peace and great mercy may be granted to our souls!  
*(Stichera of Lord, I Call)*

**A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE**

## TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Resurrection Troparion in Tone 8

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!/  
Thou didst accept the three day burial / to free us from  
our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection,  
glory to Thee!

### 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.

### Ven. Patapius Troparion in Tone 8

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O  
Father,/ for thou didst take up the Cross and follow  
Christ./ By so doing thou didst teach us to disregard the  
flesh for it passes away/ but to care instead for the soul,  
since it is immortal.// Therefore thy spirit, venerable  
Patapius, rejoices with the Angels.

### Resurrection Kontakion in Tone 8

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and  
resurrected Adam./ Eve exults in Thy Resurrection,/  
and the world celebrates Thy rising from the dead, O  
greatly Merciful One!

### 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.*

### Ven. Patapius Kontakion in Tone 3

Thy temple is found to be a source of healing,/ and the  
people flock to it eagerly, O saint./ They seek the healing  
of their diseases/ and the forgiveness of their sins,// for  
thou art a protector for all those in need, ven'erable  
Patápius.

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### Steadfast Protectress of Christians in Tone 6

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,/ constant advocate  
before the Creator;/ despise not the entreating cries of us  
sinners,/ but in your goodness come speedily to help us  
who call on you in faith./ Hasten to hear our petition and  
to intercede for us, O Theotokos,// for you always protect  
those who honor you!

### Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you  
to walk worthy of the calling with which you were  
called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with  
longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,  
endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the  
bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as you were called in one hope of your calling;  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and  
Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and  
in you all.



### Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him  
ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And  
they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master,  
have mercy on us!"

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show  
yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they  
went, they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed,  
returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell  
down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And  
he was a Samaritan.

So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten  
cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any  
found who returned to give glory to God except this  
foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way.  
Your faith has made you well."

## THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

### Sunday, December 8th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM Church School

*Ven. Patapius of Thebes*

*Holy 362 Martyrs of Africa, martyred by the Arians*

Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 17:12-19

### Monday, December 9th

*Conception by Righteous Anna of the Theotokos*

*Prophetess Anna, mother of Prophet Samuel*

1 Timothy 1:1-7, Galatians 4:22-31

Mark 8:11-21, Luke 8:16-21

### Tuesday, December 10th

9:30 AM Cookie Baking

6:00 PM Office Hours

*Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and EUGRAPHUS*

*Martyr Gemellus of Paphlagonia*

1 Timothy 1:8-14, Mark 8:22-26

### Wednesday, December 11th

9:00 AM Office Hours

9:30 AM Cookie Baking

*Ven. Daniel the Stylite of Constantinople*

*Synaxis of all the martyrs in Georgia*

1 Timothy 1:18-20, 2:8-15, Mark 8:30-34

### Thursday, December 12th

*St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Tremithus*

*St. Mardirije of Libertyville, Bishop of America*

1 Timothy 3:1-13, 1 Timothy 4:4-8, 16

Mark 9:10-16, Mark 9:33-41

### Friday, December 13th

*Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius*

*Repose of Ven. Herman of Alaska*

Galatians 5:22-6:2, Luke 6:17-23

### Saturday, December 14th

10:00AM Cookie Sale

5:00 PM Readers Vespers

*Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucis, and Callinicus of Apollonia*

*Martyrs Apolonius, Philemon, Arianus, and Theoctychus*

Galatians 3:8-12, Luke 14:1-11

### Sunday, December 15th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

12:00 PM Advent Celebration

*Sunday of the Forefathers*

*Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bishop of Illyria*

*St. Stephen the Confessor, Archbishop of Surozh*

Colossians 3:4-11, Luke 14:16-24

### The Gift to Be Simple



The first words of a well-known Shaker song are "Tis the gift to be simple" and they could well apply to the great saint Spyridon, the Wonderworker and Bishop.

Spyridon's life from its very early years was simple. Born in 270, he was a shepherd on the island of Cyprus, his birthplace, and came from a family of farmers. Though they were not educated, his parents were devout Christians and raised him in the Church.

He married early in life and had a daughter, but his wife died when he was still fairly young. After her death he

decided to devote his life to God's service and become a monk. His daughter, following his example, also entered the monastic life.

Spyridon's background, unlike that of many bishops, was not one of advanced education and study. Yet his dedication to God and his deep faith led to his being chosen as Bishop of Tremithus. And even though he had taken on this immense responsibility, he didn't change his way of life. He continued to care for his own cattle and till his land. The abundant produce that the land produced was mostly given to the poor, while Spyridon himself ate sparingly of the simplest food, as he had always done.

Though his work was no threat to anyone, Spyridon was persecuted, mutilated and exiled to slave labor in the mines of Spain toward the end of the third century. When he was finally allowed to return to his diocese, he continued to work with the poor and to bring many pagans to the Christian faith.

Being a person without great education or sophistication did not mean that Spyridon could not find ways of explaining the complex teaching that God is Trinity. He is credited with using the helpful image of a piece of pottery to describe the three Divine Persons. Pottery is made, he said, of three elements: earth, water, and the effect of fire. Yet these three are united in the pot that is produced. In the same way the Persons of the Trinity are three and distinct, yet united. It was at the Council of Nicaea that Bishop Spyridon, so familiar with the elements of farming and the earth, impressed people with this image.

Spyridon's simplicity made him humble enough to be open to God's guidance, and he was given the gift to work wonders. He was able to cast out demons, bring rain in a time of drought, and heal the sick. Yet his humility never altered. When because of his modest dress he was not recognized as a bishop and was insulted by an arrogant guard, he didn't take offense but quietly accepted the ill-treatment.

Spyridon died in 348, and was buried in the Church of the Apostles in Tremithus, where he had served for so long. His relics were transferred to the Greek island of Corfu, having been discovered to be incorrupt. His grave sent forth the fragrance of basil, that herb associated with the cross and with kings.

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

**2019 Holiday Cookie Sale**

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

- 1) Come to church on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30am** to bake cookies in the hall. It's not too late to help!
- 2) Bake cookies at home and bring them for the sale. Get started today!
- 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.

**2019 Advent Celebration**

The annual Advent Celebration will take place next **Sunday, December 15th** following Divine Liturgy. All gifts need to be here by next Sunday. Come and enjoy the festivities with a pancake breakfast by the youth. Gift wrapping, activities, and a surprise visitor!

**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 Psaltar 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.

**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](http://www.facebook.com/Pan-Orthodox-Toledo-106460247494055)

**We are praying for...**

**Departed:** Pavel

**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**

Sanctuary Lamp sponsorships are available.



**Celebrations**

**Birthdays:**

Chase Mackiewicz (12/14)

