



Church Services During Great Lent

Sunday	7:00 - 7:30AM	Matin Prayers
	7:30-10:00AM	Divine Liturgy (Arabic)
	8:00-10:30AM	Divine Liturgy (English)- <i>Sermon following the Gospel reading</i>
	11:00AM-12:00Noon	Sermon in Arabic
	11:15AM-12:00Noon	Sunday School
	12:15-1:00PM	Servants Meeting
	6:00 - 7:00PM	Bible Study N.T. (Arabic)
Tuesday	9:00-12:00 Noon	Divine Liturgy
Wednesday	9:00-12:00 Noon	Divine Liturgy
Thursday	9:00-12:00 Noon	Divine Liturgy
Friday	9:00-12:00 Noon	Divine Liturgy
	7:30-9:00PM	Youth Meeting (H.S. & College)
	7:00-8:00PM	Beginners Hymn Class
Saturday	8:00-10:00AM	Divine Liturgy (English)
	5:30-7:30PM	Advanced Hymn Class
	5:30-7:00PM	Bible Study O.T. (Arabic)
	7:00-8:00PM	Vespers
	8:00-10:00PM	Midnight Praises.
The Priests receive confession by appointment and during Midnight Praises		

Visit our Church Website at: www.Stgeorge-lacopts.org

Please share the magazine articles with your children and encourage them to submit articles for publication.

Articles may be dropped in the wood box labeled

“Magazine articles” (located at the small entrance)

Or fax: (562) 804-1073,

Or E-mail: stgeorge15@yahoo.com

On Sunday April 7- Baramhat 29, the fourth Sunday of the Great Lent, the Church celebrates the feast of the Annunciation. The readings for this Feast replace the readings of the Great Lent. (The Sunday of the Samaritan, the mid-Sunday of the Great Lent)

The Lord's Prayer

- + I cannot say: "**Our**", if my religion has no room for others and for their needs.
- + I cannot say: "**Father**", if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily life.
- + I cannot say: "**Who Art in Heaven**", if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.
- + I cannot say: "**Hallowed Be Thy Name**", if I, who is called by His Name, am not holy.
- + I cannot say: "**Thy Kingdom come**", if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty, and accept the righteous reign of God.
- + I cannot say: "**Thy will be done**", if I am unwilling, or resentful of having it in my life.
- + I cannot say: "**On earth as it is in Heaven**", unless I am truly ready to give myself to his service here and now.
- + I cannot say: "**Give us this day our daily bread**", without expending honest effort for it, or by ignoring the genuine needs of my fellowmen.
- + I cannot say: "**Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us**", if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.
- + I cannot say: "**Lead us not into temptation**", if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.
- + I cannot say: "**Deliver us from evil**", if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm, with the spiritual weapons.
- + I cannot say: "**Thine is the Power**", if I fear what my neighbors and friends may say or do.
- + I cannot say: "**Thine is the Glory**", if I am seeking my own glory first.
- + I cannot say: "**Forever**", if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.
- + I cannot say: "**Amen**", unless I honestly say: "cost what it may, this is my prayer".

(Author Unknown)



Bearing The Cross

St. Ambrose of Milan (339-397)

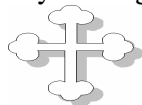
A young man was at the end of his rope, seeing no way out, dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy of a cross to bear."

The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door and pick out any cross you wish." The man was filled with relief said, "Thank you, Lord," and he did as he was told.

Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses; some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered.

And the Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in."

When life's problems seem overwhelming, it helps to look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself far more fortunate than you imagined.



KEEP THESE THOUGHTS

1. If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
2. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
3. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.
4. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.
5. He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart also.
6. What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday at Calvary. Face it,

He really does love you.

(Author unknown)

"Put On Love"

(By Darcey Hripak, Port Washington, New York)

The apostle Paul listed garments of the Holy Spirit in his letter to Colossian Believers:

Tender Mercies: The Foundation

First on his list is tender mercies. Also known as compassion, tender mercies are acts of empathy for weak or hurting people. They are usually motivated by feeling the same kind of pain as others or being able to imagine it. I call tender mercies the underwear of God's wardrobe . . . personal and next to the skin. They are the foundation for everything that goes on the outside.

