ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

TODAY after Liturgy Annual Parish Meeting

Wed. Dec. 16 6 pm Daily Vespers
6:45 pm ‘Called To Serve’ Bible Study

Sat. Dec. 19 11 am The Twelve Days of Christmas: True Origins

Wed. Dec. 23 6 pm Daily Vespers
6:45 pm ‘Called To Serve’ Final Exam

Today we will have our ANNUAL PARISH MEETING immediately after today’s Liturgy. Lunch is catered, so get some lunch and we’ll get started.

2010 STEWARSHIP PLEDGE FORMS: are in the narthex of the Church and downloadable online. Please fill them out and hand them to Marta Wells, or any Parish Board member sometime in the next few weeks. We wish to have most of our 2010 Pledge forms collected by Christmas.

SUNDAY SEATING: Likewise, we continue to run short of room during Sunday worship. If you arrive early or before anyone else in your row, please move all the way over to make room for others. Thank you for your kind consideration!

PRAYER ROPES: Several parishioners have been asking about prayer ropes. The nuns of St. Paisius Monastery make them, in all varieties. If you are seeking one of these handmade prayer ropes, see the brochure brought in by Anne Lunsford!

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF PRESCOTT

Priest: Fr. John A. Peck
Parish Council: Dr. George Rizk, Vicki Brannock, Raymond Zogob, Kris Wells, Marnie Butts, Kally Key, Mike Winney, Bob Hunt. Choir Director: Pres. Deborah

Find us online at www.prescottorthodox.org

Resurrection Hymn - Tone 2

When Thou did submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and Immortal One, then Thou did destroy hell with Thy godly power! And when Thou did raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee, “O Christ, Thou Giver of Life, glory to Thee!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Hymn of Great Martyr George - Tone 4

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hymn of the Theotokos - Tone 2

Exceedingly glorious beyond the power of thought are the mysteries, O Theotokos, For being sealed in purity and preserved in Virginity you were acknowledged to be, in very truth, the Mother who did bring forth the true God. Wherefore entreat Him to save our souls.

Prokeimenon in 2nd Tone (Ps 118)

The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation. The Lord has chastened my sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Epistle: 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.

Alleluia in the 2nd Tone (Ps 20)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The Name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Save the king, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!


The Lord said this parable, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must 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 household 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 there is still 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.'"
Visitors

We are happy that you joined us today, and we want you to know the following:

- Visitors and children are always welcome at all of our worship services.
- You won’t be asked to do anything that would make you uncomfortable.
- We don’t expect visitors to contribute anything to the financial support of our parish.
- Our children worship with us, and we love having them here.

If you are an Orthodox Christian, please introduce yourself to Fr. John before the service begins, so that, if possible, you may receive the Holy Mysteries of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are not an Orthodox Christian, we invite you to partake of the blessed bread distributed at the end of the service, to fill out a “Welcome” card (available in the Narthex), and to join us after the service for some hospitality!

Parish Prayer List

LIVING:

GIVE REST, O LORD, TO YOUR SERVANTS:
Ethel Hunt, Patriarch Pavel, Child Nicholas, John, Delores, Lydia (Letitia) Preda, Fr. Gabriel, Fred, Larry Peck, Chuck, Lisa Covington, Andrew Lubnick, Dennis Kontanis, Julia Sedon, Ariel Borza, Michael Hicha, Tom Pallad, Peter Rizk; Demos Vlahakis; Rhonda Dawson; Nicholas, Peter, Kay, Shirley, George Cosmakos, Andrew Degenhart, Annuncio Aaflaq; Bp Innocent (Gula); Fr. Michael St. Andrew.

‘Living Faith’ Classes

FOR 2009-2010  All Living Faith Classes begin at 11 am!

Sat. Dec. 19, 2009:
THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: True Origins
Just before Christmas, we'll look at the origins of the nonsensical and well-loved Carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas, and see that in spite of many false urban rumors going around about its being a hidden form of Jesuit catechism, it is far more likely that that ancient Carol may, in fact, recount a Christian pilgrim's journey from England to the Holy Land. We'll also cover the true origins, rather than the popular mythology, of celebrating the birth of Christ on Dec. 25th.

Sat. Jan. 16, 2010:
MARRIAGE AND SALVATION: What it is really about.
Why get married? What is the purpose of marriage? What is the difference between secular marriage and Christian marriage? We'll look at how the Church views marriage - as a vocation - compare and contrast the Orthodox view of marriage with other views of marriage and its purpose. A simple explanation of the Scriptures and the Orthodox wedding service will reveal much.

