



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

Sunday, June 30 2019

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TONE 1 2nd Sunday after Pentecost: All Saints of America

Tone 1 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, / while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, / Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world. / The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: / "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! / Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!"

Tone 8 Troparion *(All Saints of North America)*

As the bountiful harvest of Thy sowing of salvation, / the lands of North America offer to Thee, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them. / By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace / through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Tone 1 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory, / raising the world with Thyself. / Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has van-ished. / Adam exults, O Master! / Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Tone 3 Kontakion *(All Saints of North America)*

Today the choir of Saints who were pleasing to God in the lands of North America / now stands before us in the Church and invisibly prays to God for us. / With them the Angels glorify Him, / and all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them; // and together they all pray for us to the Pre-eternal God.

Matthew 4:25-5:12 (Gospel, Saints)

Great multitudes followed Him – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 4:18-23 (Gospel)

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

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The same example of selfless service that we see in the Apostles, we also see in the Saints of North America whom we commemorate today. They ‘risked’ their lives as “fishers of men” on this continent to bring the Gospel and the Orthodox Faith, the life in Christ, to this spiritually barren land; all suffered—some even martyrdom just like the Apostles—to preach the timeless truth of Christ to a nation newly born; they reassured their scattered, uncertain flock that it is in their grounding, their identity in Christ in His Church, that they (and we) find our true home—beyond any ethnic or national identities. They didn’t come to make good Russians; they came to make men and women true Christians, to introduce them to the knowledge and love of God. But two of them went from being missionaries on the frontier to being two of the greatest Patriarch Saints of modern Russia. We celebrate their legacy today and ask for their prayers in our own efforts to share the Gospel and the Orthodox Faith in this dry and thirsty land.

Being “fishers of men” isn’t just a calling for the Apostles and the clergy, but for all baptized Orthodox. By virtue of our Chrismation, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and empowered to live this life to God’s glory—if we are willing, if we are willing to live out our baptism and serve God, compelled by love for our fellow man and woman.

What motivated the disciples and the Saints of North America to give up so much in order to follow Christ and be ‘fishers of men’? There was no threat in Christ’s call, but simply an invitation. There was no earthly reward, but rather one heavenly and ethereal, and there was certainly a price, a cross, for many, martyrdom for others. What’s clear is that love for God and their fellow man was the primary motivating force at work in their lives, and this love of God compelled them to proclaim the Good News, the Gospel of salvation, to work tirelessly to bring others to that same knowledge and love of God. Our love for God and our fellow man has to be our motivation too if we are to witness effectively and help change the lives of those around us.

As we struggle and strive to live out our faith daily, in our prayers, our repentance, our yes to God and no to sin, our participation in the worship of the Church, our offerings of fellowship with others, the use of our gifts, talents, and treasure, we create an environment where we can come outside ourselves to share Christ’s love with others. And this desire grows in us, it humbles us, makes us more like Christ, and enables us in turn to serve even more.

Our life takes on real purpose when we take our Christian faith from inside and reflect it on the outside. St. Theophan asks, “when we come outside ourselves, whom do we meet?” The answer is, God and our neighbor. As fishers of men we witness to the truth of the reclamation, the healing of the human race. We take what God has done and is doing in our lives [healing us, growing us] and share it with those around us, living out our faith (however imperfectly but sincerely we do so) in witness to the Truth that Christ alone is.

Authenticity speaks, our witness speaks, but it costs us something: it costs us our time, coming to worship even when we don’t feel like it, serving, singing, coming to Vespers more often as well as Divine Liturgy, seeking for ways to help grow the church so we can provide more opportunities for people to find us and growth and heal with us. It means praying at home and on our own even when we don’t feel like it, making confession, preparing for Holy Communion, staying for trapeze and fellowship, even when we don’t feel like it or have work to do, AND, being willing to bring our faith with us into the world, the grocery store, work, wherever God takes us, fearing God and not man. The Scriptures remind us, “perfect love casts out fear.” Love is something we can and do grow in; it’s the natural outgrowth of our increasing faith in Christ: Like begets like. As we grow, we heal, as we heal, we grow in love and faith. As we grow in faith, we naturally desire to love and serve more. If we want to see our church grow, if we want to see Annapolis changed into a God-loving city, if we want to see others experience the healing in Christ we have, if we want to see and experience strong families and our children growing confidently in the knowledge and love of God, then we come to see ourselves as “fishers of men,” as Christ’s servants, striving above all to live this life for God’s glory in authentic witness to the truth that He is. May each of us pray for such love to be His true witnesses, fishers of men! And may we beseech the holy Saints of North America to pray for our efforts to glorify God with our lives!

Calendar of Events – Starting today: June 30

Sunday	06/30	9:10am - Hours; 9:30am - Divine Liturgy
Monday	07/01	
Tuesday	07/02	
Wednesday	07/03	
Thursday	07/04	
Friday	07/05	
Saturday	07/05	6:00pm - Great Vespers / confessions
Sunday	07/06	9:10am - Hours; 9:30am - Divine Liturgy

Weekly announcements

- As the Archbishop announced last Sunday, Fr Michael will be transferred to Vancouver, WA effective August 1st. My last Sunday serving at St George will be **July 28th**. Matushka and I are sad to leave and will miss all of you dearly. Nevertheless, each of us is called to serve the Lord in the way that He chooses for the building up of His Church. Our prayers are and always will be with the people of St George.
- After July 28th, Fr Mathew Tate will be Acting Rector of St George. Fr Arkadi Mironko will be serving the parish and the Archbishop will be looking for a permanent replacement. It is important to remember that during this transition the community life of our parish will continue. Please continue to support our parish council and Fr Dn George as they work on your behalf to continue to build up the Body of Christ here in the High Desert.
- On Saturday, July 27th, we will be hosting a dinner for Fr Michal and Matushka Xenia at the hall following Vespers, which is at 6pm. Please RSVP to Dn George as soon as possible.

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

For good health and healing: Mother Susanna, Juan, Ruth, Peter(Ron), Debrutu, Souraya, Alice, Basil, The child of God Penny, Jo-Ana, Christina, Nicholas, Denise, Traci and the child to be born of her. Jamison.

Memory Eternal: Froso, child Collet, Stan, Martin, Laila, Carol.

List of Supplies we NEED:

- ♦ Garden clippers - 1
- ♦ Scissors - 4