

ST.

GEORGE

ST GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

High Point, NC

FEBRUARY BULLETIN 2021



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

808 N. Hamilton Street,
High Point, NC 27262
Tel. 336-889-9020

V. Rev. Fr. Anton Frunza 810-869-1396, Email: ffrunza1@aol.com

This month's bulletin is being offered by
Dina and Bill Katsis.

FEBRUARY BULLETIN 2021

Monday, February 1 - Online Bible Study from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Call, text or email Fr. Anton to register.

Sunday, February 7 - *Orthros 9:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:30 am.*

Monday, February 8 - Online Bible Study from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Call, text or email Fr. Anton to register.

Sunday, February 14 - *Orthros 9:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:30 am.*

Monday, February 15 - Online Bible Study from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Call, text or email Fr. Anton to register.

Sunday, February 21 - *Orthros 9:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:30 am.*

Monday, February 22 - Online Bible Study from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Call, text or email Fr. Anton to register.

Sunday, February 28 - *Orthros 9:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10:30 am.*

*A 40-day memorial is offered by Jimmy and Shirley Drakulakos and the extended family in memory of Jimmy's beloved sister, Angela, and by Emmanuel Tsompanas in memory of his beloved brother, George.

Monday, March 1 - Online Bible Study from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Call, text or email Fr. Anton to register.

We extend a warm welcome to visitors worshipping with us today. We would like to remind you that Holy Communion is reserved for those who have been baptized or confirmed and married in the Orthodox Church, and who have prepared themselves to receive the Eucharist. All visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

If you would like to make an announcement in the monthly church bulletin before the 20th of each month, please call Zoe Nixon at 336-841-6911.

Feast Days to remember in February and Xronia Polla to all those celebrating their Name Day! February 2nd - Presentation of Christ in the Temple; February 10th - Haralambos the Martyr; Feb. 17 - Theodore Tiron

We are updating our mailing list for 2021. If you are currently receiving both a paper copy and an email copy of the bulletin and would prefer to have just the email copy, please let Zoe Nixon, (336) 841-6911, know your preference in receiving the bulletin, either by postal service or by email. Also, please let her know if you have any changes to your mailing address, phone number, and/or e-mail address. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences are extended to Jimmy and Shirley Drakulakos and to the extended family on the falling asleep in the Lord of Jimmy's sister, **Angela Drakulakos** on January 22. May God rest her soul in peace and comfort her loving family. 40-day memorial will be on **Sunday, February 28.**

Condolences are extended to Emmanuel Tsompanas on the falling asleep in the Lord of Emmanuel's brother, **George Tsompanas** on January 30. May God rest his soul in peace and comfort his brother. 40-day memorial will be on **Sunday, February 28.**

Donations in Angela and George's memory can be mailed or made online in the name of St. George Greek Orthodox Church with the mention: In the memory of...

THANK YOU! To Voula Vakakis for baking the delicious Vasilopites.

The Philptochos would like to thank the community for their generous support of St Basil's Academy.

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2021

Income	\$13,356	Building Fund Donations	\$4,250
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 5,860</u>	Total Building Fund	\$49,510
Net Revenue	\$ 7,496		

CLEANING at CHURCH

The Parish Council started the New Year with a deep cleaning of our church. Everything in the church was vacuumed, wiped and cleaned. The marble floors were steam mopped and all



the candle holders thoroughly cleaned of wax. All the movable items from the kitchen were moved in the Greek/Sunday School classroom. The kitchen walls and floors were power washed and degreased. The bathrooms walls and floors were power washed too, and the toilets and sinks thoroughly cleaned. We are in the process of moving, dismantling and cleaning



all the stoves and equipment in the kitchen. It is a long and exhausting process. Since the kitchen was built in 1999 it was never done. Years after years, the grease was accumulated and burned on the machines, to the point where it impedes the good functioning, not to mention sanitation. Over the years, we hired people and cleaning crews to do that and all they did was just a surface touchup. We decided to do it ourselves. It is a work in progress, and we need your help too. Many thanks to Samuel Galiatsatsos and Kosta Bakoulas who helped Fr. Anton.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Our new year began in January with a very successful fundraiser for St. Basil's Academy. Thank you to all who donated.

If you have not paid your membership dues for 2021, please mail a check to church Attn: Philoptochos. Dues are \$25 and are forwarded to the many charities our chapter supports through the National Philoptochos and the Metropolis of Atlanta as well as locally. Anyone 18 years and older is welcome to join this ministry.

ATLANTA METROPOLIS PHILOPTOCHOS VIRTUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT MARCH 19 & 20, 2021

The Three Spiritual Disciplines: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving
Presented by: Frederica Mathewes-Green

Frederica Mathewes-Green is a wide-ranging author whose work has appeared in such diverse publications as the Washington Post, Christianity Today, Smithsonian, Sojourners, Touchstone, and the Wall Street Journal. She has been a radio and TV commentator, a columnist, records a podcast for Ancient Faith Radio, and was a consultant for Veggie Tales. Frederica is an author and speaker in the national forum on topics related to Eastern Orthodox belief and practice. She holds a Master of Theological Studies from Virginia Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Literature (honorary) from King University. Her husband, Fr. Gregory Mathewes-Green is an Eastern Orthodox priest and pastor emeritus of the parish they founded, Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Baltimore MD. To register and for detail information about the retreat, click on the link:

<https://atlmopolis.org/virtual-spiritual-retreat-2021>

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

2020 has been a rough year. Why does God allow bad things to happen? Why do bad things happen even to good people? People have always struggled with the problem of evil and suffering.

