



# St. George

Orthodox Christian Church  
Terre Haute, Indiana

## *The Messenger* March 2018 Vol. 31 Issue 03

### **The Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts: Communing from the Body and Blood of the Master during the Period of Spiritual Combat**

The Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts is attributed to Saint Gregory the Dialogist († 604), Pope of Rome, but in actuality, it is not the work of one individual, but is a composite work coming down to us from Holy Tradition. The Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts, which consists of the Service of Vespers and the Communion of the Faithful with the Holy Gifts. It is commonly celebrated daily in monastic communities, and on Wednesdays and Fridays in parishes, with Holy Bread—that is, the Body of Christ—which has been intincted in the Holy Blood and consecrated at the preceding complete Liturgies on Saturdays or Sundays. The Pre-Sanctified or “abridged” Divine Liturgy (since it is affixed to Vespers), is normally celebrated in the late afternoon, when Christians, having fasted until that time, commune, afterwards eating a meal of dry foodstuffs (dried fruits and nuts).



The celebration of the Divine Liturgy, because it is festive and Resurrectional in character, is not allowed during Great Lent and the somber period of the fast, according to ancient tradition and the forty-ninth Canon of the Synod of in Laodiceia [336]. However, from their side, the faithful children of the Church, engaged in the abstemious struggle of the Great Fast and having a clear and particular need for reinforcement by the Holy Mysteries during this period of intensive spiritual combat, desired to commune as often as they could, since Holy Communion was indeed their life and sustenance.

For this reason, so that the faithful not be deprived of the Holy Eucharist on the weekdays of the Great Fast, but that they might be able to commune from the Pre-Sanctified Holy Bread [the Body of Christ], the Church, by way of the fifty-first Canon of the Fifth-Sixth [Quinisext] Synod [692], appointed that the Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts take place on the weekdays of the Great Fast.

(continued on p. 2)

Saint Nikodemos the Hagiorite [† 1809], in his Rudder, citing the Byzantine canonologist Matthew<sub>2</sub> Blastaris [fl. 14th century], reminds us that the faithful resemble wrestlers, and just as wrestlers cease their matches in the afternoon to take nourishment in order to strengthen themselves for the upcoming bout, so the faithful commune from the Body and Blood of the Master during the period of spiritual combat in the Great Fast, that they might be reinvigorated and reinforced by the Lord, thus to continue their match against the passions and the spiritual enmity of the devil with renewed powers and more valorously.

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## Venerable Gerasimus of the Jordan – March 4



St. Gerasimus was a native of Lycia (Asia Minor). From his early years he was distinguished for his piety. Having received monastic tonsure, he withdrew into the desert of the Thebaid (in Egypt). Thereafter, in about the year 450, the monk arrived in Palestine and settled at the Jordan, where he founded a monastery. For a certain while St. Gerasimus was tempted by the heresy of Eutyches and Dioscorus, which acknowledged only the divine nature in Jesus Christ, but not His human nature (i.e. the Monophysite heresy). St. Euthymius the Great (January 20) helped him to return to the true Faith.

St. Gerasimus established a strict monastic Rule. He spent five days of the week in solitude, occupying himself with handicrafts and prayer. On these days the wilderness dwellers did not eat cooked food, nor did they kindle a fire, but ate only dry bread, roots and water. On Saturday and Sunday all gathered at the monastery for Divine Liturgy and to partake of the Holy Mysteries of Christ. In the afternoon, taking a supply of bread, tubers, water and an armload of date-palm branches for weaving baskets, the desert dwellers returned to their own cells. Each had only old clothes and a mat, upon which he slept. When they left their cells, the door was never locked, so that anyone could enter and rest, or take whatever he needed. St. Gerasimus himself attained a high level of asceticism. During Great Lent he ate nothing until the very day of the All-Radiant Resurrection of Christ, when he received the Holy Mysteries. Going out into the desert for all of Great Lent, St. Gerasimus took with him his beloved disciple St. Cyriacus (September 29), whom St. Euthymius had sent to him.

When St. Euthymius the Great died, St. Gerasimus saw how angels carried the soul of the departed up to Heaven. Taking Cyriacus with him, the monk immediately set off to the monastery of St. Euthymius and consigned his body to the earth. St. Gerasimus died peacefully, mourned by his brethren and disciples. Before his death, a lion had aided St. Gerasimus in his tasks, and upon the death of the Elder it died at his grave and was buried nearby. Therefore, the lion is depicted on icons of the saint, at his feet.

