

**WELCOME VISITORS AND GUESTS**

Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor Card. We invite you to join us for coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall following the Liturgy.

**RECEIVING COMMUNION**

Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the chalice for Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after the Liturgy.

**HOLY OBLATION BREAD AND MEMORIAL WHEAT**

If you are offering Holy Bread, please pick up your portion on top of the chanter stand at the end of Liturgy.

If you are offering Memorial Wheat, please provide (300) 3oz Dixie cups.

Please notify the Church Office by end-of-day Tuesday.

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE DUE TUESDAY END-OF-DAY.**

## ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

5311 Mercer, Houston, Texas 77005 [www.stgeorgehouston.com](http://www.stgeorgehouston.com)

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### December 17, 2017

**HOLY OBLATION AND MEMORIAL** is offered in memory of Howard & Dorothy Lydic by Susan Heimbaugh & Pat Chamberlain.

**HOLY OBLATION AND MEMORIAL** is offered in memory of Milia Khalil Merheb (1 year) by Raymond & Christine Merheb and family.

**HOLY OBLATION AND MEMORIAL** is offered in memory of Ghassan Ouais (1 year) by Samir Ouais and family.

**HOLY OBLATION** is offered in memory of Remon Zabak (3 years) by the Voutsinas family.

**ST. GEORGE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** TODAY after Liturgy in the Hall. Lenten refreshments provided. There will be a play followed by Christmas carols.

#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Wednesday, December 20	6:30p Nativity Paraklesis
Thursday, December 21	9:00a Divine Liturgy for St. Ignatius 6:00p Paraklesis in Spanish, followed by snacks
Saturday, December 23	6:00p Great Vespers / Confessions
Sunday, December 24	8:45a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy

#### NEW ST. GEORGE SMARTPHONE APP

Download our "My Church by echurch" app from the app store (St. George keyword is "SGOCC APP") or text "SGOCC APP" to 77977.

If you need sign up assistance, see Eddy in the Hall after Liturgy.

#### EVENTS

**NO SENIOR BINGO ON 12/19 DUE TO CCSE PARTY.**

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 31 from 7:30pm-2am.

Adult tickets are \$75, children ages 12 and under are \$40.

Children ages 3 and under are \$20. Babysitting available.

Please contact Giselle Farhood (713-771-0517) to reserve your spot.

**\* Night of the year with the one and only Ayman Al-Khatib \***

**CCSE (FORMERLY DADS) CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** Please volunteer for our annual CCSE Christmas Banquet for 500 mentally and physically challenged guests from area adult daycare facilities. 50 volunteers needed from 8:45-2:30 on Tuesday, December 19. Please contact Al Nahas at [anahas@comcast.net](mailto:anahas@comcast.net) or 281-565-6474 to volunteer.

#### Timeline:

8:45 – 9:00a Servers arrive; Coffee and donuts; set tables

9:45a Guests arrive – 1st sitting

10:00a Serve 1st sitting

11:45a Distribute Gift bags as guests leave; clean up & set tables for 2nd sitting

12:00p Guests arrive – 2nd sitting

12:15p Serve 2nd sitting

2:00p Guests depart with Gift bags; clean Fellowship Hall

Servers welcome to eat lunch

**ST. GEORGE HOUSTON 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA:** January 27, 2018, with His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH. Souvenir Journal & Sponsorship Order forms are available after Liturgy at the table in the Church Hall, & orders will be available for purchase. Any parishioner needing financial assistance to attend gala, see Fr. James.

**BECOME A KNIGHT OR DAME OF THE ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS:** Your monthly contribution of as little as \$41.66/month on your credit card can go a long way in fulfilling many of the charitable projects that the Order sponsors. To join, please contact Dr. George Zaibaq at 713-724-4982 or [gzaibaq@drzaibaq.com](mailto:gzaibaq@drzaibaq.com). You will be ordained at the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala with Metropolitan Joseph on January 27, 2018.

#### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

##### TEEN SOYO

**FAMILY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY:** After Vespers studying the *Book of Acts* in Bridal Room.

