

**Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church
1250 Oakdale Avenue
West Saint Paul, Minnesota 55118**

Parish Website: <http://www.saintgeorge-church.org>

Very Reverend Archpriest Thomas Begley, *Pastor*
Right Reverend Archimandrite Duane Pederson, *attached*
Reverend Priest John Chagnon, attached
V. Rev. Archpriest Paul Hodge, Assisting Priest
Reverend Archdeacon Russell Hodge, *Assisting Deacon*
Reverend Deacon John Mikhail, Assisting Deacon
Reader Leonard Soroka, *Director of Music*

Church Phone - 651-457-0854

Pastor's Phone - 651-882-7809 cell: 612-723-0681

MAY 17, 2015

SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

TONE: 5

EOTHINON: 8

Commemorations: Apostles Andronikos and Junia of the Seventy; Athanasios the New, bishop of Christianopolis; Venerable Nektarios and Theophanes, founders of the Barlaam Monastery on Meteora; Eudoxia, princess of Moscow.

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Now sing the apolytikion of St. George our patron saint.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those who had fallen.

Prokeimenon:

*You, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed..*

EPISTLE: The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (16:16-34)

I

n those days, as we Apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did

for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

GOSPEL: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (9:1-38)

A

At that time, when Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His Disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" [which means Sent]. So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our

son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age, ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?” And they reviled him, saying, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from.” The man answered, “Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered, “And Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe”; and he worshiped Him.

HOLY BREAD

Holy Bread is offered by Kh. Vergin, for her health and welfare and for her children and their families and in loving memory of Fr. John and ZuZu, Fr. George & Kh. Zarafat and Elias Khoury, Butrous & Najeba Mardini, Danny and Adam & Catherine Geier.

COFFEE HOUR

The coffee hour will be hosted by Kh. Vergin and family. All are invited!

WELCOME to all our guests and visitors. We are delighted to have you visiting and worshipping with us this morning and hope that you return soon. We invite you to participate in the Divine Liturgy, but, sadly, due to the divisions in Christianity, **only baptized/chrismated members of the Orthodox Church who have made their Confession before an Orthodox priest and prepared themselves by fasting may receive Holy Communion.** Please come forward after Liturgy to venerate the Cross and partake of the *Antidoron* - Holy Bread. Please join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour after the Liturgy. Also, please **turn off your cell phones and all electronic devices.**

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for Lorraine DeFlorin, Wally & Maria Golden, Allen Golden, John Etoll, Yasmin Kakish, Jakob Kakish, Carol Haddad, Betty Ablan, Ted & Camille Goll, Kh. Vergin Khoury, Kyle Krache, Erma Ziton, Jackson & Hunter Golden, Mavis Aussey, Margaret Boalbey, Norm & Gracie Holmes, Dn. Russell & Phyllis Hodge, Sarah Vanlerberghe, Kh. Vera Proctor, Rick, Kh. Amy Hodge, Beryl Toms, Mya Lee, Ellie Brynjulfson, Edgard Siouffy, Magdalen Ng, Lorraine Hartwig, Berhane Haliemichael, John Burbank, George Droubie, Rosa Neimy, Robert Wyllie.

If you are ill and wish to be remembered in the Liturgy and daily prayers of the priest, please contact Fr. Tom.

THIS WEEK

HOLY PASCHA – 40 Days

In the Antiochian Archdiocese from Pascha and throughout the Paschal season (40 Days), you are permitted not to fast.

Today is the Last Day of church school for the current school year. Memorial weekend falls very early this year so it seems like the end of the year crept up on us too soon! Thank you to all the parents who faithfully committed to getting their children here throughout the past year and of course thank you to all the students too. Following today's Liturgy we will hand out the year end gifts to those students who regularly attended throughout the year. Everyone have a safe and fun filled summer but remember that no church school does not mean no church, the liturgy continues all summer long. Our heartfelt appreciation to the Sunday School directors and teachers!

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council will meet Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 P.M.

ASCENSION LITURGY

We will celebrate the feast of the Ascension Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 P.M.

ARABIC LITURGY

Our next Arabic liturgy will be Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 A.M. Fr. Nicholas from Chicago will be our main celebrant. Please spread the news and come join us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER MISSION

Fr John Chagnon and John Windsor will be serving with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center this summer. Fr John is the Team Leader for an Alaska project supporting the Faith in two remote villages and John Windsor will be traveling to Moldova, a small country between Romania and Ukraine, to serve in a youth camp assisting the Church there as it rebuilds. You can contact each for more information and if you'd like to support them you can send a tax deductible donation to: OCMC, 220 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086. Simply write "Support for" either or both in the check memo line. You can also donate on line and Fr John and John can tell you how. Thanks.