Kindness: Your Attitude

Next on Paul's list is kindness . . . a warm-hearted deed as simple as a smile. But kindness is more than that. It's an attitude that involves treating others with honor and significance. The attitude of kindness is everyday stuff like a great pair of sneakers. Not frilly. Not fancy. Just plain and comfortable.

Humility: God's Grace

Humility is next. No matter how much we win or lose in life, God wraps us in a beautiful cloak of grace. When we're in the limelight, we understand the big part He played in our success.

Meekness: Durable

Meekness is one of my favorite things to wear. Some people think it's a nondescript, but I disagree. Meekness makes it possible to endure difficult circumstances and poor treatment at the hands of others. It is a durable garment with interesting textures. And meekness looks different on everyone!

Long-Suffering: Enhances

How about long-suffering? Sometimes I wish that old rag would just wear out so I could get something more glamorous and colorful. But I know God has fashioned even this to enhance my life. There are times

when long-suffering is the only appropriate thing to wear for a particular occasion . . . and then I'm glad it's in the closet.

Bearing With and Forgiveness: Protects

Bearing with others and forgiveness are the outerwear of God's designs. They are the things we wear on top of everything else, before we go out into the world. Without them we would get awfully cold. They protect us from the harsh elements and keep icy wind from blowing down our necks. As we face difficult circumstances, we button them up often and keep on trudging.

Love: Essential

Above all else, Paul says, put on love. Without love, we are never fully dressed in Christ's wardrobe. You might think of love as your best hat or the jeweled pin on the lapel of life. It is that one essential accessory you should never leave behind. Never go anywhere without love.

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Colossians 3:12-14)



Prayer of Saint Ephram the Syrian

O Lord, and Master of my life, deliver me from the spirit of sloth,
meddling, lust for power and idle talk.

But bestow upon me thy servant the spirit of chastity, meekness,
patience and love.

My King and God, grant that I may know my sins and my faults, and
not judge my brother, for thou art blessed forever. Amen.

On the six month memory of September 11

Lunch at the White House

(By: Max Lucado)

Max Lucado is a Christian author who is very popular for his many wonderful books about the Lord. Max was invited (along with several other famous preachers) to have lunch at the White House with President Bush. Max shared how it had gone.

As the ministers sat down to lunch and waited for President Bush to appear, Max said that he was expecting G. W. to walk in the room looking tired, serious and depressed. When the President came in, Max said he looked totally the opposite of tired: he was energetic, joyful and very focused on his talk with the ministers. Max asked President Bush how he could seem so calm and peaceful in the midst of all the tragedy.

The President's reply was, "I'm feeling stronger now than I've ever been in my life. And the reason is because every person in America is praying for me. When I stay on my knees, that's when I have power."

The ministers then asked the President how he would like them to pray for him, and how their congregations back home should be praying.

Mr. Bush asked, first, for clarity of mind so that he could make wise decisions, and then he asked that we pray specifically for his wife and two daughters, as he is very concerned about their safety. I knew that you would be as encouraged as I was to hear about this meeting.

We must thank God that we have a President who loves and fears the Lord. No human leader is perfect, but God is perfect, so let's keep President Bush lifted up in prayer before the Father.

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA AND MAY HIS GLORY BE DONE
IN THE MIDST OF THIS TRAGEDY!

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD AND REIGNS OVER HEAVEN
AND EARTH!

& & &

"A Soldier with a Mission"

(By: Chaplain Robinson)

In 1949, my father had just returned home from the war. On every American highway you could see soldiers in uniform hitchhiking home to their families, as was the custom at that time in America. Sadly, the thrill of his reunion with his family was soon overshadowed.

My grandmother became very ill and had to be hospitalized. It was her kidneys, and the doctors told my father that she needed a blood transfusion immediately or she would not live through the night.

The problem was that Grandmother's blood type was AB-, a very rare type even today, but even harder to get then because there were no blood banks or air flights to ship blood. All the family members were typed, but not one member was a match. So the doctors gave the family no hope; my grandmother was dying.

My father left the hospital in tears to gather up all the family members, so that everyone would get a chance to tell Grandmother goodbye. As my father was driving down the highway, he passed a soldier in uniform hitchhiking home to his family.

