



The Trophy-Bearer

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<http://www.stgeorgesouthgate.org/>

Father Almighty

Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook



We have been talking about many of the words that make up the uniquely Christian vocabulary: faith, trust, belief, canon, rule, authority, and God. There is a word, though, that we haven't examined, and that word is Gospel, *Ευαγγέλιον* in Greek, which means in modern English: Good News. Now, the idea that religion should be "Good News" isn't something that we should simply take for granted. In the ancient world, most of the deities that humanity worshipped were jealous and cruel, and the "news" that their priests had to communicate was not usually Good.

The same point often applies in the modern day - most religious people, including many Christians, seem to be under the impression that God's job is to make a lot of rules, to be angry at us when we do the wrong things or think the wrong thoughts, to punish us for those offenses, and, if we are extraordinarily fortunate, to forgive us. Religious skeptics look at this idea and wonder how any of this could possibly be called "Good News" - even if God does fix the problem in the end, it's only a problem because he made it a problem with his weird and arbitrary rules, and anyway, why can't he and his followers just leave everyone else alone to live their lives in peace?

So the idea that the existence of any God can actually be good news for humanity is very far from obvious - but nonetheless, Good News is what the Christian Faith preaches. This is why we spent so much time talking about Faith as Trust. If Faith is Trust, and works itself out as a relationship between God and humanity, a relationship in which we find true peace and joy and fulfillment, then that is indeed Good News, compared to the idea of a God who gets angry at us if we don't think the right things. The Creed emphasizes this same point - it puts the Good News of the Christian Faith front and center, beginning with the first word, *πιστεύω*, I trust in One God. It continues to emphasize the goodness of this news with the first thing that we say about that One God: that He is Father Almighty.

The word order here matters quite a lot - because we would expect the Creed to lead with the claim that our One God is Almighty. That would seem quite normal in any age - religions are always claiming that their god is almighty, although most understand implicitly that the word couldn't possibly actually mean ALL mighty. Worshipers of Zeus, and Odin, and Marduk understood that, however powerful their gods were, they all had peers: parents and siblings, allies and enemies, with whom they competed in their respective mythologies. Besides, all these gods had an origin story, showing their power to be derived from some other source of might that pre-dated them. They were simply understood to be almighty compared to humanity, super-powerful, so that we are helpless before

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:50 am – Orthros (Greek)
10 am – Div. Liturgy (bilingual)

Tuesday

5:30-7:30 pm – Greek School

Saturday

5 pm – Great Vespers (English)
Holy Confession during Vespers

*Please see included calendar for other meetings
& weekday services, and for any variations to
this regular schedule.*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Please see enclosed
Calendar

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Funerals

February 27, 2017

Steve Poulos

March 10, 2017

Demetrakis (Jimmy) Demetriou

March 11, 2017

Georghios Polychroni

March 13, 2017

James Collins

March 24, 2017

Elizabeth Gikas

Baptism

Evangelos Epaminondas Bakas
Parents: Evangelos & Sarah

*Please see included calendar for Lenten Schedule,
or call the Church office for details.*

SAINT GEORGE

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Office Hours: 9-5 Mon-Fri

Website: www.stgeorgesouthgate.org

Outside of office hours, parishioners may leave a voicemail for Fr. Anthony or the office. In case of emergency, they may call Fr. Anthony directly on his cell. Please leave a message if Father does not answer, and he will return your call shortly.

Clergy

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2017 Parish Council

Nicholas Minton

John Kontos

Michael Liakos

Louis Kircos

Bob Kollias

Chris Kontos

Bill Colovos

John Diamantis

Stavros Dionyssopoulos

Pete Georvassilis

George Kaltsas

Sam Kiouis

George Kotronis

Pete Makarounas

Kim Moody

Christian Tougas

Peter Vougiouklakis

them. That is not actually all that impressive, nor is it really good news at all - so it is tremendously important that "Almighty" is not actually the first thing we say about God.