GRADUATES

On June 7, the Antiochian Women will provide a cake to honor graduates. Please notify Denise or Sarah of any graduates from high school or college that are members of St. George.

KITCHEN USE

The Parish Council has determined that anyone wishing to use the kitchen at any time **must** contact George Khoury to reserve their date and time on the kitchen calendar.

NEIGHBORS INC

Please help replenish the food shelves of which Neighbors Inc. is one. Our neighbors, your neighbors, everyone's neighbors need our help. Please bring in one item each week during the month of March: one box of Mac & Cheese, box of cereal, pancake mix, can of tuna, Ragu, ANYTHING! The littlest thing can make a big difference. Cash donations may be made to George Droubie or Michelle Apman. **All** dollars and food donated to Neighbors stays at Neighbors. Thank you for your generosity.

PASTA AND PASTA SAUCE COLLECTION FOR FOCUS MN

In addition to our Food Drive for Neighbors, in which we help out persons in the West St. Paul community, we are again this year helping stock the shelves at FOCUS MN. Please donate pasta or sauce (any type of tomato base will do; sauce, paste, or actual pasta sauce are all welcome). **Please place these items on the left side table** outside the church hall and if possible label the bag "FOCUS."

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLY BREAD LIST

May 20, Ascension (Mary Rudquist)
May 24, Sonia (Memorials-Sophie Lyons, David Etoll)
May 31, Mary Rudquist

COFFEE HOUR LIST

N/A
Sonia
Mary Rudquist

To schedule holy bread and/or memorial, please contact Joannie Alevizos. It is completely proper to have more than one memorial or Holy Bread on a Sunday. *When signing up for Holy Bread, please indicate "yes" or "no" if you will also be providing coffee hour.* If you would like to host a coffee hour please contact Sanaa Jubran. It is important to *e-mail or call Fr. Tom or Brigitte Khoury bgkstgeorge@gmail.com by Wednesday noon prior to the Sunday of your memorial, with your information in order to print the bulletin in a timely manner.*

MIDWEST PLC

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, MI will host the Midwest Parish Life Conference, June 24-28. For information please visit: www.midwestplc2015.com

8th ANNUAL ST GEORGE MIDDLE EASTERN FESTIVAL – 2015

This year we will hold our 8th Annual Middle Eastern Festival on July 17th, 18th and 19th, 2015. Please plan on joining us for a fun-filled weekend of fantastic food, great entertainment and the best hospitality in the Twin Cities! Featuring a silent auction, pastries, food, Middle Eastern marketplace and much, much more! Visit us online at www.mideastfest.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mideastfest. **SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVAL! "There are color flyers in the church hall for you to take and post at work and to give to your friends. Please tell everyone you can about the festival."**

St Mary's Summer Camp: June 27- July 3, 2015

Registration will be open starting Bright Tuesday, April 14th, at 10:00 AM (CDT)

- Held at Camp Wapogasset in Amery, WI
- For Ages: Entering 3rd grade through 12th grade (in school) in the fall.
- Please contact your parish priest early for scholarship assistance.

Online registration at www.stmaryscamp.com

Registration Fee: \$450.00

From 5/02/15 through 5/28/15

Last Day to Register Thursday 5/28/15 by 4:30 PM (CDT)

Announcing the 2015 Summer Camp Scholarship Contest!

Open to our entire Pan-Orthodox Community! Two Camp scholarship coupons will be awarded in memory of Presbyter Mary Coniaris and James H. Zubulake. Camp registration fees will be rebated to two contest winners. The 2015 theme for camp is "Defending Our Faith." This year's essay question is, *"As an Orthodox Christian how do I defend my faith?"*

There will be two divisions:

Junior Division- open to children entering 3rd- 6th grades Fall 2015. Contestants are required to submit a 250- word (typed) essay on the theme.

Senior Division- open to teens entering 7th- 12th grades Fall 2015. Contestants are required to submit a 500- word (typed) essay on the theme.

Entries must remain as close to the word limits (250 or 500) as possible.

ENTRIES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY MAY 22, 2015. Please submit entries to:

frbenjamin@stmarvsoca.org Doria Saros, Pastoral Assistant, [612-825-9595](tel:612-825-9595) Church, [612-825-9283](tel:612-825-9283) Fax

Also the St. George AW Camp Scholarship will give 100.00 to the Jr. and 100.00 to the Senior Division for the same essay.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to have an announcement published in the weekly bulletin, please note you must submit the information by Wednesday NOON before the Sunday you desire to have it in the bulletin. Please make sure the spelling of the names is correct.

SOCIAL HALL

Please remember, if you host a coffee hour you need to clean up the kitchen, take home the used linens, wash and return them, wipe the tables, take out the trash bags and put them into the dumpster. This is everyone's responsibility. Please try to help to preserve our beautiful hall.