

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 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 27, 2015

THE PROTO-MARTYR STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

STONE: 5

ETHNON: 8

Commemorations: Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet and King, and James the brother of the Lord

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.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. STEPHEN IN TONE FOUR

The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head * because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; * for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest * Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. * O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would save our souls.

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

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

EPISTLE:

His voice has gone out into all the earth.

The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (6:8-7:5, 47-60)

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The high priest said, "Is this so?" And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child.

But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is My throne, and earth My footstool. What house will you build for Me', says the Lord, 'or what is the place of My rest? Did not My hand make all these things?'

You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, Whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they grinded their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

GOSPEL: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:13-23)

W

hen the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the

Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more."

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

HOLY BREAD

Holy Bread is offered for the health and welfare of Senay and Wudase Habte and their children Samuel, Fnan, Merhawi and Thomas, and in memory of the departed of St. George Church.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour is offered today by Senay and Wudase Habte. 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 Etoil, Wally & Maria Golden, Allen & Nick Golden, John Etoil, Yasmin Kakish, Jakob Kakish, Carol Haddad, Betty Ablan, Ted & Camille Goll, Kh. Vergin Khoury, Erma Ziton, Jackson & Hunter Golden, Mavis Aussey, Margaret Boalbey, Norm & Gracie Holmes, Phyllis Hodge, Sarah Vanlerberghe, Kh. Vera Proctor, Kh. Amy Hodge, 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 Engelbrecht.

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

THIS WEEK

NO FASTING DURING NATIVITY SEASON

The Holy Church does not allow fasting from December 25 through January 4. January 5, is a strict fast day.

LITURGY

The Evening Liturgy of the Circumcision of the Lord will be served Thursday, December 31, 6:30PM.

****NEW YEAR'S EVE 2016 HAFLI****

Looking to make plans for New Year's Eve? St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church is having a Hafla. 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

VESPERS

We will serve Vespers, Saturday, January 2, at 5:00 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU

We thank all of you that made Christmas special this year, clergy, altar-boys, choir, chanters and all those who so beautifully decorated our church.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN - IMPORTANT

Ladies Holiday Luncheon January 16, 2016... Please sign up on sheet in Social Hall by January 10th, need to give a head count to Lost Spur Country Club. Gift exchange minimal \$5.00, so bring a gift to exchange if interested. Thanks, Sue Perry

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 podge 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLY BREAD LIST

December 31, Katrina Khoury
January 3, Sue Perry (Memorial)
January 5, Sue Perry (Theophany)

COFFEE HOURLIST

N/A
Sue Perry
(Fried Dough)

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.*

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

The liturgy of the Theophany of our Lord will be served Tuesday, January 5, at 6:30PM. We will also bless the Holy Water.

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 and 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!