



**St George the Great Martyr  
Orthodox Church - Weekly Bulletin**

**Sunday, December 30 2018**

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**TONE 6 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Sunday after the Nativity of Christ**  
**Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James**  
**the Brother of the Lord/Afterfeast of the Nativity of Christ Sunday be-**  
**fore the Theophany**

**Tone 6 Troparion** (*Resurrection*) // 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.

**Tone 4 Troparion** (*for the Feast*) // Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / has shone to the world the light of wisdom! / For by it, those who worshipped the stars, / were taught by a star to adore Thee, / the Sun of righteousness, / and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.// O Lord, glory to Thee!

**Tone 2 Troparion** (*of the Righteous Ones*) // Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, / to David, the ancestor of God; / thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; / and thou didst give glory with the shepherds; /thou didst worship with the Magi, / and didst receive the news from the Angel. // Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

**Tone 3 Kontakion** (*of the Righteous Ones*) // Today godly David is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer praise. / The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy. / They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, // and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor Thee!"

**Tone 3 Kontakion of the Feast** Today the Virgin gives birth to the Trans-  
cendent One, / and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable  
One. / Angels with shepherds glorify Him; / the Wise Men journey with  
the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

### **Matthew 2:13-23 (*Gospel*)**

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Recommended reading for Christmas on the OCA website:

"As we celebrate the Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, we pause to reflect on the words of the late Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko from his classic homily, "The Blessed Exchange."" This can be found online at:

<https://oca.org/reflections/misc-authors/the-blessed-exchange>

## Royal Hours

Each Sunday before the Divine Liturgy, we celebrate 3rd and 6th Hours. These are very simple services where the reader reads a few psalms and we say some prayers to celebrate the morning hours and remember God's providence in our lives. On **Friday, January 4th at 8:30am we will celebrate a grander version of 1st, 3rd, 6th, and 9th Hours known as Royal Hours which prepare us to celebrate the feast of the Lord's Theophany.** Though similar to the services we have before Liturgy on Sundays, these hours include more prayers and songs, as well as Gospel readings. They are an excellent way to meditate on what the Lord has done for us.

## Blessing of Hesperia Lake

When Our Lord was baptized in the Jordan, he blessed and sanctified all of creation and revealed Himself as God to the entire world. In remembrance of this, our parish will bless the waters of Hesperia Lake immediately following Liturgy next Sunday. **There will be no coffee hour.** The lake is only about 5 minutes down the road from our church. **Everyone is highly encouraged to make an effort to attend this service.** Not only is a wonderful way to celebrate Theophany, it is also a way for us to witness to our community and proclaim the Good News that Christ has come to save everyone and everything.

## Pledge Cards

It's time once again for all of us to prayerfully, thoughtfully and intentionally spend some time to consider the gifts that God has placed in our care and to plan how we can offer it back to Him for his blessing and glory.

***Pledge cards are available on top of the display stand as you come into the narthex (the back of the Church). Please take one and put it in your prayer corner. Take time over the next few weeks to consider how you will fill it out. Then, return your pledge card to Deacon George or Janice Martinez no later than January 20th.*** This will give the Parish Council adequate time to create our budget for next year.

It is important to remember that one must go to Confession, receive the Eucharist at least once a year, and *offer a pledge* (of any amount) in order to be considered a member in good standing at St George's.

## Calendar of Events – Starting today: December 30

Sun 12/30	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy
Mon 12/31	
Tue 01/01	
Wed 01/02	<b>2:00-5:00pm</b> Office Hours <b>3pm</b> Choir practice @ church
Thur 01/03	
Fri 01/04	<b>8:30pm</b> Royal Hours
Sat 01/05	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30</b> - Divine Liturgy <b>6:00pm</b> Great Vespers - Blessing of Water
Sun 01/06	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy ~ <b>12 noon</b> -Blessing of Water at Lake Hesperia

### Weekly announcements

- ◆ Office Hours this Wednesday 2-5pm.
- ◆ Wednesday at 3pm, the choir will meet to practice for Theophany services. Please join us if you would like to learn these beautiful hymns.
- ◆ There will be **NO** Sunday school next Sunday, nor will there be coffee hour.
- ◆ Blessing of Hesperia Lake is immediately following Liturgy next week...dress warmly
- ◆ Pledge cares are due by Jan 20.
- ◆ If you have not come to confession this year, now is the time. Father is available after any Vespers service or by appointment.
- ◆ On Sunday February 4th we will have our annual parish meeting. The Parish Council will provide pizzas for lunch. Please plan to attend.

**Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers this week:**

**For good health and healing:** Souraya, Christina, Eddie, Ruth, Fred, Gloria, Nicholas, Mary, Dragosh, Sonia, Doreen, Gene, Peter, Janice, Eva.

**For a new Job:** Mario, Jason, Janice, Jamileh, Timothy.

**Memory Eternal:** Newly Departed Fr Athanasius, George, Victoria.