**Troparion (Tone 1) of Venerable Gerasimus:** Thou didst prove to be a citizen of the desert, an angel in the flesh, and a wonderworker, O Gerasimus, our God-bearing Father. By fasting, vigil, and prayer thou didst obtain heavenly gifts, and thou healest the sick and the souls of them that have recourse to thee with faith. Glory to Him that hath given thee strength. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.



## St. Anastasia the Patrician of Alexandria – March 10

St. Anastasia the Patrician lived in Constantinople and was descended from an aristocratic family. She was an image of virtue, and she enjoyed the great esteem of the emperor Justinian (527-565). Widowed at a young age, Anastasia decided to leave the world and save her soul far from the bustle of the capital. She secretly left Constantinople and went to Alexandria. She founded a small monastery not far from the city, and devoted herself entirely to God.

Several years later, the emperor Justinian was widowed and decided to search for Anastasia and marry her. As soon as she learned of this, Saint Anastasia journeyed to a remote skete to ask Abba Daniel (March 18) for help. In order to safeguard Anastasia, the Elder dressed her in a man's monastic garb and called her the eunuch Anastasius. Having settled her in one of the very remote caves, the Elder gave her a Rule of prayer and

ordered her never to leave the cave and to receive no one. Only one monk knew of this place. His obedience was to bring a small portion of bread and a pitcher of water to the cave once a week, leaving it at the entrance. The nun Anastasia dwelt in seclusion for twenty-eight years. Everyone believed that it was the eunuch Anastasius who lived in the cave.

The Lord revealed to her the day of her death. Having learned of her approaching death, she wrote several words for Abba Daniel on a potsherd and placed it at the entrance to the cave. The Elder came quickly and brought everything necessary for her burial. He found the holy ascetic still alive, and he confessed and communed her with the Holy Mysteries. At Abba Daniel's request, Saint Anastasia blessed him and the monk accompanying him. With the words: "Lord, into Thy hands I commend my spirit," the saint died in peace (ca. 567-568).

When the grave was prepared, the Elder gave his disciple his outer garment and ordered him to dress the deceased "brother" in it. As he was putting on the rassa, the monk noticed that she was a woman, but he did not dare to say anything. However, when they returned to the monastery after they buried the nun, the disciple asked Abba Daniel whether he knew the "brother" was a woman, and the Elder related to the young monk the life of Saint Anastasia. Later, the Abba's narrative was written down and received wide acclaim. The relics of Saint Anastasia were transferred to Constantinople in the year 1200, and put not far from the church of Hagia Sophia.

Answers to Quiz on p. 7:

1. B 2. D 3. C 4. False 5. D
6. A 7. B 8. D 9. A 10. C

## Great Lent—Remaining Schedule of Services

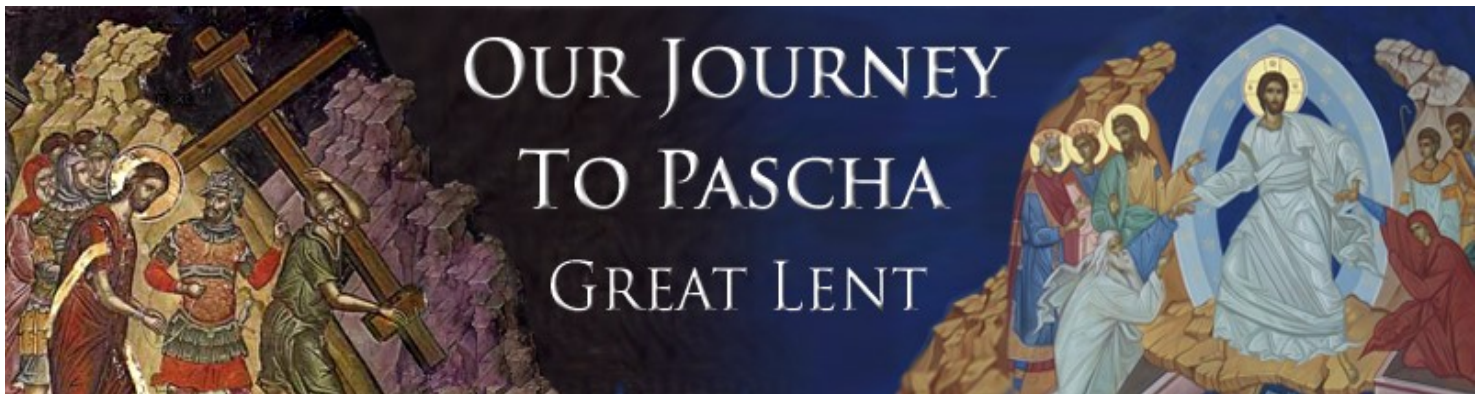
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Mondays (March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26) — Great Compline at 6:00p

