



# SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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**September 13, 2020**

14th Sunday After Pentecost - Tone 5  
Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross  
Founding of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher



**From the Fathers...**

“Just as the blessings of God are unutterably great, so their acquisition requires much hardship and toil undertaken with hope and faith.”

- St. Macarius the Great



**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.



Dedication is to be honored, / as was decreed in the Old Law;/ even more should the New Law be honored through dedication;/ for as Isaiah proclaims: “The islands are dedicated to God.”/ By this we understand the churches now built by the Gentiles,/ which receive a firm foundation from God.// Therefore let us spiritually celebrate this present feast!

O Christ, the pre-eternal Word, / Thou hast set up Thy Church as a tower of strength, / founding it upon the rock of the faith./ Therefore it abides in Thee, unshaken forever,/ for, without undergoing change, / Thou becamest Man in these latter times for its sake./ Therefore we give thanks to Thee and praise Thee in hymns, saying:/ “Thou art our King since before time began;/ now and forever — glory to Thee!” (*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 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,/ co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,/ born for our salvation from the Virgin;/ for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,/ to endure death,/ and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

### Founding of the Holy Sepulcher Troparion in Tone 4

Thou hast revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Thy glory on earth/ to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord./ Through the prayers of the Theotokos,/ strengthen it for ever and ever/ and accept our supplication which we ceaselessly offer Thee therein, // the life and resurrection of all!

### Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross Troparion in Tone 4

We offer in supplication/ the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, O Lord,/ which Thou hast granted to us/ although we are unworthy. // Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

### Resurrection Kontakion in Tone 5

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior,/ shattering its gates as Almighty,/ resurrecting the dead as Creator,/ and destroying the sting of death./ Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: O Lord, save us!

*Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit  
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### Founding of the Holy Sepulcher Kontakion in Tone 4

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light,/ which enlightens all the faithful.// Standing within it we cry: "Establish this house, O Lord!"



### Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

### Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.

Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' "

But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

For many are called, but few are chosen."

## THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

### Sunday, September 13th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (In Person Only)

7:00 PM Church School (Online)

*Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

*Founding of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher*

Galatians 6:11-18, 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4, Hebrews 3:1-4

John 3:13-17, Matthew 22:1-14, Matthew 16:13-18

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### Monday, September 14th

7:30 PM Adult Education (Online)

*Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross*

*Repose of St. John Chrysostom*

1 Corinthians 1:18-24, John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

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### Tuesday, September 15th

*Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

*Greatmartyr Nicetas the Goth*

Galatians 2:11-16, Galatians 2:21-3:7

Mark 5:24-34, Mark 6:1-7

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### Wednesday, September 16th

9:00 AM Clean Up Day

*Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

*Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-praised*

*Martyr Ludmila, grandmother of St. Wenceslaus*

Galatians 3:15-22, Mark 6:7-13

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### Thursday, September 17th

*Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

*Martyr Sophia and her daughters Faith, Hope, Love*

Galatians 3:23-4:5, Mark 6:30-45

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### Friday, September 18th

*Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

*St. Eumenius, Bishop of Gortyna*

Galatians 4:8-21, Mark 6:45-53

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### Saturday, September 19th

5:00 PM Great Vespers (Livestream and In Person)

*Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

*Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, and Dorymedon*

1 Corinthians 1:26-29, 1 Corinthians 4:17-5:5

John 8:21-30, Matthew 24:1-13

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### Sunday, September 20th

9:30 AM Chrismation of the Barton Family

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream and In Person)

*Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross*

*Greatmartyr Eusthathius, Placidus, and those with them*

*Holy Martyr and Confessor Michael of Chernigov*

Galatians 2:16-20, 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Mark 8:34-9:1, Matthew 22:35-46

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### St. Euphemia Gives the Answer



When 630 church leaders gathered at the Council of Chalcedon in the year 451, their meeting place was the cathedral dedicated to Saint Euphemia. When they struggled unsuccessfully to resolve a very serious disagreement they turned to her, in a surprising way, for the solution.

Euphemia was born in Chalcedon to a senator and his wife. From her early years she was determined to dedicate her life to Christ in virginity rather than marrying and having children.

When the pagan governor of Chalcedon demanded that all citizens gather to worship and sacrifice to the gods, some Christians refused, and came together secretly for worship and prayers. One day Euphemia was discovered among a group of Christians worshipping in a house.

