

As the priest offers prayers over the Gifts at the Table of Oblation, the Birth of Christ takes place all over again. At the Little Entrance, we are witnesses to the beginning of our Lord's public ministry — emerging from obscurity to become a Teacher and a Friend to many. When the Beatitudes are sung, it is as if we are listening to the Sermon on the Mount overlooking the Sea of Galilee, spellbound by every word uttered by our Master. When the Gospel lesson is read, it is as if Jesus were speaking directly to us, explaining His remarkable parables in a way we can totally comprehend. As the Great Entrance is made, we stand at Golgotha, and like the penitent thief, we hear those comforting words proclaimed by the celebrant: "May the Lord God remember you in His Kingdom." As the Divine Liturgy proceeds, we are transported to the Upper Room and we become participants in the Mystical Supper as we hear those profound words: "Take and eat, this is My Body which is broken for you for the remission of sins" and "All of you drink of this, this is My Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins." These words remind us that the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ are offered "in behalf of all and for all" at every Divine Liturgy. When the Gifts are returned to the Table of Oblation following the communion of the faithful, we stand on the Mount of Olives, looking upward as our Lord ascends into heaven and returns to be seated at the Right Hand of His Father.

Attending the Divine Liturgy is a privilege as well as a learning experience. It bridges the gap between what Jesus did 2,000 years ago and us today. May we come to it with frequency, and in piety and humility.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

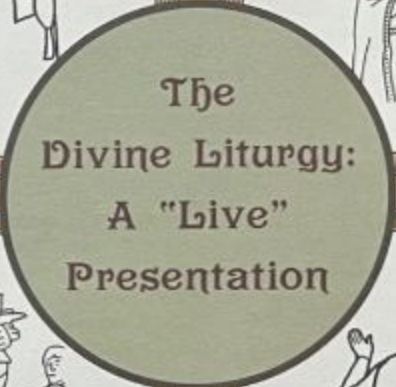
See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

2709 Washington St. Vicksburg, MS 39180


P parish Office: 601-636-2483


Fr. Gabriel's cell: 713-357-8871


Email: stgeorge2709@gmail.com web page: www.stgeorgevicksburg.org




**The
Divine Liturgy:
A "Live"
Presentation**









A misconception that most Christians have is that on Sunday morning, we are supposed to come to the Divine Liturgy, as if we are merely asked to attend a concert or a play. This greatest of all liturgical services, however, is far more than a performance, and more significant than a retelling of the life of Christ through hymns, prayers and sacred actions. According to the theology of our Holy Church, the Divine Liturgy is thought to be a reliving of the "greatest story ever told." Time and again, the life of our Lord unfolds before us every Sunday, and we are all asked to play supporting roles in this dramatic reenactment. Indeed, the Divine Liturgy offers us a unique opportunity to be with Christ every step of the way from Bethlehem to Golgotha.

Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES TONE 5/ EOTHINON 5

SUNDAY MARCH 16, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. GREGORY PALAMAS IN TONE EIGHT

O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT IN TONE EIGHT

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION

All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. | Glory to thee.

We Celebrate Today

On March 16 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Sabinos of Egypt; and Venerable Christodoulos the wonderworker of Patmos.

On this same day, the Second Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica.

The Spring of Light now leadeth to light unwaning

The Light's own truly great and resplendent herald.

This divine father was born in Asia and was brought up from infancy in the royal palace of Constantinople. When he was of age, Gregory left the palace and gave himself to asceticism on

Mount Athos. He eventually moved to Thessalonica to seek cure for the diseases he contracted because of his asceticism and piety. In 1349, he was elevated to the episcopacy, tending to his people in an Apostolic fashion for 13 years. He is glorified as an ascetic, a hierarch, a theologian who defeated the heretics of his era, and a miracle-worker who forsook a prominent, secular lifestyle to take up his cross and follow Christ. The Most-Holy Theotokos, St. John the Theologian, St. Demetrius, St. Anthony the Great, St. John Chrysostom and angels of God appeared to him at different times.

Through his intercessions, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Gail Lee. Joy Logue. Sue Thomas. Dolores Nossier. Hugh Cummings. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Kh. Janet Henderson. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. George Nasif. Deacon Terry. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Susie Angelo.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries Will Mackay (23), Will Mackay (23), Paula Shaw (25), Tea & Scott Blackburn (26), Peggy Thomas (27), Jeff West, Chris Maxwell (28)

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday, put your name on the list in the church hall please.

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+Great Holy Lent The traditional fasting discipline (no poultry, meat, eggs, dairy, fish, wine) is observed Monday through Friday with katalysis for wine on Saturday and Sunday (on March 25th [Annunciation] and April 13 [Palm Sunday] there is also katalysis for fish.) No eating from Midnight till noon every day except on the weekend.

+Feast of the Annunciation Great Vespers Monday 24th @ 6pm. *Vesperal Divine Liturgy*, Tuesday 25th at 6 pm. (Feast of the Archangel Gabriel)

+Diocese OF Miami & The Southeast 2025 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE (PLC) Hosted by St. George Church (Jacksonville, FL) **June 11 - 14, 2025.** If you would like to register or have any questions about PLC, please get in touch with miamiplc@antiochianevents.com

The Church Fathers Teach

"... Adam chose the treason of the serpent, the originator of evil, in preference to God's commandment and counsel, and broke the decreed fast. Instead of eternal life he received death and instead of the place of unsullied joy he received this sinful place full of passions and misfortunes, or rather, he was sentenced to Hades and nether darkness. Our nature would have stayed in the infernal regions below the lurking places of the serpent who initially beguiled it, had not Christ come. He started off by fasting (cf. Mk. 1:13) and in the end abolished the serpent's tyranny, set us free and brought us back to life."

+ St. Gregory Palamas, *The Homilies* Vol. II

Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

DIVINE LITURGY FEBRUARY 16, 2025

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT****

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA

THE EPISTLE

Thou, O Lord, shalt preserve us and keep us from this generation.

Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.]

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:10-2:3)

Thou, "O Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands; they will perish; but Thou remainest; and they will all grow old like a garment, and like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they shall be changed; but Thou art the same, and Thy years will not fail." But to which of the angels did He say at any time, "Sit on My right hand, until I make thine enemies a footstool for thy feet?" Are they not all spirits for liturgical ministry, sent forth to minister for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation? Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things that were heard, lest at any time we drift away from them. For if the word spoken through angels was confirmed, and every transgression and disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation, which having at first been spoken through the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard?

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"