Wednesdays (March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28) — Presanctified Liturgy and Potluck Meal at 6:00p

Fridays (March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30) — Akathist (Madayeh) at 6:00p

Thursday, March 22 — Little Compline w/ Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt at 6:00p



## Holy Week—Schedule of Services

<b>(Raising of Lazarus)</b> Saturday, March 31	10:00a	Festal Liturgy
	6:00p	Great Vespers
<b>(Palm Sunday)</b> Sunday, April 1	9:00a	Matins
	10:00a	Festal Liturgy
	6:00p	Bridegroom Matins
Monday, April 2	6:00p	Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday, April 3	6:00p	Bridegroom Matins
Wednesday, April 4	6:00p	Holy Unction
Thursday, April 5	10:00a	Festal Liturgy
	6:00p	12 Passion Gospels
Friday, April 6	10:00a	Royal Hours
	3:00p	Un-nailing Vespers
	7:00p	Lamentations
Saturday, April 7	10:00a	Festal Liturgy
	9:00p	Paschal Matins and Liturgy
<b>(PASCHA)</b> Sunday, April 8	11:00a	Agape Vespers
<b>(Bright Monday)</b> Monday, April 9	10:00a	Paschal Liturgy at St. George (Fishers)

## 2018 Stewardship UPDATE

Our Stewardship Goal is \$200,000; as of February 26, 2018 the following 46 families have pledged a total amount of \$94,175 towards our goal. Many thanks to these parishioners who have filled out their 2018 Membership and Pledge Commitment Form. All members are required to fill out this form each year, as they allow us to update contact information, as well as budget and plan for future needs, charities, and projects of our parish community. Please fill out YOUR Membership and Pledge Commitment Form and return to our Church Office.

Adam & Stephanie Azar  
 George & Cathy Azar  
 Ray & Renee Azar  
 Keith & Melinda Bement  
 Brent & Stacey Bocard  
 Michael Buzash  
 Eric & Cassandra Cook  
 Alecia Corey  
 Dn. Elias & Denise Corey  
 Helen Corey  
 Noble & Roseann Corey  
 Maria David  
 Chris & Jacqui Ellis  
 George Ellis  
 John & Jaimie Ellis  
 Kal & Christy Ellis

Kalea Ellis  
 Katherine Ellis  
 Mary Helen Ellis  
 Michael & Nancy Ellis  
 Fr. Paul & Ramia Fuller  
 Bill & Sandy Kassis  
 Rosemary T. Kassis  
 Zack & Denise Kassis  
 Dan Latinovich  
 Russell Leo  
 Bonnie Lisher  
 CJ Maloof  
 Patti Maloof  
 Steve & Jamie Maynard  
 Beverly Shahadey  
 Esther Simbol

Mary Ann Simbol  
 Nellie Simbol  
 Dean & Maria Straub  
 Anthony Tanoos II  
 Jim & Tricia Tanoos  
 Joseph & Linda Tanoos  
 Mary Ann Tanoos  
 Rosemarie Tanoos  
 Tony Tanoos  
 Michael & Mary Jo Tom  
 Jeremiah & Jennifer Turner  
 Gary & Adelle Watts  
 Preston & Gina White  
 Andy Whitt



**Thursday, April 26, 2018 @ 6:00p**

**Individual tickets are \$22.00 / A reserved table of eight is \$160.00**

**Please contact Kalea Ellis at (812) 249-8298, Julie Lake at (812) 249-4030,  
 or Maria David at (812) 243-5890 to reserve tickets or a table.**

The **St. George Social Center** is available to the public for those **special days of celebrations**: wedding receptions, anniversary parties, graduation parties; **for your business needs**: banquets, meetings, fund raising events, company parties; and **for the good times**: holiday parties, dinners, etc.

**For more information and to schedule an appointment,  
Please contact Michael C. Ellis at (812) 841-1338**

# Orthodox Prayers

“O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications....”



