Preparining for Paraklesis

Beloved in the Lord,

It has been a great joy this past month to once again celebrate the Divine Liturgy with the Faithful present in the Church. It has been a time of transition, as all of us become accustomed to the present manner of doing things. I congratulate the members of the parish council on their care and attention to the health and well-being of all those who have attended these past weeks, and express my appreciation to all of you for your love and patience with one another in these difficult times. May the Lord grant us all the peace and endurance to run this race to its end, and to gather once again without fear in His good time.

Please do continue to make your reservations to attend the Sunday Liturgy each time you plan to come. One thing we have learned over the past month is how important it is that we have the name and contact information of everyone present each Sunday.

As you may have heard, a parishioner in attendance on June 28th learned on July 6th that they were ill with the virus, and that they might have been already carrying it on the 28th (they did not come to Church on July 5th). Once we learned of this, we notified everyone who was present in Church on June 28th, so that they could be extra attentive to their own health during the two weeks following that potential exposure, seek medical advice from their own physicians regarding testing, and ensure that they did not further expose anyone else. We rejoice that no one appears to have contracted the virus from this event; it is a good thing to be reminded of the importance of the use of masks and social distancing inside, and of having the contact information for everyone present each week. You can find the RSVP link for each service on the Church website (http://www.stgeorgesouthgate.org).

We are at this time preparing our service schedule for the August Fast. At present, we plan the following additional services (also present in the Church calendar): Aug. 1st, 5 pm Vespers; Aug. 4, 6 pm Paraklesis; Aug. 6th, 9/10 am Orthros/Liturgy; Aug. 8th, 5 pm Vespers; Aug. 10th, 6 pm Paraklesis; Aug. 12th, 6 pm Paraklesis; Aug. 15th, 9/10 am Orthros/Liturgy.

As this continues to be a time of upheaval, please watch the Church’s email announcements for any changes to this schedule, and be assured that we will be sanitizing the Church after each service.

If you are uncomfortable attending the Paraklesis services in person, please do not hesitate to submit the names of the Living to be commemorated. There will be a form for these names to be submitted on the Church website.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday
8:50 am – Orthros
10:00 am – Divine Liturgy

Weekdays
Where appropriate, we will do some shorter, some longer services via the live stream.

Please check the calendar on the website for details.

Saturday
5:00 pm – Saturday Vespers
Please see included calendar for details, meetings, weekday services, and any other schedule variations.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Baptism
June 20, 2020
Camila Gabriella
Parents: Billy Apperson & Maria Deneen

40-Day Blessing
June 21, 2020
Luiza
Parents: Ryan & Asimina Dayne

If you have announcements that you would like for us to include in the Community Updates above, please call or email the Church Office.
no later than July 24th. Those who prefer are welcome to provide their names by phone, or by mailing their lists to the Church office. Please remember, the Paraklesis services are offered for the Living, and not for the Departed.

The Paraklesis services are, historically, prayers for the health and salvation of the Faithful during times of plague and pestilence. In offering these services during the “age of COVID,” we are participating in an ancient tradition, joining the countless generations of Orthodox Christians in centuries past, who have endured times of sickness and fear by placing their trust and hope in the Lord and in the prayers of His Mother and all the saints.

We do continue to operate under the guidelines of the Metropolis of Detroit for limited functioning of the Church. The full guidelines are available at the Metropolis website (detroit.goarch.org), but I will sum them up below.

• Everyone is welcome to attend, but Church capacity is limited. It is important to RSVP in advance.
• Everyone in the pews and narthex is required to wear masks.
• Anyone experiencing ANY symptoms of illness MUST stay home.
• At risk persons (with pre-existing conditions, or over 65) are urged, but not required, to stay home.
• No choir, tray passing, coffee hour, or meetings.

If the Church reaches capacity, then latecomers may be seated in the Activity Room or Library until it is time for Holy Communion. If they prefer to wait outside in their vehicles, we are broadcasting the audio of the Church services on AM 1620. Anyone who is uncomfortable attending in person, but would like to receive Holy Communion, is invited to contact Fr. Anthony and arrange to come at the end of the service and receive the Holy Mysteries.

Throughout all of this, the Church remains in need of your support. Please make use of the links on the Church website to request prayers, to light candles, and to make your regular donations to support the ongoing work of the parish. And as you do so, please continue to pray for one another, for the chanters, for our staff, and for me, as you pray for all the world, that we all may be sustained and restored to health and peace.

With love in Christ,
+Fr. Anthony Cook

St. George Essential Links
Church Website: http://stgeorge.mi.goarch.org
Church LiveStream: https://www.youtube.com/c/franthonyc-stgeorgesouthgate
Prayer/Candle Requests: https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Form/386d5ce0-a634-45e9-923b-03d58137967b
Online Giving: https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/st1630219
Parish Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgeGOCSouthgate/
Fr. Anthony Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/franthonyc
Fr. Anthony has read Tolkien’s “Hobbit & Lord of the Rings” books aloud for the parish young people these past weeks. You can find those readings at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMHXigV79VwoXxMnKmsdtRBoerLVivbk
From the Parish Council President  

Nick Minton

Dear Parishioners,

As we have opened the church in the past few weeks, I thought I would pass on some observations. I would like to thank the people attending for their cooperation. It is still a work in progress for all of us including the Parish Council. I know wearing masks for an entire service can be difficult. If anyone feels they need a break, please feel free to walk out the front door and remove it for a breather. We also have water available. We are trying to social distance as much as possible so when we are using every other pew, please try sitting on opposite sides of pews so you are not directly behind someone. Keep your mask on until you leave the church when the Liturgy ends.

I was asked about bringing in envelopes. People can bring their envelopes and place them in the tray on either side of the Narthex when coming in. As expected our stewardship is way behind as all parishes are. For people that still are unable or do not feel safe attending church services, you can make payments from the website online (stgeorgesouthgate.org). If you don’t feel comfortable with that method then you can come to the church during the week and place any donation or offering in a tray in the library for the office staff to take care of.

One last thing for people attending services. Many people have been coming in without reserving space. We want a list of everyone coming for the purpose of safety. If somebody attends comes down with the virus we need the list to contact people as everyone there on that day would need to be contacted. Hopefully that will not have to be, but in case we need to make those calls, there will be a sheet in the Narthex for people to sign in with their name and phone number.

Thank you for your Cooperation.

Nick Minton
Parish Council President
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St. George Calendar of Events • JUIX / AUGUST 2020