

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church



100th Anniversary

## THE FORERUNNER

**St John the Baptist Orthodox Church**

211 Cable Avenue – East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

**HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN GREGORY OF NYSSA**

American Carpatho-Russian Diocese-Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

The Very Reverend Protopresbyter Joseph Fester

Rectory: 412-824-0246 Mobile: 412-607-7039

Email: protopresbyterjoseph@gmail.com

Website: www.sjbeastpitt.org – Facebook: @stjohneastpit

Subdeacon Gary Grysiak, Cantor; Reader Justin Rosco, Choir Director;

Robert Pervuznik, Jr., Parish Council President

ALL SERVICES STREAMED LIVE ON FB <https://www.facebook.com/joseph.fester>

3 Sunday	4 Monday	5 Tuesday	6 Wednesday	7 Thursday	8 Friday	9 Saturday
Myrrh-Bearers Sunday 9:00 Divine Liturgy			St George the Great-Martyr 9am Divine Liturgy			5pm Great Vespers

### CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE RISEN!

**WE SAY-** to all who are with us today at St. John's for the first time, *you are welcome here!* We pray that you will consider making St. John's your spiritual home. Please join us after Liturgy downstairs for fellowship.

**OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD-** Sometimes we miss a Sunday and the opportunity to offer our financial gift to the Lord. If we do, please catch up with your gifts. Whether we are here or not, our parish bills continue. Thanks, and God bless!

**Sunday, April 26, 2020 – Attendance 4 – Weekly Offering, \$1486 – Building Fund, \$240 – Easter Offering, \$50 – Vigil Candles, \$162 – Vigil Candles paid in advance, (\$21)– Total \$2057**

**IT WILL BE IMPORTANT-** for us to keep our weekly donations to St. John's going while we all practice social distancing and follow the rules set forth by our Metropolitan Gregory and local government officials to limit direct participation in the Divine services to only essential persons. Please mail your offerings to the church address. You can also call the rectory with your Vigil intentions or mail in your requests.

*O Master Who loves mankind, illuminate our hearts with the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our mind to understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, that we may overcome all carnal desires, entering upon a spiritual life and understanding and acting in all things according to Your holy will. For You are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, O Christ God, and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.*

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Monday	Acts 6:8-7:5,47-60	John 4:46-54	Hieromartyr Januarius
Tuesday	Acts 8:5-17	John 6:27-33	Venerable Vitalis of Gaza
Wednesday	Acts 8:18-25	John 6:35-39	
	Acts 12:1-11	John 15:17-16	Great-Martyr George the Wonderworker
Thursday	Acts 8:26-39	John 6:40-44	Martyr Sabbas the General of Rome
Friday	Acts 8:40-9:19	John 6:48-54	Holy Apostle & Evangelist Mark
Saturday	Acts 9:20-31	John 15:17-16:2	St Stephen, Bishop of Perm
Sunday	Acts 9:32-42	John 5:1-15	Sunday of the Paralytic

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** – Thomas Planiczki, Josephine Sofelkanik, Michael Sterchak, John Edward Stagon, Kathryn Rogulin, Cathy Pervuznik, Fr. Michael and Matushka Susanne Senyo, Wally Perkins, Fr Lawrence Barriger, Gina Marie Gaspard, Dannette Wargo, Pani Marie Brancho, Rose Hollis, Marti and Cathilynn Baran, Aubrey Welch, Kalina Walker and the child, Malachi, born of her, Ashley Yeagers and the child Lincoln Carl born of her. Fr. John Dixon, Fr. Jonathan Tobias, Fr Daniel Prez (Joe Monde's brother), Joshua and Natalie Walsh, Nicholas Hollis and all healthcare workers and for all sick with COVID-19 virus. Please keep Father Joseph informed on changes to anyone's health status so he can minister to them.

**May Birthdays** – Bob Hosken 5/4, Father Matthew Stagon 5/4, Alexandra Finke 5/12, Gloria Blake, 5/14, Bob Pervuznik, Jr. 5/17, Nicki Kocan 5/15. MANY YEARS!

**May Anniversaries** – Eileen & Robert Buck 5/6/95, Sean & Dawn Nelis 5/6/95, Joshua & Brittany Vasko 5/27/12. MANY YEARS!