Instead, we say that He is Father, and that is a word filled with Good News. It includes by implication the most important attributes that we would expect from a God - that He is greater than we are, that He judges our actions, that He rules over us - but these elements dealing with power are subordinated to the most surprising Good News - that the most important aspect of our relationship with God is precisely that we have a relationship with Him. And not just any relationship - He is our Father, and that means that we are His children, and that every other aspect of our relationship with Him, that of submission, that of justice, that of our smallness next to His infinite greatness and our weakness before his infinite power - all of these are colored by the love of a Father for His children. He is near to us, He cares for us, He seeks to see us grow and do well - all these things that we know to be true of a good father are contained in this single word.

But every other father we know is imperfect, and this is where the word Almighty is necessary to fulfill the Good News promised by the word Father, for it assures us that this Father, our God, is not limited by human imperfection, for He is Almighty, and His Fatherhood is perfect and right and whole, the singular Reality that even the best fatherly relationships we know in this life reflect only dimly. And as we will see emphasized next week, He is not almighty in the careful, qualified way that Zeus or Odin are understood to be almighty. There is no hedging of bets here. God our Father cannot do most things, He is not Lord of some things, He is not powerful or mighty only in comparison with weaker beings like us - He is ALmighty. Not only is He therefore the perfect Father, He is also King, and Judge, and Infinite...for if He is truly Almighty, then nothing can constrain Him.

In these words, "Father Almighty," we see, for the first time in human history, a combination of two wildly differing ideas of God. For some, the gods were like human beings - more powerful than we are, and sometimes immensely so, but still limited by time, and space, and their own desires and feuds. Such gods could be personal, but at the cost of their greatness. For others, the divine was great, and perfect, and infinite, but completely and totally removed from our experience, so that the ultimate and total power and glory of the Divinity made it impossibly distant from our personal experience. But here, in these two words, we are assured that our God, the One True God, is both Father, and therefore intensely and wonderfully personal, and Almighty, fulfilling all the reasoning and hopes of the philosophers.

As we have observed today, though, the word Almighty is a very big word, and most of the time that we see it, we have to also read the fine print to discover that it doesn't actually mean "all" mighty. The Creed goes in the opposite direction; the next phrase is not a caveat disclaiming the all mightiness of our almighty God - rather, it infinitely expands the meaning of "Almighty," affirming that our Almighty Father God is the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and of all things visible and invisible. So next time, we will discuss how sometimes, Almighty actually means All Mighty.

The above is the sixth installment of our new Adult Education Program, updated weekly at <http://theruleoffaith.typepad.com>. Comments/questions are welcome, by email or via a comment on the website.