**Please include the following people in your daily prayers.  
Prayer requests may be sent to Fr. Paul Fuller (frpaul.fuller@gmail.com).**

## LIVING

Those suffering from the recent tragedy in Parkland, FL  
Metropolitan Paul & Archbishop John  
Archpriest Stephen Rhudy  
Miriam Yazge  
Mary Lou Saikley  
Daniel, Ashlee, & newborn Preston Tanoos  
Christina Phipps  
Amy Issa  
Gill Fuller  
Sdn. Chuckie Shahadey (Ft. Lauderdale)  
Jana Nasser  
Archpriest Nabil Hanna (Fishers, IN)

## DEPARTED

+Those newly-departed from the recent tragedy in Parkland, FL  
+ Kaleel (Big K) Ellis  
+Archpriest George Rados  
+ Colton Murray  
+Michael & Darla Eslinger  
+Hilda Nassar (Grandmother of Kh. Ramia)  
+Edna Louise Bolinger Shahadey  
+Nicoletta Dayiantis (Grandmother of Dean Straub)  
+Joseph Haiek (CA)  
+Carol Latinovich  
+Jackson Pirtle

# Great Lent & Holy Week Quiz

1. What/Who is commemorated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Great Lent?  
A. St. Gregory Palamas    B. Adoration of the Holy Cross  
C. St. John Climacus      D. Holy Prophets
2. Which day of the week is the Akathist (Madayeh) – Supplication to the Theotokos celebrated in most Orthodox parishes?  
A. Monday      B. Tuesday  
C. Wednesday    D. Friday
3. Who is ascribed authorship for the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts?  
A. St. Basil the Great      B. St. John Chrysostom  
C. St. Gregory Dialogist    D. St. James, Brother of our Lord
4. Holy Week days are included in the 40 days of Great Lent.  
True or False?
5. What is the liturgical color of Great Lent?  
A. Green    B. Blue  
C. Gold     D. Purple
6. On Sundays during Great Lent, the Divine Liturgy ascribed to whom is celebrated?  
A. St. Basil the Great      B. St. John Chrysostom  
C. St. Gregory Dialogist    D. St. James, Brother of our Lord
7. What biblical event is commemorated on the Saturday prior to Palm Sunday (Our Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem)?  
A. Turning over the tables at the Temple    B. Raising of Lazarus from the dead  
C. Sermon on the Mount                          D. Feeding of the 5,000
8. During Great Lent, which Saint's "Life" is Read during a liturgical service, as an image/example of repentance?  
A. St. Moses of Ethiopia                      B. St. Paul the Apostle  
C. St. David, King and Prophet    D. St. Mary of Egypt
9. The first week of Great Lent is often called/referred to as what?  
A. Clean/Pure Week    B. Hard Week  
C. Prayer Week              D. Repentance Week
10. During Great Lent, which two fasting categories are "relaxed" on Saturdays and Sundays?  
A. meat and dairy      B. chocolate and sweets  
C. wine and olive oil    D. trick question, there is no relaxation!

St. George Orthodox Church

1900 South Fourth Street

Terre Haute, IN 47802

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Permit #28

**Holy Oblation      Coffee (Fellowship) Hour**

Mar 04	Zack Kassis	Dan Latinovich
Mar 11	Bocard Family	Bocard Family
Mar 18	Mike & Nancy Ellis	Mike Ellis & Nancy Ellis
Mar 25	Mary Ann Tanoos	Mary Ann Tanoos

Apr 1	Ladies Society	Palm Sunday Lunch Fundraiser
Apr 8	PASCHA	Feast hosted by Parish Council
Apr 15	Mary Helen Ellis & Family	
Apr 22	Simbol Family	Simbol Family
Apr 29	Turner Family	Turner Family

We encourage those hosting the Holy Oblation and Coffee (Fellowship) Hour to offer a meal for fellowship. Note that the Lenten Fast begins on February 19, please plan Fellowship Meals accordingly.

**Approx. 7 Sundays in 2018 available to host!**

**“The Messenger” is the monthly publication of our Community at**

St. George Orthodox Church  
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Terre Haute, IN 47802

Fr. Paul Fuller † Dn. Elias Corey  
812-232-5244 office stgeorgeoath@gmail.com

**[www.stgeorgeterrehaute.com](http://www.stgeorgeterrehaute.com)**

Please check our website for updates on all services, gatherings, and events.

**Liturgical Schedule**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	Matins
	<b>10:00 AM</b>	Divine Liturgy
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Daily Vespers
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	Great Vespers

*A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian  
Archdiocese of North America*