**May Memorial – Newly departed:** Paul David Zolak

**Perpetual:** Protopresbyter Michael Rosco, Victor Sofelkanik, Sr, Michael Elascat, Mary Wallace, John Lisak, Mary Brancho, Paul Kobasa, Michael Wanczak, Stephen Povanda, Sr Wasil Popovich, Nicholas Kosarich, Thomas Chalca, Eva Chernega, Randolph Mallick, Michael Lisak, John Lamacz, Joseph Tucker, Mary Begey, John Kolesar, Mary Brown, Nicholas Yonkovich, Helen Dedo, William Gezzer, Sr. John Petrovay, Anna Cheremeta, Steve Evashavik, Rose Tucker, and for all victims of the COVID-19 virus.



## **IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY GHOST.**

We remember today the Myrrh-bearing women, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, people who in the course of

the Gospel are hardly mentioned, yet who, when Christ was seemingly defeated, when death, rejection, betrayal and hatred had conquered, proved to be people of faithfulness and courage, the faithfulness of the heart and the courage that can be born only of love. At the moment of the Crucifixion all the Apostles had fled save one, John, who stood at the foot of the Cross with the Mother of God. Everyone else had abandoned Christ, only a small group of women stood at a short distance from the Cross, and when He had died, they came to anoint His Body which Joseph of Arimathea had sought from Pilate, unafraid of being recognised as a disciple, because in life and in death love and faithfulness had conquered.

Let us reflect on this. It is easy to be Christ's disciples when we are on the crest of the wave, in the security of countries where no persecution, no rejection is endured, no betrayal can lead us to martyrdom, or simply to becoming the victims of mockery and rejection.

Let us think of ourselves not in regard to Christ alone but with regard to one another, because Christ has said that what we have done to any one of us, to the smallest, to the most insignificant, we have done to Him.

Let us ask ourselves how we behave when someone is rejected, mocked, ostracised, condemned by public opinion or by the opinion of those who mean something to us, whether at that moment our heart remains faithful, whether at that moment we find courage to say, 'He was, and he remains my friend whether you accept or reject him'. There is no greater measure of faithfulness than that faithfulness which is made manifest in defeat. Let us consider this, because we all are defeated, we are defeated in so many ways. We all strive, with whatever energy we have - a little or much, to be what we should be, and we are defeated at every moment. Should we not look at one another not

only with compassion, but with the faithfulness of friends who are prepared to stand by a person who falls, falls away from grace, falls away from his own ideal, frustrates all hopes and expectations which we have set on him or her. At that time let us stand by, at that time let us be faithful and prove that our love was not conditioned by the hope of victory but was a wholehearted gift, gratuitous, joyful, wonderful. Amen.

## **Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN-April 21, 1991**



## **THE RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH OF**

**ARIMATHEA** was a secret disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. As a member of the Sanhedrin he did not participate in the "counsel and deed" of the Jews in

passing a death sentence for Jesus Christ. After the Crucifixion and Death of the Savior he made bold to go to Pilate and ask him for the Body of the Lord, to which he gave burial with the help of Righteous Nicodemus, who was also a secret disciple of the Lord.

They took down the Body of the Savior from the Cross, wrapped it in a winding-cloth, and placed it in a new tomb, in which no one had ever been buried, in the Garden of Gethsemane, in the presence of the Mother of God and the holy Myrrh-Bearing Women (St Joseph had prepared this tomb for himself). Having rolled a heavy stone before the entrance of the tomb, they departed (John. 19: 37-42; Mt. 27: 57-61; Mark 15: 43-47; Luke. 24: 50-56).

St Joseph traveled around the world, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. He died peacefully in England.

**WE HAVE RESUMED**-the celebration of Great Vespers on Saturdays at 5pm. They will be broadcasted live on FB.

**THIS WEEK**-on Wednesday, May 6 at 9am we will offer the Divine Liturgy to commemorate the Great-Martyr George

**IDEAS**-for upcoming CCE classes are now being accepted by Fr Joseph. We will have our next CCE classes via the Internet. Times and dates to be determined.