**WINTER CAMP:** January 12-15, 2018 at Camp St. Raphael. Registration is open. Only male spots are still available.

##### YAM (YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES)

**YOUNG ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP:** 12:15p after Liturgy in the Chapel.

# The Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

❖ **The Antiphons and Little Entrance as in the service book.**

❖ **After the Little Entrance, the following are chanted:**

*The Troparion of the Resurrection in tone 3:*

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy

*The Troparion of the Forefathers in tone 2:*

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

*The Troparion of St. George in tone 4:*

As deliverer 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.

*The Kontakion of the Preparation of Christ's Nativity in tone 3:*

Today the Virgin cometh, cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages, begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, if thou should hear and glorify with the angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him, Who by His will shall become a newborn babe and Who is our God before all ages.

## The Epistle

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

*The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)*

Brethren, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its

practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

## The Epistle in Arabic

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبَائِنَا

لَأَنَّكَ عَدَلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صَنَعْتَ بِنَا.

فَضْلٌ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقَدِيسِ بُولْسِ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى أَهْلِ كُولُوسِي

يَا إِخْوَةَ، مَتَى ظَهَرَ الْمَسِيحُ الَّذِي هُوَ حَيَاتُنَا، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً تَظْهَرُونَ حَيْنَنْدِ مَعَهُ فِي الْمَجْدِ \* فَأَمِينُوا أَعْضَاءَكُمْ الَّتِي عَلَى الْأَرْضِ: الزَّيْنَى وَالنَّجَاسَةَ وَالنَّهْوَى عَائِشِينَ وَالشَّهْوَةَ الرَّدِيَّةَ وَالطَّمْعَ الَّذِي هُوَ عِبَادَةٌ وَتَن \* لِأَنَّهُ لِأَجْلِ هَذِهِ يَأْتِي غَضَبُ اللَّهِ عَلَى أَبْنَاءِ الْعِصْيَانِ \* وَفِي هَذِهِ أَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً سَلَكَتُمْ حِيناً إِذْ كُنْتُمْ فِيهَا \* أَمَّا الْآنَ، فَأَنْتُمْ أَيْضاً أَطْرَحُوا الْكُلَّ: الْعِصْبَ وَالسَّخْطَ وَالْخُبْثَ وَالتَّجْدِيفَ وَالكَلَامَ الْقَبِيحَ مِنْ أَفْوَاهِكُمْ \* وَلَا يَكْذِبُ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضاً، بَلِ اخْلَعُوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْعَتِيقَ مَعَ أَعْمَالِهِ \* وَالتَّبَسُّوا الْإِنْسَانَ الْجَدِيدَ الَّذِي يَتَّجِدُّ لِلْمَعْرِفَةِ عَلَى صُورَةِ خَالِقِهِ \* حَيْثُ لَيْسَ يُونَانِيٌّ وَلَا يَهُودِيٌّ، لَا خِتَانٌ وَلَا قَلْفٌ، لَا بَزِيرِيٌّ وَلَا اسْكِيثِيٌّ، لَا عَبْدٌ وَلَا حُرٌّ، بَلِ الْمَسِيحُ هُوَ كُلُّ شَيْءٍ فِي الْجَمِيعِ.

