

The Flight into Egypt of the Holy Family

Egypt is situated to the southwest of Judea, and is distant from Bethlehem perhaps about 60 miles. It was at this time a Roman province. There were many Jews there, who had a temple and synagogues (see the notes at Isaiah 19:18), and Joseph, therefore, would be among his own countrymen, and yet beyond the reach of Herod.

The jurisdiction of Herod extended only to the River Sihon, or “river of Egypt,” and, of course, beyond that Joseph was safe from his designs. For a description

of Egypt, see the notes at Isaiah 19. It is remarkable that this is the only time in which our Saviour was out of Palestine, and that this was in the land where the children of Israel had suffered so much and so long under the oppression of the Egyptian kings. The very land which was the land of bondage and groaning for the Jews, became now the land of refuge and safety for the new-born King of Judea.

God can overturn nations and kingdoms, so that those whom he loves shall be safe anywhere.

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



Icon of the Flight into Egypt -- Matthew 2:13-23

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44TH St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413

Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355

Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500

Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

Day of Feast: 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.

Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org

December 27, 2020

Sunday after Christmas

This Sunday: Epistle Gal 1:11-19

Gospel Mt 2:13-23

Next Sunday: Epistle 2 Tim 4:5-8

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday 12/28

No Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 12/29

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Mary Ardelean by Ardelean Family

Wednesday 12/30

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Carol Hoge

Thursday 12/31

8:30am Divine Liturgy: For a holy and healthy new year for all clergy and parishioners of St. George by Ann

Friday 1/1

10:00am Divine Liturgy: Circumcision of our Lord

Saturday 1/2

No Divine Liturgy

Sunday 1/3

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Happy New Year!!

Church Bulletin donated in December 2020 by Rick Bollon

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at <https://stgeorge.click2stream.com/>. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

Coffee hour will take place in the Large Hall and is donated by Tony Orlando. Thank you!

Sunday Collection: December 20, 2020

Loose	\$1.00
Sunday envelopes	\$1,465.00
Martyr Bishops Collection – Clergy Retirement Fund	\$100.00
Christmas	\$245.00
Candles	<u>\$64.00</u>
Total	\$1,875.00

Donation

By Emil Alecusan and Nancy (Alecusan) Lipski in memory of their parents, +Emil, Sr. and Aurelia (Babe) Alecusan \$500.00

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+Husband Dan Cseak	Natalie Cseak
+All family members and angel +Trisha	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
Special Intention for Family	Doru Jacobs
Health and Salvation	Mihai and Elena Florea
In memory of loved ones	Mihai and Elena Florea
Special Intention for Family	Mihai and Elena Florea
H/S Maria-Claudia	Maria Marcu
+Tim McMullen and +Susie Preston, dear friends	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Mike and Judy Bardin	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Bob and Barbara Greavu	Dave and Debbie Murari

H/S St. George Clergy and Their Families
Recuperation for Luz Angela, niece
For health
+Virgil Stroia, Mark Hampu, Parents and All
Family Members
H/S Jerry Donahue, Aunt Alice Loop, Sheila
Diotale, Bonnie Stroia and Family, George
and Ann Hampu; Happy Birthday Coleen
Special Intention
H/S Kathy Walsh
+Mary and +Vasile Ardelean
H/S Our Parishioners
+Charles Ardelean
+Mary Ardelean
+Godparents
H/S Ardelean Family
+Metodie and +Mary Cristea
+John Lazar
+John Dragos
H/S Stella Lazar and Family
H/S Suzie Dragos and Family
H/S Rita Cristea and Family
H/S Johnny and Adrian Lazar and Family
H/S Parishioners of St. George
H/S Tony Orlando and Family

Dave and Debbie Murari
Amparo Adkins
Earl and Amparo Adkins
Chuck Roska Family
Chuck Roska Family
Ana and William Galida
Ana and William Galida
Danny and Cyndi Ardelean
Danny and Cyndi Ardelean
Erik Ardelean
Erik Ardelean
Erik Ardelean
Erik Ardelean
Mircea Cristea
Mircea Cristea
Mircea Cristea
Mircea Cristea
Mircea Cristea
Mircea Cristea
Mircea Cristea
Mircea Cristea
Mircea Cristea

+++

Special Announcement:

Please pray for: Bryan Pryce, John Contini, Donna Pandullo, Missy Lawver, Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Liviu and Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

Sick and homebound: Amelia Botean (Home), Magdalene Florian (Florida), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

For holy Baptism contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

For First Reconciliation contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

For Weddings contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

To guarantee announcements for the bulletin, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **the Craciun Family for the health of Mrs. Georgeta Barcutian and Mrs. Mary Cornea.**

Left Iconostasis Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **Danny and Cyndi Ardelean Family in memory of +Vasile and +Mary Ardelean and Family.**

Right Iconostasis Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **Danny and Cyndi Ardelean Family in memory of +Vasile and +Mary Ardelean and Family.**

Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum for December 2020 is donated by **Del and Sandy Schock in loving memory of +Trish Schock, daughter for her birthday on December 2.**

If you would like to sponsor candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please

get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

Prescura for December 2020: Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

Announcements

Sunday envelopes for 2021 will be available on Christmas day. Thank you for your commitment to our parish! St. George Cathedral calendars are ready for pick up!