**PLEASE**-continue to observe all of the necessary health and safety guidelines that are enforce by State and Federal agencies. Masks must be worn if we venture out to the store. Some grocery stores will not allow you to enter unless you are wearing a mask. Be sure to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if you are out. Practice social distancing and don't go the wrong direction in the one-way aisles at Giant Eagle. I got the "stink eye" the other day when I went the wrong way! Be safe. Be patient and be careful. It's going to be this way for a good while longer and things won't get back to normal until there is more testing, better treatment and a vaccine.

### **FROM THE HOLY FATHER ON COURAGE**

We should try to never forget the courage it took for the Myrrhbearing Women, the Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and the Righteous Nicodemus to come to the tomb of Christ early on that Sunday morning. The tomb was guarded by the Jewish Temple guards and they were unsure how or even if they would be allowed to enter the tomb of our Lord. Let us consider the virtue of courage in our lives as we look to the examples of these heroes we commemorate on this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha.....

Courage does not consist in defeating and oppressing one's neighbor, for this is overbearingness, which oversteps the

bounds of courage. Nor again does it consist in fleeing terrified from the trials that come as a result of practicing the virtues; for this is cowardice and falls short of courage. Courage itself consists in persisting in every good work and in overcoming the passions of soul and body. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, that is, against men, as was the case with the

Jews of old, where to conquer other nations was to do the work of God; it is against principalities and powers, that is, against the unseen demons (Ephesians 6:12). He who is victorious conquers spiritually; otherwise he is conquered by the passions. The warfare described in the Old Testament prefigures our spiritual warfare. These two passions of overbearingness and cowardice, though they appear to be opposites, are both caused by weakness. Overbearingness pulls one upwards and is outwardly something startling and frightening, like some powerless bear, while cowardice flees like a chased dog. No one who suffers from either of these two passions puts his trust in the Lord, and therefore he cannot stand firm in battle, whether he is overbearing or cowardly. But the righteous man is as bold as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and dominion throughout the ages. - *St. Peter of Daskos, The 24 Virtues*

In preparing for battle, however, do not think that you will always be victorious. Often there will be only hardship that will bring nothing but affliction... Provide yourself with only one thing, strong courage: no matter what happens, stay with what you have begun... No matter how life goes, whatever successes and failures there are, you should give all of this over to God's will. - *St. Theophan the Recluse*

And, let us not also forget the courage of the Holy Great-martyr George who will commemorate this week. Read below about his life and great courage.

## May 3 Candle Intentions

### Health

Bires, Alice - Benjamin  
Bires, Alice - Fr Will & Pani Ileana Bennett  
Bires, Alice - Scott & Sharon  
Bires, Alice - Wally  
Bires, Alice - Ron Raible  
Bires, Alice - Helen, David, & Joseph  
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Neil, Barb, Brennan  
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Paul Sonya, Pierce, Shelby  
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Rebecca & Matthew  
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Marti &  
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Ned, Wally, John Stagon  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Benjamin  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Luke & Alexis  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Irene & Basil  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Janet  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Deborah  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Burkett Family  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Josie Sofelkanik  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Bob & Miryam Knutson  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mitzi Conroy  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Wally Perkins  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - John E. Stagon  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Anthony Macchiaroli  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Fr. John Dixon  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Kevin Henry  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Healthcare and Grocery Workers  
Sabeh, Nancy - Health of Kitsko Family  
Stagon, George & Barbara - Fr. Matthew, Pani Eleni, Seraphim, Luka, Harikila, Xenia  
Stagon, George & Barbara - Jeffery, Nicole, Jillina Payton  
Stagon, George & Barbara - Connie and Tyler  
Stagon, John Jr. - John & Jessica  
Stagon, John Jr. - David, Linda, Johnny  
Stagon, John Jr. - David II, Christal & Weston

### Special Intentions

Alice Bires

### Memory

Bires, Alice - Parents  
Bires, Alice- Brother-in-law  
Bires, Alice- Helen  
Bires, Alice- Margie  
Bires, Alice - George  
Bires, Alice - Mildred  
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Mom, Mary Tesack  
Chuprinko, Marilyn - Sister-in-law Vernie Chuprinko  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mother, Helen  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Father, Charles  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Mother, Irene Barney  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Father, Edward Barney  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Metropolitan Nicholas  
Grysiak, Janet & Gary - Virus Victims  
Stagon, George & Barbara - Mom and Dad  
Stagon, George & Barbara - Protopresbyter Michael Rosco  
Stagon, John Jr. - Wife Anna  
Stagon, John Jr. - Father, Mother, Brothers  
Stakel, Peggy - Parents of Nick and Betty Babich



**The Holy Great Martyr George the Victory-Bearer**, was a native of Cappadocia (a district in Asia Minor), and he grew up in a deeply believing Christian family. His father was martyred for Christ when George was still a child. His mother, owning lands in Palestine, moved there with her son and raised him in strict piety.

