

A SLAVE BECOMES AN APOSTLE

When today's Church Bulletin, we see the image of a man who experienced a tremendous SPIRITUAL and SOCIAL transformation. ONESIMUS was the personal slave of a distinguished citizen of Colossae named Philemon in the days of the early Church. After stealing from his master's treasury, it is said that Onesimus fled to Rome. It was in this ancient capital of the Empire that his life would be changed forever!

While in Rome, Onesimus first heard about Jesus through the preaching of the Apostle Paul, who was imprisoned there. Soon he was baptized into Christianity and became a companion of the famous "Apostle of the Gentiles."

Knowing of Onesimus' background, Paul was faced with a moral dilemma. He himself preached that ". . . in Christ, there is neither slave nor free man." (Gal. 3:28) According to Roman law, however, Onesimus still belonged to Philemon! Scriptures tell us that St. Paul sent Onesimus back to Colossae with a special letter to Philemon, which would later become a part of the canonical books of the New Testament. In his Epistle, Paul urged Philemon to receive Onesimus with forgiveness as a brother of the Lord. "Perhaps he departed for awhile for this purpose," Paul writes, "that you might receive Him forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave - A beloved brother." Deeply moved by Paul's words, Philemon gave freedom to his former slave.

According to Church tradition, Onesimus later became Bishop of Ephesus. He suffered martyrdom in Rome, like his mentor St. Paul, in 109 A.D.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

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

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February 17, 2019

WELCOME Fr. Paul, Kh. Ramia & Baby Rebekah Fuller

HOLY OBLATION AND MEMORIAL is offered in memory of Olga Faour (40 days) by Gary Faour.

HOLY OBLATION AND MEMORIAL is offered in memory of Nuha Sackllah (40 days) by George Sackllah and family.

HOLY OBLATION is offered for the health of Rosalie Abercia, Jack Abercia, Betty Attra, Farah Baba, Noor Nameh Haddad and Amanda Mclsaac, and in memory of Randa Najjar and Laura Odom by the Ladies Altar Society.

HOLY OBLATION is offered in memory of Rami Khalaf by the Khalaf family and Hanna & Jennifer Ganim.

CHURCHING: Liam Patrick Carlson, son of Jacob & Ada Carlson.

CHURCHING: Gabriel George Katrib, son of Fr. George & Kh. Miray Katrib.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Wednesday (2/20)	6:30p Vespers
Saturday (2/23)	6:00p Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday (2/24)	8:45a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy

EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY: 10a every Tuesday on the *Book of Job*.

SENIOR BINGO: 11a Tuesday February 19.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 7p Tuesday, February 19.

COUNTRY WESTERN DANCE & BBQ: Friday, February 22. Doors open at 7p, dinner at 8p. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$6 for children. Please contact Julia Mekdessi for questions or more info (jewelfmk@aol.com or 832-282-9322). Hosted by YAM.

ST. MICHAEL BEAUMONT 120TH ANNIVERSARY WITH METROPOLITAN JOSEPH: February 23, 2019. 5:00p Hierarchical Vespers followed by 6:30p Gala Banquet at Holiday Inn & Suites Beaumont Plaza. Contact Tammy Haddad (tammyhaddad@sbcglobal.net or 409-790-1980).

FOOD PANTRY: Many thanks to the students, parents and teachers who brought food for "First Sunday." Your participation in stocking the food pantry is deeply appreciated. The next "First Sunday" is March 3.

ST. GEORGE TEA PARTY: 1p Saturday, March 2. **Sold out.**

MEDICARE BRIEFING: Are you approaching 65 years young or know someone who is? You may be facing major changes in your healthcare choices. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on February 27 after Vespers (approximately 7p) to discuss Transitioning to Medicare and other healthcare or insurance related issues. For more information, contact Al Nahas 281-565-6474.

MOCK BIBLE BOWL: Sunday, May 5 after church, there will be a Bible Bowl competition for all church organizations. A team consists of three members. Start studying Saint Paul's Letters now. Please see Chris Al-Dehneh for any questions or to register your team.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

CAMP ST. RAPHAEL REGISTRATION OPEN: Visit www.campstraphael.org to register. There will be groups going from Houston all three sessions, St. George will officially be attending 2nd Session.

