

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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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

TONE: 1

EOTHINON:

Commemorations:

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST 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.

We **DO NOT** Sing the *Troparion 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:

Let all the earth worship You, and sing to You.

Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

The Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians (4:4-7)

B

rethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

GOSPEL: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:1-12)

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ow when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

HOLY BREAD

HOLY BREAD is offered by John & Pat Burbank for their health and welfare, for their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren and for the Hafiz family.

In Loving memory of Richard & Helen Acker, James & Isabel Hafiz, Eleanor Burbank, Margaret Mansour Lamone, Catherine (20 yrs) and Adam (16 yrs) Geier.

NO COFFEE HOUR

There will be no coffee hour this morning due to Christmas!

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, Carol Mihalchick, Joseph Kammeyer, Mike Etoll, Jerry Joseph, Nancy Toenniges and Deb Korluka & Rosanne Athey.

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

THIS WEEK

THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks to all who welcomed our father in Christ, His Grace Bishop ANTHONY and made it such a special weekend. We are also pleased to welcome many guests and friends who celebrated Fr. Duane's 25th anniversary to the Holy Priesthood and 50 years of ministry in the service of our Lord, with us! I was proud of all of you who worked so hard! Fr. Tom

VESPERS

We will serve Vespers Saturday, December 31 at 5:00 pm.

ALTAR BOY TEAM 1 WILL SERVE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONDOLENCES

We received the sad news this week that Kh. Jane Chagnon's mother, Delores Trisko, fell asleep in the Lord. The services are as follows: Visitation: December 26, 4:00-7:00pm. at Roy-Hetland Funeral in Osakis, MN. Funeral: December 27, 2:00 pm. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Osakis, MN. Our heartfelt condolences to Kh. Jane and Fr. John during this time of sorrow. May her memory be eternal!

CALENDARS

The 2017 calendars, donated by Icon Art Studios, are available for take home on the table by the bulletin board.

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

Many thanks to all of you for supporting the families of the "the working poor." We supported all the 21 families whose names we received. My congratulations to all of you for your generosity! 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.

NO FASTING

December 25th through January 4th is a fast-free period!

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

COFFEE HOUR LIST

January 1, 2017, Cir. Of Christ & St. Basil (Burbank/Khoury) (open)
January 5, Epiphany (Katrina Khoury) NA
January 8, (open)

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.