When he became a man, Saint George entered into the service of the Roman army. He was handsome, brave and valiant in battle, and he came to the notice of the emperor Diocletian (284-305) and joined the imperial guard with the rank of comites, or military commander.

The pagan emperor, who did much for the restoration of Roman might, was clearly concerned with the danger presented to pagan civilization by the triumph of the Crucified Savior, and intensified his persecution against the Christians in the final years of his reign. Following the advice of the Senate at Nicomedia, Diocletian gave all his governors full freedom in their court proceedings against Christians, and he promised them his full support.

Saint George, when he heard the decision of the emperor, distributed all his wealth to the poor, freed his servants, and then appeared in the Senate. The brave soldier of Christ spoke out openly against the emperor's designs. He confessed himself a Christian, and appealed to all to acknowledge Christ: "I am a servant of Christ, my God, and trusting in Him, I have come among you voluntarily, to bear witness concerning the Truth."

"What is Truth?" one of the dignitaries asked, echoing the question of Pontius Pilate. The saint replied, "Christ Himself, Whom you persecuted, is Truth."

Stunned by the bold speech of the valiant warrior, the emperor, who had loved and promoted George, attempted to persuade him not to throw away his youth and glory and honors, but rather to offer sacrifice to the gods as was the Roman custom. The confessor replied, "Nothing in this inconstant life can weaken my resolve to serve God."

Then by order of the enraged emperor the armed guards began to push Saint George out of the assembly hall with their spears, and they then led him off to prison. But the deadly steel became soft and it bent, just as the spears touched the saint's body, and it caused him no harm. In prison they put the martyr's feet in stocks and placed a heavy stone on his chest.

The next day at the interrogation, powerless but firm of spirit, Saint George again answered the emperor, "You will grow tired of tormenting me sooner than I will tire of being tormented by you." Then Diocletian gave orders to subject Saint George to some very intense tortures. They tied the Great Martyr to a wheel, beneath which were boards pierced with sharp pieces of iron. As the wheel turned, the sharp edges slashed the saint's naked body.

At first the sufferer loudly cried out to the Lord, but soon he quieted down, and did not utter even a single groan. Diocletian decided that the tortured one was already dead, and he gave orders to remove the battered body from the wheel, and then went to a pagan temple to offer thanks.

At this very moment it got dark, thunder boomed, and a voice was heard: "Fear not, George, for I am with you." Then a wondrous light shone, and at the wheel an angel of the Lord appeared in the form of a radiant youth. He placed his hand upon the martyr, saying to him, "Rejoice!" Saint George stood up healed.

When the soldiers led him to the pagan temple where the emperor was, the emperor could not believe his own eyes and he thought that he saw before him some other man or even a ghost. In confusion and in terror the pagans looked Saint George over carefully, and they became convinced that a miracle had occurred. Many then came to believe in the Life-Creating God of the Christians.

Two illustrious officials, Saints Anatolius and Proteleon, who were secretly Christians, openly confessed Christ. Immediately, without a trial, they were beheaded with the sword by order of the emperor. Also present in the pagan temple was Empress Alexandra, the wife of Diocletian, and she also knew the truth. She was on the point of glorifying Christ, but one of the servants of the emperor took her and led her off to the palace.

The emperor became even more furious. He had not lost all hope of influencing Saint George, so he gave him over to new and fiercesome torments. After throwing him into a deep pit, they covered it over with lime. Three days later they dug him out, but found him cheerful and unharmed. They shod the saint in iron sandals with red-hot nails, and then drove him back to the prison with whips. In the morning, when they led him back to the interrogation, cheerful and with healed feet, the emperor asked if he liked his shoes. The saint said that the sandals had been just his size. Then they beat him with ox thongs until pieces of his flesh came off and his blood soaked the ground, but the brave sufferer, strengthened by the power of God, remained unyielding.