Sat. Feb. 20, 2010:
INTERIOR CLOSET: An introduction to Interior Spiritual Life
At the approach of Great Lent, we will examine the practice, anthropology and techniques of watchfulness (psycia and napai) and the relationship between these things and interior prayer. This is an excellent primer for catechumens or anyone interested in learning about how the Church views the interior life, and practices it throughout Lent.

Classes are free, but please register so enough material is available.

Find out more at our website: prescottorthodox.org
The Lives and Deeds of the Heroes of the Christian Faith

Prophet Daniel

The saint who survived the Lion's Den, protected by the grace of God

In the years following 600 B.C. Jerusalem was conquered by the Babylonians, the Temple built by Solomon was destroyed, and many of the Israelite people were led away into the Babylonian Captivity. Among the captives were also the illustrious youths Daniel, Ananias, Azarias and Misael.

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon ordered that they be instructed in the Chaldean language and wisdom, and dressed them in finery. Handsome children of princely lineage were often chosen to serve as pages in the palace. For three years, they would be fed from food from the king's table. After this they would be allowed to stand before his throne. Daniel was renamed Baltasar, Ananias was called Shadrach, Misael was called Mishach, and Azarias was known as Abednego. But they, cleaving to their faith, disdained the extravagance of court, refusing to defile themselves by eating from the king's table and drinking his wine. Instead, they lived on vegetables and water.

The Lord granted them wisdom, and to St Daniel the gift of insight and the interpretation of dreams. The holy Prophet Daniel preserved his faith in the one God and trusted in His almighty help. He surpassed all the Chaldean astrologers and sorcerers in his wisdom, and was made a confidant to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Once, Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream which terrified him (Daniel 2:1-6). He summoned magicians, sorcerers, and Chaldeans before him to interpret the dream. Daniel was brought before the king and was able to reveal not only the content of the dream, but also its prophetic significance. After this, the king elevated Daniel to be ruler of the whole province of Babylon, and the chief of all the wise men.

During these times King Nebuchadnezzar ordered a huge statue to be made in his likeness. It was decreed that when people heard the sound of trumpets and other instruments, they should fall down and worship the golden idol. Because they refused to do this, the three holy youths Ananias, Azarias and Misael were cast into a fiery furnace. The flames shot out over the furnace forty-nine cubits, felling the Chaldeans standing about, but the holy youths walked in the midst of the flames, offering prayer and psalmody to the Lord (Daniel 3:26-90).

The Angel of the Lord appeared in the furnace and cooled the flames, and the young men remained unharmed. This "Angel of Great Counsel," as he is called in iconography, is identified with the Son of God (Daniel 3:25, Isaiah 9:6). In the first Canon for the Nativity of the Lord (Ode 5), the Church sings: "Thou hast sent us Thine Angel of Great Counsel." The emperor, upon seeing this, commanded them to come out, and was converted to the true God.

Under King Baltasar, St Daniel interpreted a mysterious inscription ("Mane, Thekel, Phares"), which had appeared on the wall of the palace during a banquet (Daniel 5:1-31), foretelling the downfall of the Babylonian kingdom. Under the Persian emperor Darius, St Daniel was slandered by his enemies, and was thrown into a den with hungry lions, but they did not touch him, and he was not harmed. The emperor Darius then rejoiced over Daniel and ordered people throughout his realm to worship the God of Daniel, "since He is the living and eternal God, and His Kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion is forever" (Daniel 6:26).

The holy Prophet Daniel grieved deeply for his people, who then were undergoing righteous chastisement for a multitude of sins and offenses, for transgressing the laws of God, resulting in the grievous Babylonian Captivity and the destruction of Jerusalem: "My God, incline Thine ear and hearken; open Thine eyes and look upon our desolation and that of Thy city, in which Thy Name is spoken; for we do not make our supplication before Thee because of our own righteousness, but because of Thy great mercy" (Dan 9:18). Because of Daniel's righteous life and his prayers for the people's iniquity, the destiny of the nation of Israel and the fate of all the world was revealed to the holy prophet.

While interpreting the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar, the holy, glorious Prophet Daniel spoke of a great and final kingdom, the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (Dan 2:44). The prophetic vision about the seventy weeks (Dan 9:24-27) speaks about the signs of the First and the Second Comings of the Lord Jesus Christ, and is connected with those events (Daniel 12:1-12).

St Daniel interceded for his people before King Cyrus, who esteemed him highly, and who decreed freedom for the Israelite people. Daniel himself and his fellows Ananias, Azarias and Misael, all survived into old age, but died in captivity. According to the testimony of St Cyril of Alexandria (June 9), Sts Ananias, Azarias and Misael were beheaded on orders of the Persian emperor Chambyses.

St Daniel and the three holy youths are also commemorated on the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers, and on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers (Sunday before the Nativity).

GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!