

## OUR LENTEN JOURNEY REACHES ITS MIDWAY POINT

**T**hose involved with athletics are fully aware of the importance of "halftime" in any sporting event. It is an opportunity to pause before continuing with the vigor of the game. More importantly, it is a time to correct any mistakes or deficiencies in one's "game plan" and to become recommitted to the ultimate goal of victory.

This morning, our Holy Church has reached the midway point of Great Lent. For three weeks, the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting have been emphasized. The theme of repentance has been placed before us repeatedly. Those who are "weak in spirit" may be faltering on this 40-day journey to Pascha.

In her wisdom, the Church places before us the greatest of symbols today: The precious and life-giving Cross. We are encouraged to focus our attention on this instrument of Christ's passion. At the same time, we are reminded of the necessity of being willing to deny ourselves, take up our own cross, and follow Christ. These thoughts should serve to strengthen us as we continue along the road that will take us to Golgotha and, ultimately, to the empty tomb!

On the third Sunday of Lent, the following hymn from Matins clearly expresses the essence of today's spiritual message: "On this day, when we look at the precious Cross of Christ, let us adore it in faith, let us embrace it, fervently asking our Lord, Who of His own choice, gave Himself to be crucified upon it, to make us worthy of adoring His most precious Cross, so that, free from all defilement, we may attain the day of Resurrection."

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# WEEKLY BULLETIN OF ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 22ND, 2020—MARCH 28, 2020

RELIGIOUS SERVICE HOURS: ORTHROS 8:30AM, DIVINE LITURGY 9:30AM

CHURCH PHONE: 508-775-3045; FAX 508-775-3888; FR. PETER: 508-362-8322

**PRIEST: Rev. Fr. Panagiotis K. Giannakopoulos**

**Church email: [agios@stgeorge-capecod.com](mailto:agios@stgeorge-capecod.com) & our web page: [www.stgeorge-capecod.com](http://www.stgeorge-capecod.com)**

**Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30AM-4:00PM**

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS

**Upcoming Services**

**Important Dates and Events—**ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΓΕΓΟΝΟΤΑ

**Wednesday, March 25 ANNUNCIATION ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ - 8:30 Orthros 9:30 Liturgy**

**Friday, March 27th, Fourth Salutation, Τεταρτη Χαιρετισμοι 6:30pm.**

**Today we are celebrating the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**

**Resurrectional Apolytikion**

Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες ὁ εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφήν κατεδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν παθῶν. Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

**Kontakion**

Τῆ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ νικητήρια, ὧς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, Ἀναγράφω σοι ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἄλλ' ὡς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, Ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον, ἵνα κράζω σοι: Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

## EPISTLE AND GOSPEL READING

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20**

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

**GOSPEL – MARK 9:17-3190**

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

**Please Note**

Fr. Peter will be on medical Sabbatical leave from January 12-April 10, 2020. For any emergencies please call the church office or the parish council president.

**We welcome Fr Dimitri Moraitis who is substituting in Fr Peter's absence**

ST. GEORGE BROADCASTS ITS SERVICES LIVE ON THE INTERNET. YOUR PRESENCE IN THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT TO AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING. [HTTPS://GOO.GL/BVZN8V](https://goo.gl/BVZN8V) PRAISE GOD!

LET THE CHRISTIAN CONSIDER WELL WHEN HE/SHE ENTERS IN THE CHURCH, THAT HE/SHE IS ENTERING ANOTHER HEAVEN. THAT SAME MAJESTY OF GOD. WHICH IS IN HEAVEN IS ALSO IN HIS/HER CHURCH. AND ON THIS ACCOUNT, WE MUST ENTER WITH REVERENCE AND AWE.