St. George Calendar of Events • APRIL 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 ✠ ♂ St. Mary of Egypt Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45 Orthros/Liturgy (8:50 & 10 am) Philoptochos meeting (11:45 am) Teachers meeting (12:15 pm) GOYA Game Night (5:00 pm)	3 Nikkias the Confessor Joseph the Hymnographer Isaiah 48:17-49 / Gen. 27:1-41 Proverbs 19:16-25 Choir Practice/Meeting (6:30 pm)	4 George of Maleon Plato the Studite Isaiah 49:6-10 / Gen. 31:3-16 Proverbs 21:3-21 No Greek School/No Book Club Deaconess (7:30 pm) Executive (8:00 pm)	5 ✠ Martyrs Claudius, Diodor, Victor and Victorinus Isaiah 58:1-11 / Gen. 43:26-31; 45:1-16 Proverbs 21:23-27:4 Presanctified Liturgy (6:30 pm) Lenten Potluck (7:30-9:30 pm)	6 Eurychios, Pat. of Constan. Methodios Enlightener of Slavs Isaiah 65:8-16 / Gen. 46:1-7 Proverbs 23:15-24:5	7 ✠ ❖ Kallipios & Apylina, Martyrs Isaiah 66:10-24 / Gen. 49:33-50:26 Proverbs 31:8-31	8 ✠ ❖ ♂ LAZARUS SAT. Epistle: Hebrews 12:28-29; 13:1-8 Gospel: John 11:1-14:5 Orthros/Liturgy (9 & 10 am) Communion Breakfast (11:30 am) Parish Clean Up Day (Noon-4 pm) Great Vespers/Confession (5 pm)
9 ✠ ♂ Palm Sunday Eurychios the Martyr Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-8 Orthros/Liturgy (8:50 & 10 am) S. S. Teachers mtg. (12:15 pm) Fish Luncheon/Bake Sale Bridgroom Orthros (6:00 pm)	10 ♦ Holy Monday Terence & his Companions Gregory V, Pat. of Constan. Matthew 21:18-43; 24:3-35 Bridgroom Orthros (6-7:30 pm)	11 ♦ Holy Tuesday Antipas, Bishop of Pergamon Matthew 22:15-46; 23:1-39; 24:36:51; 25:1-146; 26:1-2 Dye Eggs (9-12 pm) No Greek School/ No Book Club Bridgroom Orthros (6:00 pm)	12 ✠ ♦ Holy Wednesday Basil the Confessor of Parium John 12:17-50 Matthew 26:6-16 Presanctified Liturgy (9:00 am) Unction/Euchelation Service (5 pm)	13 ✠ ♦ Holy Thursday Epistle: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 Gospel: Matt. 26:1-20; John 13:3-17; Matt. 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-44; 26:40-75; 27:1-2 Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil (6 am) Service of the Cnuched Land (12 Gospels) (6 pm)	14 ♦ Holy Friday Epistle: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Gospel: Matthew 27:62-66 Royal Hours (7:00 am) Decoration of the Epitaphios (9 am) Holy Friday S.S. Retreat (Noon-3 pm) Unmailing Service (3:00 pm) Epitaphios Service (6:00 pm)	15 ✠ Holy Saturday Epistle: Romans 6:3-11 Gospel: Matthew 28:1-20 Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil (Proti Anastasis) (9:00 am) Easter Egg Hunt (11:00 am/after Liturgy) Paschal Vigil (11:00 pm)
16 ✠ ♦ HOLY PASCHA Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17 Paschal Orthros & Divine Liturgy (12:00 am) Paschal Magerica Meal (1:45 am) Agape Vespers (11:00 am)	17 ✠ Renewal Monday Symeon, Bishop of Persia Makarios, Bishop of Corinth Epistle: Acts 12:17-21; 26 Gospel: John 1:18-28	18 Renewal Tuesday John the Righteous, Disciple of Gregory of Decapolis Epistle: Acts 2:14-21 Gospel: Luke 24:12-35 Greek School (5:30-7:30 pm) Book Club (5:30-7:30 pm)	19 Renewal Wednesday Paphnouthos the Holy Martyr George the Confessor Epistle: Acts 2:22-38 Gospel: John 1:35-52	20 Renewal Thursday Theodore the Trichinas Zacharias of Caesaria Epistle: Acts 2:38-43 Gospel: John 3:1-15 Seniors Luncheon (Noon) Parish Council (7:00 pm)	21 Renewal Friday Epistle: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Gospel: Matthew 27:62-66	22 ♦ Renewal Saturday Theodore the Sykote Nathaniel, Luke & Clemente Epistle: Acts 3:1-16 Gospel: John 3:22-33 Great Vespers for St. George (5 pm) St. George Feastday Reception following
23 ✠ Sunday of Thomas Great Martyr George Epistle: Acts 12:1-11 Gospel: John 15:17-27; 16:1-2 Orthros/Liturgy (8:50 & 10 am)	24 Elizabeth the Wonderworker Savvas the General of Tome Epistle: Acts 3:19-26 Gospel: John 2:1-11	25 Mark the Apostle & Evangelist Epistle: 1 Peter 5:6-14 Gospel: Luke 10:16-21 Greek School (5:30-7:30 pm) Book Club (5:30-7:30 pm) Deaconess (7:30 pm) Executive (8:00 pm)	26 ♂ Basil, Bishop of Anasea Glaphyra the Righteous Epistle: Acts 4:13-22 Gospel: John 5:17-24 FOCUS Detroit (7:00-8:30 pm)	27 Symeon the Holy Martyr Eulogios the Inkkeeper Epistle: Acts 4:23-31 Gospel: John 5:24-30	28 ♂ 9 Monk-martyrs of Gyzikos Mennon the Wonderworker Epistle: Acts 5:1-11 Gospel: John 5:30-47; 6:1-2	29 ♦ Jason & Sosipater of the 70 Martyr Ceryra Epistle: Acts 5:21-32 Gospel: John 6:4-27 Great Vespers/Confession (5 pm)
30 ✠ APRIL Myrrh-Bearers James the Apostle Epistle: Acts 6:1-7 Gospel: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8 Orthros/Liturgy (8:50 & 10 am) General Assembly (12:30 pm) GOYA Game Night (5:00 pm)	1 MAY Jeremiah the Prophet, Maria of Founna, Mirabella in Crete Epistle: Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5; 47-60 Gospel: John 4:46-54	2 Great Martyr George (observed) Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-4; 19 Greek School (5:30-7:30 pm) Book Club (5:30-7:30 pm)	3 ♂ Timothy & Marva the Martyrs Peter the Wonderworker Epistle: Acts 8:18-25 Gospel: John 6:35-39	4 Pelagia the Nun-martyr Hilarion the Wonderworker Epistle: Acts 8:26-39 Gospel: John 6:40-44	5 ♂ Irene of Thessaloniki Neophytos, Gains & Caianus Epistle: Acts 8:40; 9:1-19 Gospel: John 6:48-54	6 ♦ Job the Prophet Scraphim the Struggler Epistle: Acts 9:19-31 Gospel: John 15:17-27; 16:1-2 Great Vespers/Confession (5 pm)

