



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

**Sunday, July 21 2019**

**Priest Michael Rozdilski** (760) 244-9223 & (425) 999-0407

**Deacon George Berni** (760) 792-8604

**Website:** <http://www.stgeorgeoca.org>

TONE 4 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/Ven Simeon of Emessa, Fool for Christ and his companion, Ven John/Holy Prophet Ezekiel

**Tone 4 Troparion** (*Resurrection*)

When the women disciples of the Lord / learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection, / they cast away the ancestral curse / and elatedly told the apostles: / “Death is overthrown! / Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!”

**Tone 4 Troparion** (*for Saints Simeon and John*)

O God of our Fathers, / always act with kindness towards us; / take not Thy mercy from us, / but guide our lives in peace// through the prayers of Venerable Simeon and John! /

**Tone 2 Troparion** (*Prophet Ezekiel*)

We celebrate the memory / of Thy Prophet Ezekiel, O Lord; / through him, we beseech Thee:// save our souls!

**Tone 4 Kontakion** (*Resurrection*)

My Savior and Redeemer / as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. / He has shattered the gates of hell, / and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

**Tone 2 Kontakion** (*for Saints Simeon and John*)

Let us praise the venerable Simeon / as an equal to the angels, / for he walked in the flesh upon the earth as a bodiless angel / shining forth to all as an example of the virtues; / and with him let us honor his companion, / the ever memorable and God-bearing father John,// for they ceaselessly pray to the Lord for us with faith and love!

**Tone 4 Kontakion** (*Prophet Ezekiel*)

Thou hast been revealed as a Prophet of God, wondrous Ezekiel, / proclaiming to all the incarnation of the Lord, the Lamb and Creator,// the Son of God, Who has ever revealed Himself.

## Matthew 8:28-9:1 (*Gospel*)

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

### Spiritual Freedom

*"Why have You come before Your time...Send us into the herd of swine" (Matthew 8:29,31).* The episode of the Gerasene demoniacs occurs twice in the Sunday gospel readings. In one version two demon-possessed men appear, in the other, only one. Orthodox preachers protest that there is only so much one can explain about an incident in the ministry of Christ so remote from our times and understanding of mental disturbance. It's not just the pigs, but the demons that challenge modern people. Some would even say that Jesus didn't really believe in demons, but He had to utilize the mindset of the society of the time. Satan achieved an enormous victory during the transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. He and his minions had been portrayed as perverted spiritual creatures with narrow, grotesque faces, pointed beards and noses, horns and tails—like the standard devil costumes kids wear at Halloween. Nobody fears them anymore than they do the Trick or Treat children knocking at doors that eve. So they disappeared from the category of things that frighten or possess our souls.

We may not fear demonic possession; however, we cannot escape the awareness of obsessions that cause so much anguish in our society. What shall we call that invisible power capable of taking over our mental processes? What is it that invades our reasoning and dominates the whole person?

Think about sexual obsessions, erotic passions whether “normal” heterosexual relations or all the perversions that our civilization has to deal with. Add to that rage, anger, craving for power, depression leading to suicide or the compulsion to become a human bomb, killing as many others as possible.

On the other hand, there are positive obsessions: Those who take seriously the encouragement offered to serious Christians to know, to love and to serve the Holy Trinity. Most of us and all male and female monastics do so by definition. They offer their whole persons, body, mind and soul, to achieving that task to their utmost ability. To serve one’s country in military or civil service is another honorable commitment.

The downside is when a person turns an obsession into a possession. It happens each time there is a loss of freedom—one’s own or another’s. When the devotion to a cause loses the element of commitment as being a conscious gift offering to a cause greater than the individual and there is no longer an inner satisfaction accompanying the sacrifice; in other words, when one loses perspective, reason and judgment, one may be involved in a cult. No longer is it a matter of faith in a divine being, but in the supposedly unique agent of the divine, the believer is enslaved to an idol.

In reading the gospels, notice the way our Lord Jesus Christ constantly asks the disciples if they are still with Him. He could have enchanted them by His gifts of persuasion and evidence of divine powers proven by the miracles, yet He never violated the dignity of their person freedom. “*Who do you say that I am?*” He asked them (Matthew 16:13). He calls on us to follow Him, not to surrender our human attributes of freedom and identity, but so that we will discover ever greater spiritual gifts dormant in our souls on the way. — *Fr Vladimir Berzonsky*

## Calendar of Events – Starting today: July 07

Sunday	07/21	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours; <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy
Monday	07/22	
Tuesday	07/23	
Wednesday	07/24	
Thursday	07/25	
Friday	07/26	
Saturday	07/27	<b>6:00pm</b> - Great Vespers / followed by Farewell dinner for Fr Michael and Mat Xenia.
Sunday	07/28	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours; <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy

### **Weekly announcements, looking ahead:**

- ◆ Office Hours: This month, Father has not scheduled any specific hours. If there is anything you would like to discuss with him, or if you would like to meet, don't forget you can call him at 425-999-0407.
- ◆ Confessions are available every Saturday evening after Vespers. If you would like to make a special appointment during the week, please contact Fr Michael.
- ◆ As announced previously, Father and Matushka's last Sunday with us is July 28th. After Vespers next week Saturday the 27th, we will be hosting a dinner in their honor. Please RSVP to Dn George if you will be able to attend. Please bring table games with you.

***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, Joseph, Marlene, Constance (Connie).

**Memory Eternal:** Archimandrite Pitirim, Stan, Martin, Laila, Carol.

### **List of Supplies NEEDED:**

**Please bring these donations if you are able:**

- ◆ Zip bags different sizes
- ◆ Garden clippers - 1
- ◆ Scissors - 4