The emperor concluded that the saint was being helped by magic, so he summoned the sorcerer Athanasius to deprive the saint of his miraculous powers, or else poison him. The sorcerer gave Saint George two goblets containing drugs. One of them would have quieted him, and the other would kill him. The drugs had no effect, and the saint continued to denounce the pagan superstitions and glorify God as before.

When the emperor asked what sort of power was helping him, Saint George said, "Do not imagine that it is any human learning which keeps me from being harmed by these torments. I am saved only by calling upon Christ and His Power. Whoever believes in Him has no regard for tortures and is able to do the things that Christ did" (John 14:12). Diocletian asked what sort of things Christ had done. The Martyr replied, "He gave sight to the blind, cleansed the lepers, healed the lame, gave hearing to the deaf, cast out demons, and raised the dead."

Knowing that they had never been able to resurrect the dead through sorcery, nor by any of the gods known to him, and wanting to test the saint, the emperor commanded him to raise up a dead person before his eyes. The saint retorted, "You wish to tempt me, but my God will work this sign for the salvation of the people who shall see the power of Christ."

When they led Saint George down to the graveyard, he cried out, "O Lord! Show to those here present, that You are the only God in all the world. Let them know You as the Almighty Lord." Then the earth quaked, a grave opened, the dead one emerged from it alive. Having seen with

their own eyes the Power of Christ, the people wept and glorified the true God.

The sorcerer Athanasius, falling down at the feet of Saint George, confessed Christ as the All-Powerful God and asked forgiveness for his sins, committed in ignorance. The obdurate emperor in his impiety thought otherwise. In a rage, he commanded both Athanasius and the man raised from the dead to be beheaded, and he had Saint George again locked up in prison.

The people, weighed down with their infirmities, began to visit the prison and they there received healing and help from the saint. A certain farmer named Glycerius, whose ox had collapsed, also visited him. The saint consoled him and assured him that God would restore his ox to life. When he saw the ox alive, the farmer began to glorify the God of the Christians throughout all the city. By order of the emperor, Saint Glycerius was arrested and beheaded.

The exploits and the miracles of the Great Martyr George had increased the number of the Christians, therefore Diocletian made a final attempt to compel the saint to offer sacrifice to the idols. They set up a court at the pagan temple of Apollo. On the final night the holy martyr prayed fervently, and as he slept, he saw the Lord, Who raised him up with His hand, and embraced him. The Savior placed a crown on Saint George's head and said, "Fear not, but have courage, and you will soon come to Me and receive what has been prepared for you."

In the morning, the emperor offered to make Saint George his co-administrator, second only to himself. The holy martyr with a feigned willingness answered, "Caesar, you should have shown me this mercy from the very beginning, instead of torturing me. Let us go now to the temple and see the gods you worship."

Diocletian believed that the martyr was accepting his offer, and he followed him to the pagan temple with his retinue and all the people. Everyone was certain that Saint George would offer sacrifice to the gods. The saint went up to the idol, made the Sign of the Cross and addressed it as if it were alive: "Are you the one who wants to receive from me sacrifice befitting God?"

The demon inhabiting the idol cried out, "I am not a god and none of those like me is a god,

either. The only God is He Whom you preach. We are fallen angels, and we deceive people because we are jealous."

Saint George cried out, "How dare you remain here, when I, the servant of the true God, have entered?" Then noises and wailing were heard from the idols, and they fell to the ground and were shattered.

There was general confusion. In a frenzy, pagan priests and many of the crowd seized the holy martyr, tied him up, and began to beat him. They also called for his immediate execution.

The holy empress Alexandra tried to reach him. Pushing her way through the crowd, she cried out, "O God of George, help me, for You Alone are All-Powerful." At the feet of the Great Martyr the holy empress confessed Christ, Who had humiliated the idols and those who worshipped them.

Diocletian immediately pronounced the death sentence on the Great Martyr George and the holy Empress Alexandra, who followed Saint George to execution without resisting. Along the way she felt faint and slumped against a wall. There she surrendered her soul to God.

Saint George gave thanks to God and prayed that he would also end his life in a worthy manner. At the place of execution the saint prayed that the Lord would forgive the torturers who acted in ignorance, and that He would lead them to the knowledge of Truth. Calmly and bravely, the holy Great Martyr George bent his neck beneath the sword, receiving the crown of martyrdom on April 23, 303.