• Shaded days denote a fast day. ✠ denotes a Liturgy ♦ Great Vespers/Compline ❖ Akathist/Paraklesis ✠ Presanctified Liturgy ♂ fish/wine/oil allowed ♂ wine/oil allowed

Church Beautification

Dear Parishioners,

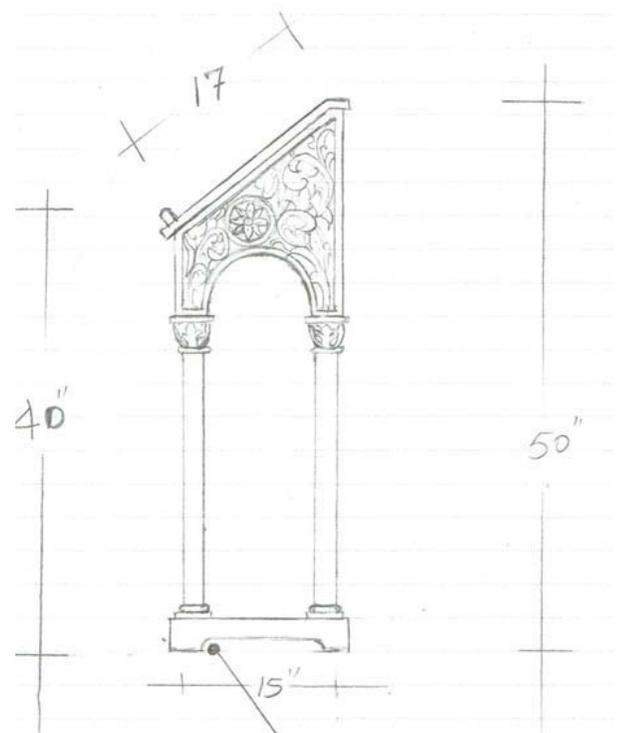
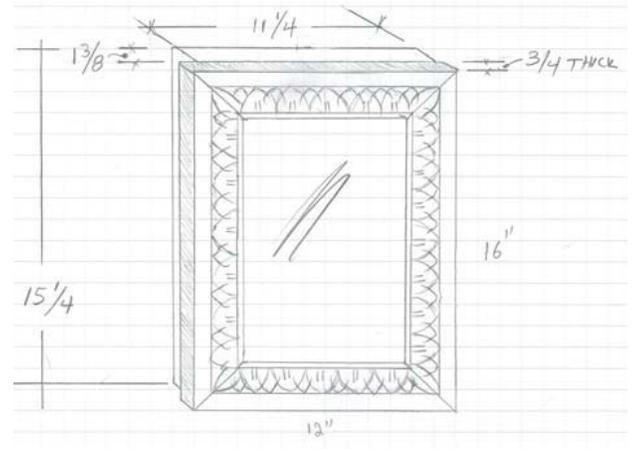
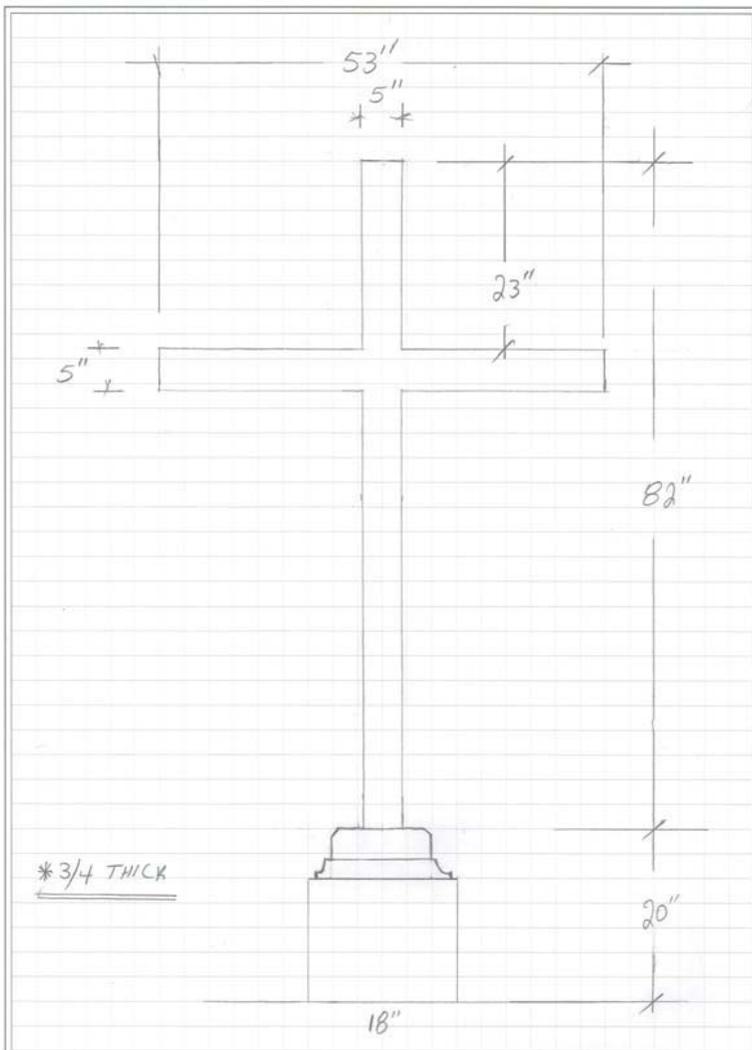
We are looking for donations for five items for the church. We are looking at purchasing two (2) icon frames, so that we can display the festal icon both in the Narthex, and at the front of the Church; two (2) icon stands (proskynitaria) so we can display both the festal icon and the Gospel in the Narthex; and one (1) new wooden cross and stand, so that we have a higher stand for the Crucified Lord during Holy Week, and a lighter cross with which to process the Crucified Lord through the Church. The cross will not replace the Cross and stand that we currently have for use during the rest of the year, but will be a preferable option during Holy Week. The costs are as follows:

