

THE GARDEN BECAME A BATTLEGROUND

GETHSEMANE! The very word brings an awesome image into our minds. The icon on today's bulletin captures the vivid account of Christ in the Garden. Let us recount the biblical record of this event.

It was after the Mystical Supper that the Lord took His apostles to the place which He often frequented to pray. Now Jesus came there to prepare Himself to die. He took three of the Apostles, Peter, James and John, further into the garden. These were the three who saw Him once transfigured in all His glory; now they were to see Him suffer and weep.

Christ bid His friends to "watch and pray," while He went on, falling to His knees and pouring out His heart and soul in agonized prayer. Sweat, like beads of blood, form on His brow as He contemplates the suffering to follow. Finally, Jesus prays: "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Let not My will but Thine be done!" And the Father sent an Angel to strengthen Him for the agony to come.

There Jesus lies, exhausted, and we begin to realize what a price He had to pay for our salvation. As for the apostles, they were tired and asleep, unable to cope with the situation. The words of the Lord ring out: "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak . . ."

What a picture we see of our Lord! His agony would end in complete submission to the will of the Heavenly Father. It is not to be interpreted as an act of weakness, but the fulfillment of a higher purpose. Jesus **CHOSE** to go to the crucifixion on Golgotha, in order to save mankind.

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Christ took upon Himself the sins of the World



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FOR THE PERIOD OF MARCH 29TH 2020—APRIL 4TH, 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 & our web page: www.stgeorge-capecod.com

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

KYPIAKH TOY KAIMAKA

SUNDAY OF JOHN OF THE LADDER

Important Dates and Events—ΗΜΕΡΟΜΗΝΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΓΕΓΟΝΟΤΑ

Upcoming Services

Wednesday, April 1, Pre-sanctified Liturgy, Προηγιασμενη Λειτουργια 6:00pm

Friday, April 3, Akathyst Hymn, Ακαθιστος Υμνος 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 9:17-31:90

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.