Deep in grief, my father had no inclination at that moment to do a good deed. Yet it was almost as if something outside himself pulled him to a stop, and he waited as the stranger climbed into the car. My father was too upset to even ask the soldier his name, but the soldier noticed my father's tears right away and inquired about them.

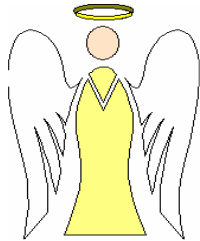
Through his tears, my father told this total stranger that his mother was lying in a hospital dying because the doctors had been unable to locate her blood type, AB-, and if they did not locate her blood type before nightfall, she would surely die. It got very quiet in the car.

Then this unidentified soldier extended his hand out to my father, palm up. Resting in the palm of his hand were the dog tags from around his neck. The blood type on the tags was AB-. The soldier told my father to turn the car around and get him to the hospital.

My grandmother lived until 1996, 47 years later, and to this day no one in our family knows the soldier's name. But my father has often

wondered, was he a soldier or an angel in uniform? Sometimes, we never know how God will bring someone into our lives to carry out a special mission, nor do we know whose lives God will have us touch.

**"The King will reply,
'I tell you the truth,
whatever you did for one
of the least of these brothers of mine,
you did for Me.'" (Matthew 25:4)**



Come down, O Christ, and help me reach Thy hand!
For I am drowning in a stormier sea
Than Simon on the lake of Galilee:
The wine of life is spilt upon the sand,
My heart is as some famine-murdered land
Whence all good things have perished utterly,
And well I know my soul in Hell must lie
If I this night before God's throne must stand.

"He sleeps perchance, or rideth to the chase,
Like Baal, when his prophets holed that name
From morn to noon on Carmel's smitten height."
Nay, peace! I shall behold, before the night,
The feet of brass, the robe more white than flame,
The wounded hands, the weary human face.

(Oscar Wilde {1854-1900})

Science and Religion

(By: Dr. Sami Boulos)

Since Adam and Eve were kicked out of the Garden of Eden, Satan has been trying to keep man away from God. He used many ways to accomplish His goal. Among these were those things that appeal to the flesh, and which were not to be pursued by man, such as the desire to own that which does not belong to him, to avenge any hurt inflicted on him by others, and to destroy those who stand in his way in pursuing his selfish goals. He used also the obsession by the world and the things of the world, as an added incentive for man to disobey God. One of his main strategies was to spoil God's image in the hearts and minds of men. So, he accused God of being a stern and a selfish God, Who requires obedience to His commandments, which run against the nature of man.

He does not stop at that, but he reminds man that this nature was created by non other than the same God. Punishing man in this situation, in which he is following his nature, simply does not make any sense, and makes God a tyrant, who is not worthy of our love or obedience. He also accuses God of being responsible for all the problems that plague mankind from divorce to the use of drugs, from the terrible diseases that devastate mankind, to the wars that destroy millions. He emphasizes the fact that since God controls the universe, He should be held responsible for everything that happens.

One of the weapons that he uses is denying the existence of God; what was and still is one of his most potent weapons against God. What is more appealing to man who does not want to follow anything but his selfish goals, that to deny the existence of God, Who puts all those severe restrictions on his behavior? To give this claim more importance and believability, Satan marshaled the efforts of a group of humans who are supposed to know the most about the world that we live in. He convinced them that since they have the most superior intelligence in the world, they should use it, to uncover the secrets of the universe. Nobody can disagree with that. But, when scientists began to deny any phenomenon that they cannot explain, **MANY DISAGREE**. So, scientists began by trying to discover the laws, which

govern the behavior of the components of the environment, and they did an excellent job at that. The discoveries of scientists, such as: Galileo, Newton, Pasteur, Ehrlich, Bell, Marconi, Edison, and Salk, just to mention a few, have been very useful, not only to understanding the physical world around us, but contributed significantly to creating a better life to everyone.