The pagan era was coming to an end, and Christianity was about to triumph. Within ten years, Saint Constantine (May 21) would issue the Edict of Milan, granting religious freedom to Christians.

Of the many miracles worked by the holy Great Martyr George, the most famous are depicted in iconography. In the saint's native city of Beirut were many idol-worshippers. Outside the city, near Mount Lebanon, was a large lake, inhabited by an enormous dragon-like serpent. Coming out of the lake, it devoured people, and there was nothing anyone could do, since the breath from its nostrils poisoned the very air.

On the advice of the demons inhabiting the idols, the local ruler came to a decision. Each day the people would draw lots to feed their own children to the serpent, and he promised to sacrifice his only daughter when his turn came. That time did come, and the ruler dressed her in her finest attire, then sent her off to the lake. The girl wept bitterly, awaiting her death. Unexpectedly for her, Saint George rode up on his horse with spear in hand. The girl implored him not to leave her, lest she perish.

The saint signed himself with the Sign of the Cross. He rushed at the serpent saying, "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Saint George pierced the throat of the serpent with his spear and trampled it with his horse. Then he told the girl to bind the serpent with her sash, and lead it into the city like a dog on a leash.

The people fled in terror, but the saint halted them with the words: "Don't be afraid, but trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in Him, since it is He Who sent me to save you." Then the saint killed the serpent with a sword, and the people burned it outside the city. Twenty-five thousand men, not counting women and children, were then baptized. Later, a church was built and dedicated to the Most Holy Theotokos and the Great Martyr George.

Saint George went on to become a talented officer and to amaze the world by his military exploits. He died before he was thirty years old. He is known as Victory Bearer, not only for his military achievements, but for successfully enduring martyrdom. As we know, the martyrs are commemorated in the dismissal at the end of Church services as "the holy, right victorious martyr...."

Saint George was the patron saint and protector of several of the great builders of the Russian state. Saint Vladimir's son, Yaroslav the Wise (in holy Baptism George), advanced the veneration of the saint in the Russian Church. He built the city of Yuriev [i.e., "of Yurii." "Yurii" is the diminutive of "George", as "Ivan" is of "John"], he also founded the Yuriev monastery at Novgorod, and he built a church of Saint George the Victory Bearer at Kiev.

The day of the consecration of Saint George's Church in Kiev, November 26, 1051 by Saint Hilarion, Metropolitan of Kiev and All Rus, has

entered into the liturgical treasury of the Church as a special church feastday. Yuriev Day is beloved by the Russian people as an "autumn Feast of Saint George."

The name of Saint George was also borne by the founder of Moscow, Yurii Dolgoruky (+ 1157), who was the builder of many churches dedicated to Saint George, and the builder of the city of Yuriev-Polsk. In the year 1238 the heroic fight of the Russian nation against the Mongol Horde was led by the Great Prince Yurii (George) Vsevolodovich of Vladimir (February 4), who fell at the Battle at the Sita River. His memory, like that of Igor the Brave, and defender of his land, was celebrated in Russian spiritual poems and ballads.

The first Great Prince of Moscow, when Moscow had become the center of the Russian Land, was Yurii Danilovich (+ 1325), the son of Saint Daniel of Moscow, and grandson of Saint Alexander Nevsky. From that time Saint George the Victory Bearer, depicted as a horseman slaying the serpent, appeared on Moscow's coat of arms, and became an emblem of the Russian state. This has strengthened Russia's connections with Christian nations, and especially with Iberia (Georgia, the Land of Saint George).

Source:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/04/23/101184-greatmartyr-victory-bearer-and-wonderworker-george>

### **TROPAR TO ST GEORGE**

You fought the good fight with faith, O Martyr of Christ, George. You exposed the evil of the persecutors and offered an acceptable sacrifice to God. Therefore, you also received a crown of victory and through your prayers, O holy one, obtained the forgiveness of sins for all.

### **KONTAK TO ST GEORGE**

Reared by God, you were a noble sower of piety harvesting sheaves of virtue. You sowed in tears but reaped in joy; and having honorably fought and given your blood, you were received by Christ. Through your prayers, O holy one, obtain the forgiveness of sins for all.