

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

Cell: 612-723-0681

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2016

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST (THE GENEALOGY)

TONE: 1

EOTHINON: 4

Commemorations: Martyrs Sebastian and Zoe of Rome, and those with them.

LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF 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 prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

We Sing the Troparion of St. George, our patron saint.

KONTAKION OF 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 Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 32-40)

B

rethren, 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)

T

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 by the Michael's family for the **health and welfare** of Bishop Anthony, Craig, Vicky, Jenny, Mary, Rebecca, Joanne, Joseph, Beverly and Joannie. **In Loving memory** of Anthony, Gertrude, Vosso, Johanna, Samuel, and Hellen; Jakob, Salim, Issa, Salim, Julia & Munria Kakish; Fuad and Nijema Sayegh, Omari Omari and John Price IV.

MEMORIAL

We will serve one year memorials for both Archdeacon Russell Hodge and Jakob Kakish. May their memory be eternal!

BISHOP'S BANQUET

His Grace Bishop ANTHONY is inviting all parishioners of St. George to the Banquet honoring Fr. Duane immediately following the liturgy. This is a sit-down dinner with program. Please be RESPECTFUL!

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/christened 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 Wally & Maria Golden, Allen & Nick Golden, Jackson and Hunter Golden, John Etoll, Yasmin Kakish, Carol Haddad, Betty Ablan, Ted & Camille Goll, Kh. Vergin Khoury, Erma Ziton, Margaret Boalbey, Norm & Gracie Holmes, Phyllis Hodge, Sarah Vanlerberghe, Mat. Vera Proctor, Kh. Amy Hodge, Fr. John & Mat. Kathy, Joe Etoll, Lamese McDowell, Ellie Brynjulfson, Edgard Siouffy, Magdalen Ng, Berhane Haliemichael, Rosa Neimy, Andree White, George & Ellie Saba, Mitch, Fr. Dan & Eileen Simon, Gideon, Delores Trisko, Carol Mihalchick, Joseph Kammeyer, Mike Etoll, Jerry Joseph, Nancy Toenniges and Deb Korluka.

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

THIS WEEK

WELCOME

Today we welcome our father in Christ, His Grace Bishop ANTHONY. We are also pleased to welcome many guests who are here to celebrate Fr. Duane's 25th anniversary to the Holy Priesthood and 50 years of ministry in the service of our Lord!

PASTORAL NEEDS

Fr. Thomas will be out of town Tuesday, December 22 through Friday, December 23. If you have a pastoral need, please contact Fr. John Chagnon, Fr. Paul Hodge or Dn. John.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

There will be a choir rehearsal, Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00P.M.

VESPERS

We will serve Nativity Vespers Saturday, December 24 at 5:00 pm.

ALTAR BOY TEAM 2 WILL SERVE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

December 20 is the feast day of St. Ignatius of Antioch, patron saint of the Order bearing his name. As stated in the 1979 book *History and Rituals for the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch*, the Order's purpose is to strengthen, in every Orthodox Christian way, the Antiochian Archdiocese. The Metropolitan Primate or his designate inducts new members at the conclusion of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. The cross and crimson ribbon worn symbolize the commitment to service and sacrifice for life by the new member.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to Fr. Daniel Simon who celebrated his 50th anniversary to the Orthodox Priesthood this past Sunday. Fr. Simon was presented with an icon of the Nativity as a gift from his St. George family. We prayed for Fr. Daniel and his family asking that God grant them many years!

END-OF YEAR STEWARDSHIP GIVING

During the Christmas season, there are many worthwhile causes that are requesting your help. Please remember YOUR parish in your end-of-year giving. Don't miss out on your end-of-year tax deduction! Your stewardship is needed for operational costs! Thank you! Parish Council

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

Don't forget to pick-up your "2017" stewardship envelopes located on the table in the narthex. If you do not see your name or your child's, contact: Denise at denise.ferraro@comcast.net

THE ADOPT A FAMILY TREE IS IN THE SOCIAL HALL

The names on the tree are for families who are considered to be "the working poor." All gifts must be returned today. My congratulations to all of you for your generosity! All the names on the tree were taken! May God bless you! – Fr. Tom

CHURCH COOKBOOK

Looking for "ethnic" recipes to be included in the Sixth Edition of the St. George Church cookbook. Parishioners are welcome to submit "ethnic" recipes to Sue Perry before January 15.

THE NATIVITY FAST

Begins on Tuesday, November 15 and continues through Saturday, December 24. This Fast is divided into two periods: The first is November 15 through December 19 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, dairy, fish, wine, and olive oil) is observed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with katalysis for wine and olive oil (some also permit fish) on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine, and olive oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The second is the period of the Fore-feast, December 20 through 24, when the traditional fasting discipline is observed Monday through Friday, with katalysis for wine and olive oil on Saturday and Sunday.

