



The Trophy-Bearer

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<http://www.stgeorgesouthgate.org/>

In One God

Rev. Fr. Anthony Cook



We have talked at length about the basic ideas of Christian belief, tradition, Faith, and Trust, as rooted in a living relationship with God, and last week we emphasized that God is not an idea to be believed. He is Personal, and we can only come to know Him personally, in a relationship. That being said, it IS important for us to know something about this Personal God to Whom the Church is introducing us. And this is where the Creed of the Church comes in.

The word Creed comes from the Latin “credo”, which means, “I believe,” and is the first word of the Latin Creed, the Latin translation of the Greek “Πιστεύω,” about which we have been talking at length. In an Orthodox context, the word refers above all to the Nicene Creed, the “Symbol of Faith” that we mentioned last time. The history of creeds in general, and this creed in particular, is fairly complicated, but we can briefly say that these creeds, these summaries of the Christian Faith, have their origins in the earliest days of the Church.

In those days, new converts were taught the foundational truths of God’s nature and His action in the world in preparation for their baptism, and when it was time for baptism, they were first asked to affirm the truths they had been taught, by confessing their faith, belief, and trust in One God, in the Father, and in the Son, and in the Holy Spirit, and in the Church, the Body of Christ, as well. It was a statement of belief, a description of God as He has revealed Himself to the Church, and of the relationship between God and the Church. And it was a statement of active trust, spoken by those who sought to become a part of that relationship between God and His Church, as a member of the Church.

The Creed of those early days was simple, often no more than an affirmation that: “I believe in One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Over time, as the Church grew, and interacted with the many other religious and philosophical traditions, questions arose which needed to be clarified, and as a result, details and explanations were added to this simple statement of belief. This does not mean that the Church’s Faith changed, because Jesus Christ, the author and object of that Trust, does not change - but truths implied in the older, simpler statement needed sometimes to be stated more clearly, especially in the face of errors and misunderstandings. The Faith expressed by the Nicene Creed is the same Faith expressed by the far briefer Creed of the 1st century, in the same sense that a rose in bloom is the same as the unopened rosebud. The bloom of the rose has far more detail, more beauty,

REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:50 am – Orthros (Greek)
10 am – Div. Liturgy (bilingual)

Tuesday

5:30-7:30 pm –Greek School

Saturday

5 pm – Great Vespers (English)
Holy Confession during Vespers

*Please see included calendar for other meetings
& weekday services, and for any variations to
this regular schedule.*

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Saturdays of Souls

March 4

8:50 am – Orthros
10 am – Divine Liturgy
11 am – Blessing of Kollyva

Presanctified Liturgy -

Wednesdays

Mar 1, 9:00 am
Mar 8, 6:00 pm (Lenten Potluck
to follow)
Mar. 15, 9:00 am
Mar. 22, 6:00 pm (Lenten
Potluck to follow)
Mar. 29, 9:00 am

Salutations to Theotokos -

Fridays

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31:
Confession, 4:30 pm
Salutations, 5:30 pm

Funerals

February 14, 2017

Asimakis (Mike) Kostaras

SAINT GEORGE

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Outside of office hours, parishioners may leave a voicemail for Fr. Anthony or the office. In case of emergency, they may call Fr. Anthony directly on his cell. Please leave a message if Father does not answer, and he will return your call shortly.

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Pete Georvassilis

George Kaltsas

Sam Kiouis

George Kotronis

Pete Makarounas

Kim Moody

Christian Tougas

Peter Vougiouklakis

and is larger, but everything that it is was contained, in a compact way, in the rosebud. And so it is with the Creed.

As we go through the Creed, we will find that it is arranged into distinct sections. We can consider the essential creed to be the simple statement that "I believe in One God," with several bullet points following: -in the Father, in the Son, and in the Holy Spirit. This word "in" serves as the bullet point, the reminder that we must repeat again the affirmation of Faith and Trust: I believe in one God, Father Almighty. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I believe in the Holy Spirit. Each of these sections, and the details that have been added to them, will be the stuff of our discussion for the next several months. But today we begin with the rest of the essential creed: "I believe in One God."

As we make this statement of belief and trust in One God, it is important that we clarify what we are we are, and what we are not, actually saying. We might think that this means that there IS only one God...but that is not, in fact, what it says. The word "god" is not, in fact, the name of God - it refers to the idea of divinity in a general sense, to beings or things that we consider to be above us, that we worship. Human beings may have, and have had, many gods, both false, which is to say imaginary, and real, in the sense that they are truly worshipped and wield power over their worshippers. Human beings in general have, from the beginning, worshipped and desired money, and power, and pleasure. Roman Emperors and Egyptian Pharaohs claimed to be gods, and demanded that their subjects submit to and worship them. And many have thought the gods of pagan Rome and Greece to be real beings, but not in a good way, suggesting that they were demons, masquerading as more-or-less benevolent divinities, to influence humanity and keep us away from the one True God.

