Tidings of Great Joy
Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook

When we begin to talk about Christianity, especially if our intent is to start “from the beginning” and not assume prior knowledge of the Christian Faith, we immediately face a dilemma. Do we begin by simply telling the story of the life of Jesus Christ? Or do we begin by outlining what Christian people know to be true theologically about the eternal & infinite God Who has created us?

The Creed, as we have seen over the last 23 some episodes, chooses the latter course - it begins by affirming an active trust in and relationship with One God, and then tells us about Him: that He is Father and Creator of all things. It then goes further and tells us that this One God is plural as well; not only do we trust in the Father Almighty, we trust as well in His Only-Begotten Son, Who is fully God, one with the Father, and is the agent of the Father’s will and Creative action. And as we go further, we will encounter the Holy Spirit as well, completing the revelation of the Holy Trinity, Three Persons in One Being.

The Creed makes this choice, however, under constraint - as do all who preach and teach about Jesus Christ. Because we are bound by time, we cannot simultaneously present Jesus Christ as He is, both perfect God and perfect Man, at least not when we are giving a narrative account of Him, because we would have to start at two different beginnings at the same time to tell the story of the God-Man. And so the best option we have is to begin first with His Divinity, and then to tell of His Humanity, making certain that we “give away the ending,” as it were, throughout the process, talking about Jesus Christ as He is, and not separating His Divinity from His Humanity.

Perhaps the best example of how to do this is the Scriptural account of how it was done when the Lord was born in Bethlehem. For we can see this dilemma of where to begin even in the Christmas story, when the angels come to the shepherds out in the fields. The text of the Gospel of Luke reads: “And there were shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone about them, and they were sore afraid. Then the angel said unto them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign unto you: you will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Now, shepherds are not theologians - they are simple, working men. But they have the advantage of having this message brought to them by Angels. If we ourselves were approaching the shepherds, our method would have to be quite different. We might walk up to them, perhaps bringing something hot to eat and drink, sit down with them, and begin to talk. We might say, “You know how God is the One Who made us, and the sheep, and the hills, and even the stars and everything that we can touch and see? And you know how He revealed Himself to Moses on Mount Sinai and chose our ancestors as His particular people, and commanded us to worship Him and to live in a different way from all the other nations? And
The above is the twenty-fourth installment of Fr. Anthony's catechetical podcast, updated weekly at http://theruleoffaith.typepad.com. We also have a weekly Bible Study each Tuesday at 6 pm - all are welcome.

Please note, as well, that we live stream each Sunday's Orthros & Divine Liturgy on our parish Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/c/franthonyc-stgeorgesouthgate. Direct link to the Service Live Stream is https://youtu.be/T6tRZyEYGsM. A recording of the Sunday Sermons is also posted on the YouTube channel.

As we are speaking of our internet offerings, please remember to check the parish website: http://www.stgeorgesouthgate.org, for announcements, and for an updated calendar of feastdays, readings, services, and events.
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St. George Calendar of Events • MARCH 2019
Dear Parishioners:

We pray this letter finds you and your family well.

Our Spring General Assembly will be held on Sunday, March 31, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, approximately at 1 p.m.

The Agenda is as follows:

1. OPENING PRAYER
2. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING PRESENT
3. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR
4. PARLIAMENTARIAN APPOINTED
5. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
6. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
7. REPORT OF THE PASTOR
8. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS
9. REPORT OF THE TREASURER--Review of Audit Statements for 2018
10. REPORT OF SAINT GEORGE HOUSING FOR SENIORS
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS:
   A. Metropolis Clergy Laity Delegates
13. CLOSING PRAYER

The Audit Financial Statements for the year 2018 will be distributed during the meeting, and the statement of Cash, Debts, Commitments and Liabilities will also be discussed.

In order for you to be able to attend and participate at the General Assembly, you must have met your full year obligation for the year 2018. A light luncheon will be offered to those in attendance.

Thank you very much.

Yours in the Faith of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Nick Minton
Parish Council President

Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook
Parish Priest

March 2019

Μαρτίου, 2019

Αγαπητοί ένοριτες,

Χαίρετε! Η άνοιξιάτικη γενική συνέλευση τής ένωσης μας θα είναι στις 31 Μαρτίου, ημέρα Κυριακή, άμεσως μετά τήν Θείαν Λειτουργίαν. Ένα ελαφρόν γεύμα θα προσφέρθει δι’ ἐκείνους ποιοι θα λάβουν μέρος. Παρακαλείσθη όπως έχετε πληρώσει το ἀπαραίτητον ποσόν τῆς ἐτησίας συνδρομῆς. Σάς ἀναμένομεν.

Μετά Χριστιανικῆς ἀγάπης,

Νικόλαος Μιντόν
Πρόεδρος τοῦ Ἑκκ/κοῦ Συμβουλίου

Αἰώνιος Κουκ
Περιπτάμονος Προϊστάμενος
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, Southgate

**PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES**

**AND**

**LENTEN POTLUCK MEALS**

Please come with your families to the Lenten Potluck dinners immediately following the Presanctified Liturgies on the following dates:

Please bring the following Lenten food item according to the beginning letter of your last name on the date of the Potluck Meal you are attending:

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**MARCH 13 (Wednesday) 6:00 PM**

**A-G:** **Main Entrée**
(examples: lentil bean soup, shrimp & rice, spaghetti)

**H-N:** **Dessert**
(examples: halva, Lenten cake, Lenten cookies, fruit)

**O-Z:** **Side dish or salad**
(examples: hummus, tabbouli, three-bean salad)

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**MARCH 20 (Wednesday) 6:00 PM**

**A-G:** **Side dish or salad**
(examples: hummus, tabbouli, three-bean salad)

**H-N:** **Main Entrée**
(examples: lentil bean soup, shrimp & rice, spaghetti)

**O-Z:** **Dessert**
(examples: halva, Lenten cake, Lenten cookies, fruit)

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**MARCH 27 (Wednesday) 6:00 PM**

**A-G:** **Dessert**
(examples: halva, Lenten cake, Lenten cookies, fruit)

**H-N:** **Side dish or salad**
(examples: hummus, tabbouli, three-bean salad)

**O-Z:** **Main Entrée**
(examples: lentil bean soup, shrimp & rice, spaghetti)
PRESANCTIFIED LITURGIES
AND
LENTEN POTLUCK MEALS

Please come with your families to the Lenten Potluck dinners immediately following the Presanctified Liturgies on the following dates:

Please bring the following Lenten food item according to the beginning letter of your last name on the date of the Potluck Meal you are attending:

APRIL 3 (Wednesday) 6:00 PM
A-G: Main Entrée
(examples: lentil bean soup, shrimp & rice, spaghetti)
H-N: Dessert
(examples: halva, Lenten cake, Lenten cookies, fruit)
O-Z: Side dish or salad
(examples: hummus, tabbouli, three-bean salad)

APRIL 10 (Wednesday) 6:00 PM
A-G: Side dish or salad
(examples: hummus, tabbouli, three-bean salad)
H-N: Main Entrée
(examples: lentil bean soup, shrimp & rice, spaghetti)
O-Z: Dessert
(examples: halva, Lenten cake, Lenten cookies, fruit)

APRIL 17 (Wednesday) 6:00 PM
A-G: Dessert
(examples: halva, Lenten cake, Lenten cookies, fruit)
H-N: Side dish or salad
(examples: hummus, tabbouli, three-bean salad)
O-Z Main Entrée
(examples: lentil bean soup, shrimp & rice, spaghetti)