

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

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December 20, 2015

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)

TONE: 4

EOTHINON: 7

Commemorations: New-martyr John the tailor of Thasos; Daniel II, archbishop of Serbia.

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE FOUR

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. * Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life * hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. * Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, * wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, * and as we eat thereof we shall all live, * and shall not die as did Adam. * For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforesaid.

APOLYTIKION OF THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

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

KONTAKION OF THE PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word Who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.

EPISTLE:

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

For You are just in all that You have done.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:1-25)

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he book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

HOLY BREAD

Holy Bread is offered for the health and welfare of Berhane and Kidan, Estifanos, Bereket and Rahwa, Teklu, Selam and the Tesfe family and in memory of all the departed members of the Haliemichael and Tesfe families.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour is offered today by Berhane and Kidan. Please join us for this time of fellowship.

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/chrisdated 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 Jim Etoll, Wally & Maria Golden, Allen & Nick Golden, John Etoll, Yasmin Kakish, Jakob Kakish, Carol Haddad, Betty Ablan, Ted & Camille Goll, Kh. Vergin Khoury, Erma Zitton, Jackson & Hunter Golden, Mavis Aussey, Margaret Boalbey, Norm & Gracie Holmes, Dn. Russell & Phyllis Hodge, Sarah Vanlerberghe, Kh. Vera Proctor, Kh. Amy Hodge, Beryl Toms, Ellie Brynjulfson, Edgard Siouffy, Magdalen Ng, Berhane Haliemichael, John & Pat Burbank, George Droubie, Rosa Neimy, Sandi Heuer, Andree White, George Saba, Linda Hodge, Mitch, Beverly Zaine and Georgette.

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

THIS WEEK

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Sunday, December 20, following Divine Liturgy. If needed Wednesday, December 23 at 7:00. – Lenny

VESPERS

We will serve Vespers, Saturday, December 26, at 5:00 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU

We thank all of you that helped with the service and mercy meal for our beloved Archdeacon Russell. Everything ran so well! A special word of gratitude to all the MEOCCA clergy who attended the funeral. Archdeacon Russell will be greatly missed. May God grant comfort to his family and friends. Memory eternal! Fr. Tom

PASTORAL NEEDS

Fr. Tom will be out of town from December 21 through December 24. If you have a pastoral need, please call Fr. John Chagnon, Fr. Paul Hodge or Dn. John Mikhail. Thank you. Fr. Tom

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN - IMPORTANT

Ladies Holiday Luncheon January 16, 2016... see sign-up sheet in the church hall.

CHURCH CALENDARS

The annual church calendars are available by the bulletin board. Please only one per family at this time. Again we thank Deb Korluka, Icon Arts Studios for donating the calendars.

OLD CHURCH CALENDARS

Please bring in your old church calendars that have a picture icon on top of calendar, if you do not use it. The Sunday School students use them to make icons. Also, we plan on an icon class for adults to make icons too. We would get the wood, need to paint it gold, than glue an icon picture on top and apply mod pog to cover it. If you are interested in doing so, please sign up on sheet in Social Hall. There will be a minimal charge for wood. Thank you. Sue Perry

2016 STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

For those who use envelopes for weekly donations, your stewardship envelopes are available on the table outside the church hall. If you do not see your name or your child's, please see Denise Ferraro.

NOVEMBER 15, 2015 FIRST DAY OF THE NATIVITY FAST

This Fast is divided into two periods: December 20th through 24th, the traditional fasting discipline is observed Monday through Friday, with katalysis for wine and olive oil on Saturday and Sunday only.