When we say, then, that we believe "in One God," we are first of all renouncing all these other gods. We do not trust, love, or worship money, or power, or pleasure, or human kings and leaders, or the spiritual powers that seek to separate us from our Creator. We put our trust in only one God, forsaking all others - because He is greater than all others. As we continue, we will consider why this is so, what makes this One God better than all these other things that human beings in other times and places have worshipped and desired. But the first, most basic reason is found in the next words of the Creed, the section which is devoted to God the Father. We trust in this one God as God Most High because He is the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and of all things Visible and Invisible. We trust in Him because He Himself made every thing we could ever worship or desire. There may be many gods that claim our worship - but we Christians trust in only One. So next time, we will talk about Him - our Father, Who is Almighty.

The above is the fifth installment of our new Adult Education Program, updated weekly at <http://theruleoffaith.typepad.com>. Comments/questions are welcome, by email or via a comment on the website.

St. George Calendar of Events • MARCH 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 ♦◆ Cheeseare Sun. Porphyrios, Bishop of Gaza Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21 Orthodox/Liturgy (8:50 & 10 am) S.S. Dodgehall & Pizza (1:30-5 pm) Forgiveness Vespers (5:00 pm)	27 ♦ Lent Begins Prokopios the Confessor Raphael of Brooklyn Isaiah 1:1-20/Genesis 1:1-13 Proverbs 1:1-20 Great Compline & Traditional Koulouma Meal AT Ss. Constantine & Helen (10 am)	28 Basil the Confessor Isaiah 1:19-23/Gen. 1:14-23 Proverbs 1:20-33 Greek School (5:30-7:30 pm) Book Club (5:30-7:30 pm) Deaconess (7:00 pm)	1 MARCH ✠ Eudokia of Heliopolis Isaiah 2:3-11/Gen. 1:24-23 Proverbs 2:1-22 Presanctified Liturgy (9 am)	2 Hesychos the Martyr Nicholas Planas Isaiah 2:11-21/Genesis 2:4-19 Proverbs 3:1-18	3 ♦ Eutropios, Kleonkos, Vasiliskos, Theodorotos of Antioch Isaiah 3:1-14/Gen. 2:20-3:20 Proverbs 3:19-34 Oratorical Workshop (3-4:30 pm) Confession (4:30-5:30 pm) Salutations to the Theotokos (5:30 pm)	4 ✠♦◆ St. of Souls Gerasimos the Righteous Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10 Gospel: Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5 Orthros/Liturgy (9 & 10 am) Oratorical Workshop (12-1:30 pm) Great Vespers/Confession (5 pm)
5 ✠ Sunday of Orthodoxy Konon the Gardener Mark the Ascetic Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26 Gospel: John 1:43-51 Orthros/Liturgy (8:50 & 10 am) Philophochos meeting (11:45 am)	6 42 Martyrs of Amorion Finding the Cross by Helen Isaiah 4:2-5:7/Gen. 3:21-4:7 Proverbs 3:34-4:22	7 7 Hieromartyrs of Cherson Laurence of Megara Isaiah 5:7-16/Genesis 4:8-15 Proverbs 5:1-15 Greek School (5:30-7:30 pm) Book Club (5:30-7:30 pm)	8 ✠ Hermas of the 70 Isaiah 5:16-23/Genesis 4:16-26 Proverbs 5:15-6:3 Presanctified Liturgy (6:00 pm) Lenten Potluck (7:30-9:30 pm)	9 St. P 40 Martyrs at Lake Sebaste Caesarios the Righteous Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-10 Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16	10 ✠♦ Isaiah 7:1-14/Gen. 5:32-6:8 Proverbs 6:20-7:1 Oratorical Workshop (3-4:30 pm) Confession (4:30-5:30 pm) Salutations to the Theotokos (5:30 pm)	11 ♦◆ St. P Epistle: Hebrews 3:12-16 Gospel: Mark 1:35-44 Oratorical Workshop (12-1:30 pm) GOYA Retreat AT ASSUMPTION SCS (11:30-7:30 pm) NO Great Vespers
12 ✠ St. Gregory Palamas Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 Orthros/Liturgy (8:50 & 10 am) S. S. Teachers mtg. (12:15 pm) St. George Ladies Retreat (2:30-7:00 pm)	13 Removal of relics of Nicephoros Pouplos, Bishop of Athens Isaiah 8:13-9:2/Genesis 6:9-22 Proverbs 8:1-21	14 Benedict of Nursia Eusebionem, Bp. Lampsakos Isaiah 9:9-10:4/Genesis 7:1-15 Proverbs 8:32-9:11 Greek School (5:30-7:30 pm) Book Club (5:30-7:30 pm)	15 ✠ Agaprios & his Companions Isaiah 10:1-12/Genesis 7:6-9 Proverbs 9:12-18 Presanctified Liturgy (9:00 am)	16 Saviors of Egypt Christodoulos of Palamos Isaiah 11:1-10-12:2/Gen. 7:11-8:3 Proverbs 10:1-22 Parish Council (7:00 pm)	17 ✠♦ Isaiah 13:2-13/Gen. 8:4-21 Proverbs 10:31-11:12 Seniors Lunch (Noon) (tentative) Oratorical Workshop (3-4:30 pm) Confession (4:30-5:30 pm) Salutations to the Theotokos (5:30 pm)	18 ♦◆ St. P Cyril, Patriarch of Jerusalem Tophimios & Eukarpon Epistle: Hebrews 10:32-38 Gospel: Mark 2:14-17 Oratorical Workshop (12-1:30 pm) Great Vespers/Confession (5 pm)
19 ✠ St. Sunday of the Holy Cross Chrysanthos & Daria Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1 Orthros/Liturgy (8:50 & 10 am)	20 Fathers Monastery of St. Savas Cuthbert the Wonderworker Isaiah 1:42:4-3:2/Gen. 8:21-9:7 Proverbs 11:19-1:26	21 James the Confessor Thomas, Pat. of Constantinople Isaiah 25:1-9/Genesis 9:8-17 Proverbs 12:8-22 Greek School (5:30-7:30 pm) Book Club (5:30-7:30 pm)	22 ✠ Basil of Anycra Isaiah 26:21-27:9/Gen. 9:18-10:1 Proverbs 12:23-13:9 Presanctified Liturgy (6:00 pm) Lenten Potluck (7:30-9:30 pm) FOCUS Detroit (7:00-8:30 pm)	23 Nikon & Companions Anatolios & Protoleon Isaiah 28:14-32:2/Gen. 10:32-11:9 Proverbs 13:19-1:46	24 ♦ Isaiah 29:13-23/Gen. 12:1-7 Proverbs 14:15-26 Oratorical Workshop (3-4:30 pm) Confession (4:30-5:30 pm) Salutations to the Theotokos (5:30 pm)	25 ✠ Annunciation Greek Independence Day Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18 Gospel: Luke 1:24-38 Orthros/Liturgy (9 & 10 am) Oratorical Workshop (12-1:30 pm) NO Great Vespers
26 ✠ St. John Climacus Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31 Orthros/Liturgy (8:50 & 10 am) Oratorical Festival (11:30 am) Greek Indep. Day Parade (3 pm)	27 Matrona of Thessaloniki Paul, Bishop of Corinth Isaiah 37:33-38:6/Gen. 13:12-18 Proverbs 14:27-1:54	28 Hilariion the New Isaiah 40:1-8:31/Gen. 15:1-15 Proverbs 15:7-19 No Book Club Greek School (5:30-7:30 pm) Deaconess (7:00 pm) Executive (8:00 pm)	29 ✠ Mark, Bishop of Arethusa Isaiah 41:4-14/Gen. 17:1-9 Proverbs 15:20-16:9 Presanctified Liturgy (9:00 am)	30 Andrew of Crete John Climacus Isaiah 42:5-16/Gen. 18:20-33 Proverbs 16:17-17:17	31 ♦ Akathist Hymn Isaiah 45:11-17/Gen. 22:1-18 Proverbs 17:17-18:5 Confession (4:30-5:30 pm) Salutations to the Theotokos (5:30 pm)	1 APRIL ♦◆ St. P Mary of Egypt Gerontios & Vasilides Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7 Gospel: Luke 1:39-49; 56 Altar Boy (Noon) Great Vespers/Confession (5 pm)