## The Gospel

*The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)*

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

## The Gospel in Arabic

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ صَنَعَ عَشَاءً عَظِيماً وَدَعَا كَثِيرِينَ \* فَأَرْسَلَ عَبْدَهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعِشَاءِ يَقُولُ لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ تَعَالَوْا فَإِنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ أُعِدَّ \* فَطَفِقَ كُلُّهُمْ وَاجِدٌ فَوَاجِدٌ يَسْتَعْفُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ الْأَوْلَى قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ حَقْلاً وَلَا بُدَّ لِي أَنْ أَخْرُجَ وَأَنْظُرَهُ فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفَيْتَنِي \* وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ خَمْسَةَ فِدَادِينَ بَقَرٍ وَأَنَا مَاضٍ لِأَجْرَتِهَا فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفَيْتَنِي \* وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ قَدْ تَزَوَّجْتُ امْرَأَةً فَلِذَلِكَ لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَجِيءَ \* فَأَتَى الْعَبْدُ وَأَخْبَرَ سَيِّدَهُ بِذَلِكَ \* فَحِينَنْدِ غَضِبَ رَبُّ الْبَيْتِ وَقَالَ لِعَبْدِهِ أَخْرُجْ سَرِيعاً إِلَى سُورِجِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَدْخِلْهَا وَأَدْخِلِ الْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْجُدَّعَ وَالْعُمِيَانَ وَالغُرَجَّ إِلَى هَهُنَا \* فَقَالَ الْعَبْدُ يَا سَيِّدُ قَدْ فَضِي مَا أَمَرْتَ بِهِ وَيَبْقَى أَيْضاً مَحَلٌّ \* فَقَالَ السَيِّدُ لِلْعَبْدِ أَخْرُجْ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ وَالْأَسْجِجَةِ وَاضْطَرِّرْهُمْ إِلَى الدَّخُولِ حَتَّى يَمْتَلِئَ بَيْتِي \* فَإِنِّي أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَا يَذُوقُ عِشَائِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَوْلِيكَ الرِّجَالِ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ \* لِأَنَّ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ كَثِيرُونَ وَالْمُخْتَارِينَ قَلِيلُونَ.

# The Sunday of the Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

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## The Gospel

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## The Gospel in Arabic

فَصَلِّ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ لُوقَا الْإِنْجِيلِي الْبَشِيرِ وَالتَّلْمِيزِ الطَّاهِرِ.

قَالَ الرَّبُّ هَذَا الْمَثَلُ: إِنْسَانٌ صَنَعَ عَشَاءً عَظِيماً وَدَعَا كَثِيرِينَ \* فَأَرْسَلَ عَبْدَهُ فِي سَاعَةِ الْعِشَاءِ يَقُولُ لِلْمَدْعُوعِينَ تَعَالَوْا فَإِنَّ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ قَدْ أُعِدَّ \* فَطَفِقَ كُلُّهُمْ وَاجِدٌ فَوَاجِدٌ يَسْتَعْفُونَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ الْأَوْلَى قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ حَقْلاً وَلَا بُدَّ لِي أَنْ أَخْرُجَ وَأَنْظُرَهُ فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفَيْتَنِي \* وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ قَدْ اشْتَرَيْتُ خَمْسَةَ فِدَادِينَ بَقَرٍ وَأَنَا مَاضٍ لِأَجْرَتِهَا فَأَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَعْفَيْتَنِي \* وَقَالَ الْآخَرُ قَدْ تَزَوَّجْتُ امْرَأَةً فَلِذَلِكَ لَا أَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ أَجِيءَ \* فَأَتَى الْعَبْدُ وَأَخْبَرَ سَيِّدَهُ بِذَلِكَ \* فَحِينَنْدِ غَضِبَ رَبُّ الْبَيْتِ وَقَالَ لِعَبْدِهِ أَخْرُجْ سَرِيعاً إِلَى شَوَارِعِ الْمَدِينَةِ وَأَدْخِلْ الْمَسَاكِينَ وَالْجُدُوعَ وَالْعُمَيَانَ وَالغُرَجَ إِلَى هَهُنَا \* فَقَالَ الْعَبْدُ يَا سَيِّدُ قَدْ فَضَيْتَنِي مَا أَمَرْتَ بِهِ وَيَبْقَى أَيْضاً مَحَلٌّ \* فَقَالَ السَيِّدُ لِلْعَبْدِ أَخْرُجْ إِلَى الطَّرِيقِ وَالْأَسْجِجَةِ وَاضْطَرِّرْهُمْ إِلَى الدَّخُولِ حَتَّى يَمْتَلِئَ بَيْتِي \* فَإِنِّي أَقُولُ لَكُمْ إِنَّهُ لَا يَذُوقُ عِشَائِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ أَوْلِيكَ الرِّجَالِ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ \* لِأَنَّ الْمَدْعُوعِينَ كَثِيرُونَ وَالْمُخْتَارِينَ قَلِيلُونَ.