Icon Frames: \$750 each

Icon Stands: \$2,900 each

Cross & Stand: \$2,500

If you are interested in donating one of these items, please contact Fr. Anthony. Thank you!





METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

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SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΕΝΟΡΙΑ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ

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April 3, 2017

Dear Parishioners:

We pray this letter find you and your family well.

Our Spring General Assembly will be held on Sunday, April 30, 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 2016
10. REPORT OF SAINT GEORGE HOUSING FOR SENIORS
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. NEW BUSINESS
13. CLOSING PRAYER

The Audit Financial Statements for the year 2016 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 2016. 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

3 Απριλίου, 2017

Αγαπητοί ένοριτες,

Χαίρετε! Η άνοιξιάτικη γενική συνέλευση τής ένορίας μας θα είναι στις 30 Απριλίου, ήμέρα Κυριακή, άμέσως μετά τήν Θεϊάν Λειτουργίαν. Ένα έλαφρόν γεύμα θα προσφερθή δι' εκείνους πού θα λάβουν μέρος. Παρακαλείσθε όπως έχετε πληρώσει τó άπαραίτητον ποσόν τής έτησίας συνδρομής. Σας άναμένομεν.

Μετά Χριστιανικής αγάπης,

Νικόλαος Μίντον
Πρόεδρος του Έκκ/κού Συμβουλίου

Αιδ. Αντώνιος Cook
Έρατικώς Προϊστάμενος