• Shaded days denote a fast day. ✠ denotes a Liturgy ♦ Great Vespers/Compline ✠ Akathist/Paraklisis ✠ Presanctified Liturgy ✠ fish/wine/oil allowed St. P wine/oil allowed

St. George Women's Lenten Retreat

March 12, 2017

Come join the women of St. George as we enjoy a time of reflection and rest together at a workshop with Presvytera Julie Honeycutt



Truth in the Inward Parts

This time of fellowship will focus on the challenges, opportunities, roles & responsibilities facing Christian women today in the Church, in the Home, and in the World.

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Parthenon Room

2:30 - 7:00 pm

We will begin with a late lunch, and continue with the workshop. The meal will be a lenten dish of shrimp, vegetables, and rice. Childcare will be provided onsite in the Activity Room. Register for free online at

<http://www.stgeorgesouthgate.org>

or by phone at the Church Office: 734-283-8820.

All the women of the St. George parish are invited, age 16 and up. Bring your mothers, your daughters, and your friends from other parishes.

Registration Deadline is March 5.

This event is sponsored by the St. George Ladies Philotochos, the Ladies of Lydia, and the Daughters of Penelope for all the women of the parish.

Presvytera Julie is a licensed and National Board Certified mental health professional. She specializes in women's issues, especially related to holistic health and life in the Church.