The soldiers in charge of arresting the Christians tried to flatter her and to talk her into worshipping the pagan gods. "Don't throw your life away," they told her. "You are young and pretty. Is it such a serious matter to say a few prayers to the temple gods?"

Euphemia answered at once, "We are not fools. We know the difference between your lifeless statues and the true, living God we worship. Don't waste your time trying to convince us to change our minds!"

The soldiers saw that Euphemia gained courage from her fellow Christians. She was the youngest of the group. Perhaps, they thought, she would weaken without the others' support. She might then reveal the names of more Christians they could track down and arrest.

So they took Euphemia, alone, to be interrogated. She was cruelly tortured, and died in the arena where Christians often suffered during gladiatorial games. It was about the year 307. Her fellow Christians built a beautiful cathedral over her grave, and that was where the Council of Chalcedon met 144 years later.

The meeting didn't go smoothly because the delegates were divided on a central issue. The Monophysites said that if Christ is one Person, He must have only one nature. The Orthodox insisted that Christ is one Person having two perfectly united natures, divine and human.

It was finally decided that each group would write a "confession of faith" telling what they believed, on a scroll. The two scrolls were sealed and placed in the tomb of the cathedral's patron, Saint Euphemia. A guard watched over the tomb for three days, while the delegates fasted and prayed.

When the tomb was opened, the scroll detailing the Orthodox position was in Euphemia's right hand, and the other scroll lay at her feet. Euphemia had given the answer: Christ is one Person in two unconfused, undivided and inseparable natures.

In Rovinj, Croatia you can climb to the highest point in the city, the top of the Tower of Saint Euphemia. A statue of the saint revolves on the tower. As it turns, the statue's right hand shows which way the wind is blowing, just as Saint Euphemia's right hand showed the way of belief so many centuries ago.

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

**Updated Guidance for COVID-19**

**Reopening Guidelines**

The Cathedral remains in Stage 4 of the reopening process for the time being. We are now allowed to have 100% of social distancing capacity. Sign-up for church services is available online.

**Face masks are now required to be worn during all services.**

Exceptions to the face mask requirement set forth in the Public Health Order pertinent to St. George are as follows:

- individuals are under 10 years of age (and cannot reasonably keep from handling the mask),
- those with respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or disability that contraindicates the wearing of a facial covering,
- officiants of religious services (altar servers will wear face masks).

Those who fall in the vulnerable populations should remain at home.

**12th Annual St. George Golf Tournament**

The 12th Annual St. George Golf Tournament took place yesterday. Thank you to all who contributed and participated! Thank you to Stan Pentsos for coordinating!

**Online Adult Education**

Please join us for an Adult Education series “Mothers and Martyrs: An Examination of Women Saints in the Orthodox Church” on **Monday evenings starting at 7:30pm**. Online classes will be held via Zoom. The Zoom link is sent through our email list.

**Church School**

Church School begins **Sunday, September 13th** with a treasure hunt and ice cream social! Due to COVID, all classes will meet **Sundays at 7pm ONLINE**. Please email Vicki Ghareeb at [vickighareeb@yahoo.com](mailto:vickighareeb@yahoo.com) to register your children. Upon registration, you will receive the link to the classes. We are looking forward to growing in Faith and fellowship as creatively as possible!

**Clean Up Day**

We will have a Church Clean Up Day on **Wednesday, September 16th at 9:00am**. Please bring tools and cleaning supplies. Social distancing and masks are required. Please contact Stan Pentsos with any questions.

**Diaper Collection**

As we were unable to serve the St. Peter and Paul community with meals during COVID, The Outreach Ministry will be taking a diaper collection in September and October. The diapers will delivered to St. Peter and Paul in November to be dispersed to the community. Thank you for your support.

**We are praying for...**

**Health and Well-Being:**

Gordon (Nicholas), Susan (Susanna), Soteria, Maria, Tanya, Lawrence, Kathleen, Karen, Panka, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

**Catechumens:**

Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, Jachin, Simon, Beth, Andromeda, and Lazarus



**Sanctuary Lamp**

Sanctuary Lamp sponsorships are available.



**Celebrations**

**Birthdays:**

Sophie Timofeev (9/15)

**Name's Days:**

Corey Pappas (9/13)  
Sophie Timofeev (9/17)  
Ariana Allen (9/18)

**Anniversaries:**

Steve & Sherry Timofeev (9/14)