But scientists did not stop there. They began to tackle more difficult questions such as how was the universe created, how did living things come into existence? What is the origin of man? In tackling these questions, they wanted to use only the so-called facts that they have already discovered. They refused to realize *that the incomplete could not possibly explain the complete*. They refused to confess that what they are trying to defies the simple logic that they live by. They began from a premise that there is no God, and proceeded to try to explain every aspect, every happening, every phenomenon which is subject to observation. In this, they were using the physical, and barring the parapsychical. They claimed that if anything is measurable, it is real, if it is not, it is unreal, and consequently does not exist.

Based on this, they concluded that God does not exist, or that He died a long time ago. We remember the fervor and the enthusiasm that many of those so-called scientists displayed in denying the existence of God. Among these, we recall Darwin, Bertrand, Russell, Sigmund Freud, and Nitché. Their conclusion was welcomed by millions of people who were easily swayed because of their love for sin. A world without anybody in charge, and where people do what they want, without being judged or told that what they are doing is wrong is very attractive to many. As a result, more than half of the inhabitants of the world today believe in no God.

Of course there were cries against this foolishness, mainly made by men of religion, based on their faith of the word of God. But recently several men of science began to make statements supporting the idea that there is God, not based on faith, but on scientific evidence. In future issues we will tell you more all about this turn around of events, about those scientists and on what basis they have changed their minds.

(To be continued)

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Questions and Answers

(By: Nadia Guirguis)

Question:

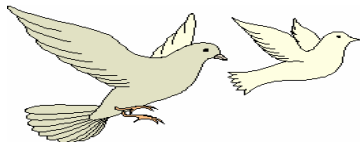
I think it would be cool to get a tattoo, but my parents won't let me. What is so bad about a tattoo? What does the Bible say?

Answer:

In Leviticus 19: 28 we read: **“Ye shall not make any cutting in your flesh for the dead, nor print any mark upon you: I am the Lord.”** Also in Mark 5 verses 3 and 5, we read about a demoniac whom Jesus cured of demon possession because he cut himself as he dwelt among the tombs. The practice of tattooing may stem from demon worship; nevertheless it is an act of rebellion against God. He has declared our bodies to be the temple of the Holy Spirit, if we belong to Him, and He has instructed us to do all to the glory of God. We live in a rebellious society, and so a tattoo may seem innocent enough. But if we are godly people we will not mutilate or mark our own bodies, because they belong to Him.

The best for you is to determine whether you want to live in obedience to the word of God, the Bible, or whether you want to live like the world in rebellion to Him.

Finally, remember that the Bible also instructs you to obey your parents. (Ephesians 6: 1-3)



"First of all, let us discipline our tongue to be the minister of the grace of the Holy Spirit, expelling from the mouth all virulence and malignancy, and the practice of using disgraceful words. For it is in our power to make each one of our members an instrument of wickedness, or of righteousness.

Saint John Chrysostom

A Story

Explain God

This was written by an 8-year-old, Danny Dutton of Chula Vista, CA., for his third grade homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God.

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and by this way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He leaves that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and He is everywhere, which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't learn about God. Some wicked people got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind, and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them. After He had done all His hard work on earth, He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He is listening to prayers and seeing things which are important to take care of. You can pray anytime you want, and be sure that He will help you.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like

going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases. And that's why I believe in God.

"Fasting and vigils, prayer and psalmody, acts of charity and hospitality are by nature good, but when performed for the sake of self-esteem they are not good. In everything that we do, God searches out our purpose to see whether we do it for Him or for some other motive."

(Saint Maximos the Confessor)

"Prayer is the turning of the mind and thoughts toward God. To pray means to stand before God with the mind, mentally to gaze unswervingly at Him, and to converse with Him in reverent fear and hope."

(Saint Dimitri of Rostov)

"Zealous Christians have a certain technique that they apply to secure the continual remembrance of God more firmly. It is the constant repetition of a short prayer, ordinarily either, "Lord, have mercy," or "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." If you haven't heard this, then listen now. If you have never done this, begin now.

(Theophan the Recluse)

"If you start thinking that you know more about the spiritual life than your spiritual father, and cease telling him in confession what befalls you, you will surely be beguiled for your pride."

(Saint Silouan the Athonite)

"Our body has this defect that, the more it is provided care and comforts, the more needs and desires it finds."

(Teresa of Avila {1515-1582})