THANKSGIVING & WORLD FOOD DAY DRIVE

The World Food Day canned Food drive will be from October-December and reported to the Archdiocese. Please bring non-perishable food items. Thank you to Katrina Begley and Sue Perry's Sunday school class for chairing this event.

FAMILY FUN MOVIE NIGHT – SAVE THE DATE!

January 14th, Saturday, at Five pm, come to a Family Disney Movie Night! Please bring pillow and blankets for children. Actually, we were all children at one time in our life. We will provide food. If you are able, bring Snacks to share. Sign up on the sheet in the Social Hall so we know how many plan on coming. - Antiochian Women of St. George

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLY BREAD LIST

December 25, Christmas – Pat Burbank
January 1, 2017, Cir. Of Christ & St. Basil (open)

COFFEE HOUR LIST

(No coffee hour)

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 **both** Fr. Tom and Brigitte with your information in order to print the bulletin in a timely manner.*

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.

NOTICE: If you have borrowed or rented something from the church, please return the items promptly and properly cleaned. Others may have need of them as well! Thank you!

ORTHODOX CHURCH ART

We have begun some decorative artwork in the church. We will need donations for this project. Deb Korluka is donating the current work of the crosses and border. However we need to collect money for the veiling under the crosses. The total cost of the project will be \$14,000 with each section of veiling costing \$350. Any donations should be designated as "church art." Thank you for considering a donation to beautify the Lord's house.

FOCUS/NEIGHBORS DONATION CABINET

We have replaced the FOCUS/NEIGHBORS tables with a beautiful cabinet. Please place your items for these organizations in the cabinet, labeled with the name of the organization you would like it donated to. **The cupboard seems bare these days!**

FOCUS

It's More Than a Free Dinner Once a Week, it's also a Food Shelf, Clothes Closet, building a Mobile Clinic! The Orthodox Community is working miracles! Please help out by bringing Shampoo, Toothpaste/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 FOOD SHELVES

With the help of its volunteers, Neighbor's Inc. will strive to reduce poverty, promote self-sufficiency, and build community. Please help us by donating food or funds to support Neighbor's Food Shelf. See the poster of needed items on the bulletin board. Please give cash donations to George Droubie or Michelle Apman. **Help keep your neighbors warm this winter by donating hats, scarves, mittens, or gloves. Thank you for your kindness!**

Informational Meetings Holy Land/Russia Pilgrimage Fall 2017

Several meetings about the Holy Land/ Russia Pilgrimage are scheduled in the upcoming weeks. The next two meetings will take place at:

St. George Greek after liturgy on Sunday December 11th at 12:00 and

St. Mary's Greek after liturgy on Sunday January 15th, time to be announced.

These meetings will present and discuss itinerary and cost details about the pilgrimage taking place in the fall of 2017. The Holy Land portion of the tour will consist of 9 days in the Holy Land with a return back to the USA on day 10 or the option to continue onto St. Petersburg, Russia. Projected cost for the Holy Land portion will be \$1,650.00 plus air (and travel insurance) with a minimum of 20 participants.

This event will be hosted by Icon Art Studios under the leadership of Tom Rudquist and Deb Korluka. We are excited to share with you an educational and spiritual journey equipped to deliver a very warm and unique experience by gathering together our personal contacts both in the Holy Land and Russia. Please contact Deb or Tom for tour materials. A registration meeting will take place in March of 2017.

The Ministry of Iconography

The schedule of 2017 classes are as follows: 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 at akorluka@aol.com or my cell at 612-889-5868.

Session 1- at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church on Lake Calhoun, 3450 Irving Ave. South, Mpls., Thursdays from 5:30 to 9:30 on January 12, 19, 26 and February 2. Tuition cost is \$135.00 plus materials.

Session 1 will concentrate on the prototype of "The Holy Face". All sessions concentrate on technique, along with a spiritual and theological study on the prototype.

Session 2- at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Thursdays from 6:00 to 9:00 on February 9, 23, and March 2, 16, 23, 30. Tuition cost is \$165.00 plus materials.

Session 2 will study an icon of The Crucifixion/The Cross. The student can choose an icon from various selections offered.

Session 3- at The Basilica of Saint Mary, Hennepin at Sixteenth Street, Mpls. from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays during Great Lent; March 18 and 25, April 1, 8. Tuition including materials \$295.00.

Session 3 will contemplate the sacrament of Repentance and will study and write an icon of The Theotokos.