As we approach Christmas, we have been putting in the bulletin about stories for Christmas – Nancy would have been the person to give the stories to, so she can put them all together – to include with our Christmas mailing. I think this kind of fell through the cracks, and I apologize for not publicizing it more this way. I would like to do this project, still, but let's plan this one for next year. So, to jump start our next year project – if you want – please write down what meant Christmas for you **this year**, and then, we can put all these stories together for our next Christmas when we can – God willing – celebrate all together first here in Church and then with our families without the fear of COVID-19!

Fulfillment of your **Pledge!** Stewardship is your responsibility to God and His Church. We need to take care of what He has given us at St. George Cathedral. If you are unable to come to church, please drop off your donation to the office. Your care for this parish is gratefully appreciated!

Especially during this Christmas season, use Amazon Smile and choose St. George Cathedral. Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you for using <https://smile.amazon.com/>!

Parish events:

The carolers are missing sharing the message of Jesus' birth with song, but you can hear some reminders of the season at these links. **Christmas colinda / caroling** can be found at <https://www.stgeorgeoh.org/> or at <https://youtu.be/2qoFpWqTE3E>.

To Tickle Your Funny Bone ☺

High soprano Karen Phillips once sang in the choir, but for several services she was in the congregation and not in the loft. When asked why she no longer sang, she explained, "One Sunday when I was home sick with a cold, several folks asked if they organ had been repaired."

Word of Life



“Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.”
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
[“Living Out Christmas in the New Year”](#)

For all families:

That as the domestic Church
they may seek to pursue holiness,
pass on the faith, and persevere in love;
Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

Happy Birthday! La mulți ani!!

Michelle Parker – December 28th

Bob Maciag – December 28th

Roman Shaheen – December 31st

	Mon 12/28	Tue 12/29	Wed 12/30	Thu 12/31	Fri 1/1	Sat 1/2	Sun 1/3	
	Dispensation (Hărăți)							
	Michelle Parker	Bob Maciag's	Anysia, martyr. Ven.	Roman G. Shaheen's	+CIRCUMCISION / ST.	Forefeast of Theophany		
	20,000 Martyrs of	14,000 infants	+Rev. Fr. Konstantin	Leavetaking of	Abstinence	St. Sylvester of	Patricia Shaheen's	
	+Msgr. Carol Capros		Abstinence	New Year's Eve	+CIRCUMCISION / ST.		Malachi, prophet.	
					New Year's Day		Sunday before the	
7am			Large hall in use 7am - 5pm					
8am								
9am		Liturgy: +Mary Ardelean by Ardelean Family 8:30am - 9:30am		Liturgy: +Carol Hoge 8:30am -	Liturgy: For a holy and healthy new year for all clergy and parishioners of St.			
10am						Liturgy: 10am - 11:30am		Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am								
12pm							Coffee: 11:30am - 12:30pm	
1pm								
2pm								
3pm								
4pm								
5pm								

EVERY YEAR, DEC 27 is observed as the feast of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen. This year, Dec 27 falls on the Sunday after the Nativity, the memorial of David, Joseph, and James, relatives of the Lord Jesus. St Stephen has an unusually large portion of the Scriptures devoted to him. Chapters six and seven of the Acts of the Apostles are substantially devoted to the story of this important saint.

Stephen as “Archdeacon”

In Acts 6:1-7 we read of the selection of seven “*men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom*” (v. 3) to relieve the Apostles of the task of the “*daily distribution*” (v. 1) which was taking them away from their proper ministry of prayer and preaching.

The first believers in Jerusalem had a fund from which they assisted their needy members. In this they were continuing a Jewish practice, based on this precept of the Torah: “*If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the cities in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, but you shall open your hand wide to him...*” (Dt 15:7, 8). Since there was no social service system in the ancient world, the synagogues were the place where needy Jews would go for food and other necessities. Jerusalem’s first believers in Jesus did the same for their members in need, generally the elderly.

The dispute mentioned in Acts 6 was between the native Palestinian Jews and the Hellenized Jews, who had adopted the Greek language and culture dominant in the Roman Empire. The latter believed that their widows were being shortchanged by the natives.

At the request of the Apostles, the community chose seven men to be responsible for this ministry, Stephen being the first among them. The Apostles then prayed and laid hands upon them. This laying-on- of- hands was understood in the Apostolic era as what we call “ordination.” Thus deacons were considered a higher order. In his Epistle to the Philippians, for example, St Paul greets the deacons right after the bishops.