MISSION TRIP

"Hello brothers and sisters in Christ!" I have the incredible opportunity to go on a mission trip to San Miguel del Lago, an orphanage and monastery in Guatemala. I will be going with a team of 14 from the different Orthodox churches in the Twin Cities from January 2nd-9th. We will eat, play, and worship with the children, perform some light maintenance work, and do anything else needed of us while we are there. I ask that you all keep me in your prayers as I prepare for this trip. If you'd like to make a donation to help support me, you can make checks out to St. George Church with "Jamie Zaine" on the memo line. I look forward to seeing everyone when I return from school in December. Thank you! Jamie Zaine

FOOD DRIVE

Please help us stock the shelves of Neighbors Inc and Focus Minnesota this holiday season. Donations of nonperishable food items will be collected through Christmas. Please place items on the back collection tables outside the social hall and label the bag either Neighbors or Focus if you have a preference as to where you want your donation to go. Desired items include Pasta, sauce, mac and cheese, rice, cereals, tuna, peanut butter, soup, canned vegetables, canned fruit, etc...Thank you in advance for your generosity.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLY BREAD LIST

December 25, Katrina Khoury
December 27, Senay & Wudase Habte
December 31, Katrina Khoury
January 3, Sue Perry (Memorial)

COFFEE HOUR LIST

Katrina Khoury
Senay & Wudase Habte
N/A
Sue Perry

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.*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES – December 25

Christmas Day Matins 8:45AM; Liturgy 10:00AM.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2016 HAFLI

Looking to make plans for New Year's Eve? St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church is having a Hafli. Live Arabic Music with singer John Khoury and his band. Large dance floor, delicious Lebanese buffet prepared by the ladies of St. Maron's, cash bar, and a great family atmosphere.

St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church

602 University Ave NE, Minneapolis

7:00pm-1a.m. (Dinner served till 9:00pm)

\$65 adults

\$30 kids under 12

Ticket prices include dinner. Cash bar separate. Tickets can be purchased directly from the church website. www.stmaron.com or call 612-379-2758

GAME LEAGUE

The next "Game League" will be **Saturday, January 23** at St. George Antiochian in West St. Paul. See the flyer on the bulletin board. Hope you can make it!

ICON CLASSES

Please register by sending a deposit of \$75.00 to Icon Art Studios, 13921 127th Street North, Stillwater, MN, 55082. All inquiries can be sent [via e-mail](#) or by calling 612-889-5868.

The schedule of 2016 classes are as follows:

Session 1 will concentrate on the prototype of "The Holy Face."

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church on Lake Calhoun, 3450 Irving Ave. South, Minneapolis 55408
Thursdays from 5:30 to 9:30 on January 14, 21, 28 and February 4.
Tuition cost is \$135.00 plus materials.

Session 2 will study and write an icon of St. Panteleimon - 4th century Greatmartyr and Unmercenary healer living during the time of Emperor Maximian. Feast Day July 27. <http://korlukastudios.com/2015/07/2016-session-2-and-3-icon-classes/>.

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church on Lake Calhoun, 3450 Irving Ave. South, Minneapolis 55408
Thursdays from 6:00 to 9:00 on February 11, 18, 25 and Tuesday March 1, Thursday 10, 17.
Tuition cost is \$165.00 plus materials.

Session 3 will contemplate the sacrament of Holy Unction and will study and write an icon of "The Merciful Jesus".

The Basilica of Saint Mary, Hennepin at Sixteenth Street, Minneapolis 55403
From 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays during Great Lent; February 20, 27, March 5 and 12.
Tuition including materials: \$295.00.
Please [contact us](#) with any questions or inquiries.

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.

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.

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 help to preserve our beautiful hall.

It's More Than A Free Dinner Once a Week - FOCUS MN is Free Meals AND also Food Shelf, Clothes Closet, and is building a Mobile Clinic!. The Orthodox Community is working miracles! Please help out by bringing Shampoo, **Tooth-paste**/Toothbrushes, Aluminum Foil, Baggies - various sizes, Paper Towels, Coffee, Tuna, Spaghetti, Sauce, Cereal, Clothing, Men's Shoes or giving of your time or money. For more info, go to <http://areyouinfocus.weebly.com/> or contact our FOCUS liaisons Pat Percy, Sue Perry or Lisa Mikhail.

NEIGHBORS INC

A donation to Neighbors food shelf can make a bag full of groceries go a long way. By mixing and matching items, we can help a family eat balanced, nutritious meals. Many families assisted by our food shelf are working yet still hungry. Making a contribution of food or dollars to Neighbors stays at Neighbors. The smallest things can make a big difference. Please give your cash donations to George Droubie or Michelle Apman. Thank you!