TEEN SOYO & YAM SOCCER TOURNAMENT: March 29-31, first annual soccer tournament hosted in Dallas, TX. See Chris for more details and to create a teen team.

TEEN SOYO

SCHOLARSHIP: Graduating high school seniors, Harry & Florence Khouri Scholarship application is available. DOWAMA will select one winner for this college scholarship. April 30th is the deadline, please see Chris if you would like an application.

OCF (COLLEGE)

CAMPUS LUNCHES: 12:30p Thursday (2/21) at St. Thomas's Crooker Center.

YOUNG ADULTS

BIBLE STUDY: Our first Bible study will be at 7:15p, immediately after Vespers (6:30p) on Wednesday, February 20 in the upstairs conference room. We will be studying St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians. All young adults are invited to attend.

2019 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

All Church members are asked to prayerfully complete their 2019 pledge as soon as possible. Please consider raising your pledge/stewardship so that we can continue to operate and build our Church and its ministries. Thank you for making this a priority as we aim for at least 400 pledges and \$1 million.

Payments towards fulfilling your 2019 pledge can be made any of the following ways: (1) mail (2) church tray (3) *online one-time or repeating* credit card/debit card or bank account payments. If paying by check, please note "Pledge" in the memo line. Should you need help setting up your payment options, please call the Church Office for assistance.

2019 Pledge Amount							as of 2/14/2019
\$ Range	\$1-499	\$500-999	\$1,000-2,499	\$2,500-4,999	\$5,000-9,999	\$10,000+	TOTAL
# Pledges	52	43	87	33	23	13	251
% Pledging Members	21%	17%	35%	13%	9%	5%	
TOTAL \$	\$11,600	\$25,420	\$134,044	\$103,220	\$134,600	\$233,000	\$641,844

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

Triodion Begins

❖ **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 5:

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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 for the Pharisee and Publican in tone 4:

Let us flee the Pharisee's conceited vaunting; let us learn the Publican's humility, and cry with groans unto the Savior: Thou Who alone art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.

The Epistle

Make vows to the Lord thy God and perform them.

In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings; and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Epistle in Arabic

صَلُّوا وَأُفُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَنَا

اللَّهُ مَعْرُوفٌ فِي أَرْضِ يَهُودَا

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى تيموثاوس

يا ولدي تيموثاوس، إِنَّكَ قَدْ اسْتَقْرَيْتَ تَعْلِيمِي وَسِيرَتِي وَقَصْدِي وَإِيمَانِي وَأَنَايَ وَمَحَبَّتِي وَصَبْرِي * واضطهاداتي والآلامي وما أصابني في إنطاكية وأيقونية ولسترة، وأية اضطهادات احتملت وقد أنقذني الرب من جميعها * وجميع الذين يريدون أن يعيشوا بالتقوى في المسيح يسوع يضطهدون * أما الأشرار والمغشون من الناس فيزدادون شراً مصلين ومضلين * فاستمر أنت على ما تعلمته وأيقنت به، عالماً ممن تعلمت * وأنت منذ الطفولية تعرف الكتب المقدسة القادرة أن تصيرك حكيماً للخلاص بالإيمان بالمسيح يسوع *

The Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Gospel in Arabic

فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي البشير

قال الرب هذا المثل. إنسانان صعدا إلى الهيكل ليصليا أحدهما فريسي والآخر عشائر * فكان الفريسي واقفاً يصلي في نفسه هكذا اللهم إني أشكرك لأني لست كسائر الناس الخاطفة الظالمين الفاسقين ولا مثل هذا العشائر * فإني أصوم في الأسبوع مرتين وأعشر كل ما هو لي * أما العشائر فوقف عن بُعد ولم يرد أن يرفع عينيه إلى السماء بل كان يفرغ صدره قائلاً اللهم ارحمني أنا الخاطيء * أقول لكم إن هذا نزل إلى بيته مبرراً دون ذلك. لأن كل من رفع نفسه اتضع ومن وضع نفسه ارتفع *