There is no further mention of the “daily distribution” in relation to the ministry of the seven. Stephen and Philip are described as preaching, catechizing and baptizing; the others are not mentioned again in the Scriptures although there are many references to them in the writings of the first century Church.

Stephen as the First Martyr

The rest of chapter 6 and all of chapter 7 of Acts are concerned with the story of Stephen’s martyrdom at the hands of the leading Jews of Jerusalem. Stephen’s eloquence in preaching Christ attracts the attention of some Jewish leaders and Stephen is brought before the Sanhedrin, “*and all who sat in the council, looking*

steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel” (Acts 6:15).

Stephen’s defense of his faith in Jesus begins with a classical presentation of God’s work in the history of Israel. But then he adds, “*Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!*”

“*Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him...as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep*” (Acts 7:56-60).

While there had been many Jews martyred for their faith in the one God, Stephen was the first to be slain for his faith in “*the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.*”

The Church of St Stephen

The Scriptures do not identify the place of St Stephen’s death or the site of his burial. Acts 7:58 simply says, “*...they cast him out of the city and stoned him.*” It was presumed that this happened close to the city wall, because St Stephen’s killers were so enflamed with hatred for him that they would have stoned him at the first possible location.

It was commonly believed that Stephen’s teacher, the distinguished rabbi Gamaliel, had arranged for Stephen’s remains to be buried secretly on his property in the country near Beit Shemesh, where a church was later built.

In c. 450 AD, the exiled Empress Eudocia had a large monastic complex built outside the Damascus Gate, where Stephen was reputedly stoned. This was one of several churches which she had caused to be built in the Holy City. The empress arranged for the saint's relics to be brought from his burial place to her monastery church which would be dedicated to St Stephen.

In the twelfth century, Crusaders defending the city against the troops of Sultan Salah al-Din had the monastery destroyed, as its proximity to the city wall would provide easy access to the invaders.

In the nineteenth century, French Dominican friars purchased several parcels of land adjoining the old city walls, which were strewn here and there with broken columns and other indications that an important structure had once stood there. Excavations unearthed a portion of the church floor, leading the friars to build a new church on the site, substantially on the footprint of Eudocia's fifth-century church. The modern St Stephen's Church is currently home to the world-renowned Ecole Biblique, a center for advanced study of the Scriptures.

In 2014, archaeologists from the University of Jerusalem discovered the ruins of an entire church complex in a village near Ramallah, six miles from Jerusalem. An inscription in one of the churches reads that it had been built in honor of St Stephen the Protomartyr, "buried here in AD 35."

St Gregory of Nyssa on St Stephen

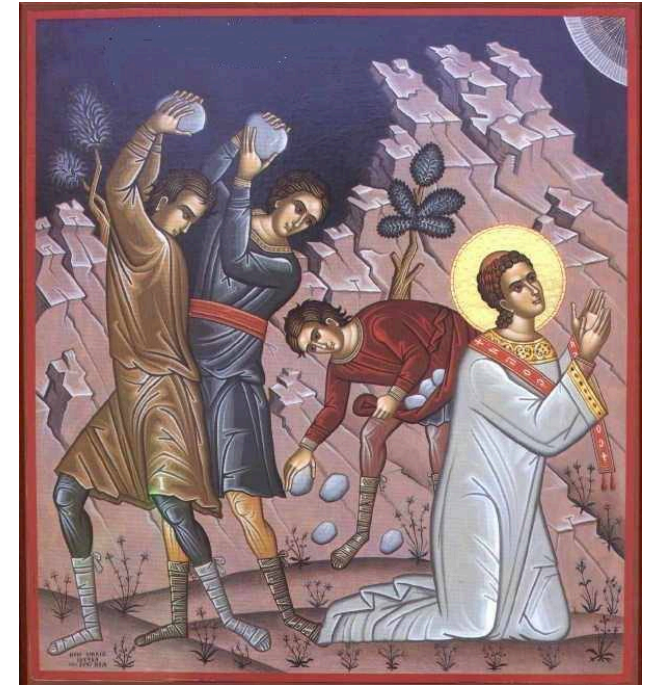
"How did Stephen see transcendent glory? Who laid bare heaven's gates for him? Was this the work of men? Which of the angels enabled inferior [human] nature to soar to that height? Stephen was not alone when he was generously filled with power coming from the angels which enabled him to see what he saw. What was recorded? "*Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit and saw the glory of God and his Only-Begotten Son*" [Acts 7.55].

"As the Prophet says, light cannot be seen unless one is filled with light: "*In your light we shall see light*" [Ps 35.10] (If observation of the light does not share this same light, how can anyone deprived of the sun's rays see it?). Since the Father's light makes this possible, the Only Begotten [Son's] light emanates through the Holy Spirit which makes it visible. Therefore the Spirit's glory enables us to perceive the glory of both the Father and Son."

Homily One on the Saint

*Sunday after the Feast of the Nativity
David, Joseph and James, Relatives of
Christ*

St Stephen the First Martyr



The First Martyr for Christ