We believe that God created us so that we could share His life with Him. If we are really going to be like God, we have to have free will like He does. Without free will, we would not be able to love people, because love depends on choice. If we do something good just because we have been programmed to do it, then we are not showing love, because we are not using free will. We are being machines. But free will is a double-edged sword.

While it does allow for the possibility of real love and holiness, it also allows for the possibility of real hatred and wickedness.

What does this have to do with “how a loving God could permit evil”? Just this.

Every day that God gives us is filled with choices—choices in which we can do His will or our own will. He gives us the freedom to love Him, to hate Him, or to not care about Him. He loves us so much, that He refuses to take away our free will. If He took it away from us, then we would no longer exist. We would just be puppets being pulled around to do what He wants us to do.

OK, fine. That’s why He allows evil. But if He’s going to allow evil, can’t He at least take away suffering? Why does He allow us to suffer? So many innocent people have suffered terrible pain. Why doesn’t He take that away?

As horrible as it can be, suffering can lead us closer to God. If we give our suffering to Him, He can make us more like Him. God has chosen not to take our suffering away, because He has decided to share in it. Whatever pain we suffer, we can be assured that Jesus Christ has shared in it. Have you suffered because someone close to you died? So has Christ. Have you been unjustly accused or punished for something you did not do? So has Christ. Have you ever been abandoned by everyone and left to suffer unimaginable pain? So has Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ has suffered these things so that He could lift them to the right hand of God. When we suffer, have the opportunity to draw closer to God.

What does the Scripture say about suffering?

“Even if you do suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. . . Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are abused, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” (1 Peter 3:14-16).

Suffering that arises not from doing wrong but comes as we live our lives in faithfulness to God bears in it seeds of rejoicing, because in our suffering, we will ultimately find reward in Christ’s eternal Kingdom. For the Christian, St. Peter thus says, “But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed” (1 Peter 4:13). And he adds in 1 Peter 4:19: “Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will do right and entrust their souls to a faithful Creator,” showing the source of our strength in suffering is trust in God.

St. Peter gives every believer this counsel and this promise in the face of suffering:

“Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you” (1 Peter 5:7-10).

Do You Belong to the Church?

Several weeks ago, I saw a parishioner whom I had not seen in a very long time. After exchanging the pleasantries with him, I told him how sorry I was to learn of his decision to leave the church along with his family. "But Father, " he protested, "I haven't left the church." I explained to him, however, that I had not seen him or his family in church for a very long time. His children no longer sang in the Jr. Choir or participated in youth activities. Neither he nor his wife had worked in the festival or attended a meeting of a parish organization. They had not even made a contribution to the church in recent years. Is it any wonder that I thought they had left? What is it that he would do, if he quit, that he had not already done?

That is why many of you who read this bulletin do not belong to the church. You are not a part of it at all. You have decided to become nothing more than a simple entry on our large mailing list.

Someone once calculated that if we lived for 70 years, we would spend 3 years in the classroom, 8 years in amusements, 6 years eating, 5 years in an automobile, 4 years in idle conversation and 3 years ill or convalescing. But in an average life of 70 years, we would spend around 1 year for God, even if we spend 90 minutes a week in church and 10 minutes a day in prayer.

Most of us, however, spend far less time than that in prayer and worship. Looking at life from this point of view gives us an opportunity to ask ourselves two pointed questions: Am I truly a Christian? Do I really belong to the Church?

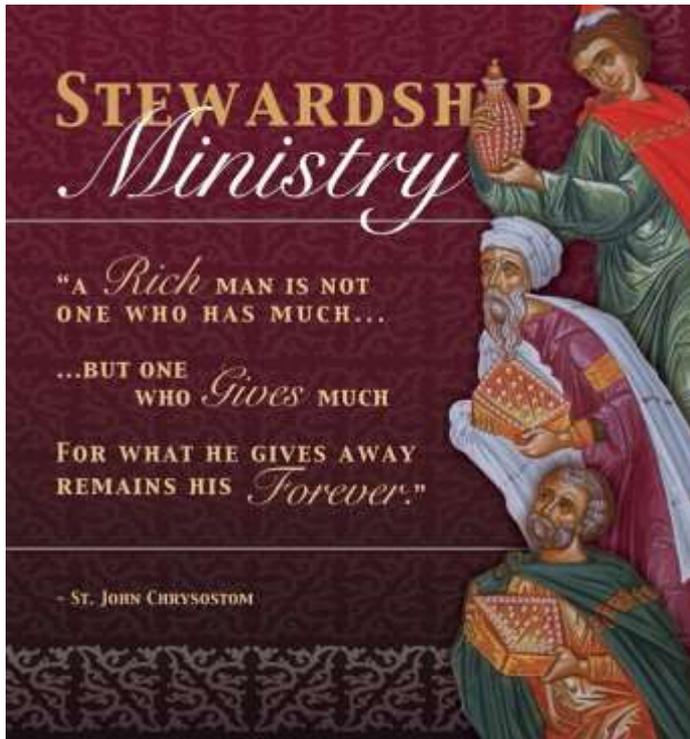
Fr. Andrew Demotses

<https://www.goarch.org/-/do-you-belong-to-the-church-?inheritRedirect=true>

What is Stewardship?

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

Christian Stewardship is:



...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work; for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time,

talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

...caring for the needs of others.

...offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying "I believe...", as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.