

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, MARCH 26, 2017

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LEAVE-TAKING OF THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE THEOTOKOS

TONE: 7

EOTHINON: 7

Commemorations: The synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; Stephen the Confessor, Abbot of Triglia.

LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE FOUR

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the manifestation of the mystery from the ages; for the Son of God becometh the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaimeth grace. Wherefore, do we shout with him to the Theotokos: Hail, O full of grace! The Lord is with thee.

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

KONTAKION FOR THE ANNUNCIATION (AND GREAT LENT) IN TONE EIGHT

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

EPISTLE:

The Lord will give strength to His People.

The Lord will bless His people with peace.

The Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (9:16-30)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the

house, His Disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And Jesus said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.” They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day.”

HOLY BREAD

Holy Bread is offered for the **health and welfare** of Robel, Welela & Ezana; Habte & Nighisti, Nebi, Isayas, Muzitt, Ruta, Danu, Rafi and Liya.

In Loving memory of all the deceased members of Robel’s and Welela’s families.

(Annunciation Holy Bread) offered for the **health and welfare** of Anna Simon; her godmother, Lola Nassar & her families; Mat. Marie Meyendorff & her families; Fr. Daniel & Kh. Eileen and their families.

In Loving memory of Joseph Nassar & V. Rev. John Meyendorff.

MEMORIAL

Today we will serve a forty-day memorial for the handmaid of God Grace Holmes. May her memory be eternal!

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour is hosted by Robel and Welela and Habte and Nighisti. 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/christmated 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. 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 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, George & Ellie Saba, Mitch, Fr. Dan & Eileen Simon, Kh. Jane Chagnon, Gideon, Joseph Kammeyer, Mike Etoll, Jerry Joseph, Deb Korluka and Marilyn Perry, Ronald & Marlene Saba and Ibrahim Khoury.

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

THIS WEEK

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to Leonard Soroka on the falling asleep of his aunt, Sylvia (Soroka) Elnitsky, of Vestal, NY. May God grant the family comfort and give Sylvia rest with the righteous. May her memory be eternal!

FASTING RULES

Fasting continues until Pascha for dairy, fish, and wine except for special days! Please pick-up a **Lent, Holy Week & Pascha** schedule at the ushers table.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Lenten Schedule for Choir Rehearsal immediately following Sunday Divine Liturgy. New members are always welcome - please think about becoming a member. This would a great time to do something meaningful for the Great Lenten period. ***Sunday, March 26, April 2, April 9.***

MEOCCA VESPERS

Today at 4:00 pm., the MEOCCA Churches will celebrate the Sunday of Orthodox Vespers at St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church (OCA), 125 Congress St. E., St. Paul, MN 55107. This is a great opportunity to worship together and show our unity of faith!

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

The Liturgy of the Presanctified gifts will be Wednesday, March 29 at 6:30 pm. A Lenten meal will follow the service.

AKATHIST

We will hold the Akathist Service Friday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m.

VESPERS

We will serve Vespers Saturday, April 1 at 5:00 P.M.

ALTAR BOY TEAM 2 WILL SERVE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE/ COMMUNION TODAY

Greeters: Joannie Alevizos and Kh. Eileen Simon

Epistle Reader: Katrina Begley

Collectors: Rana Jubran, Norma Haddad, Denise Ferraro and Lisa Mikhail

Annunciation - Epistle Reader - Lisa Mikhail

THANK YOU!

Our thanks to the Khoury families and Beirut Restaurant for sponsoring the Falafel Dinner. It was delicious and a great success!

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

- We will be assembling hygiene kits for refugees again on Sunday, April 30.
- The NAB Project this year is "Strengthening the Ministries of the Church". Please write check to Antiochian Women and give to Michelle Apman who is Coordinator of the NAB project. Known at our church as "The coffee Cup Project".

Lazarus Saturday Candle decorating. This year we will again be providing materials for children to decorate candles to be carried (unlit) in the Palm Sunday processional. All children are welcome. The decorating will follow the Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy on Saturday April 8.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLY BREAD LIST

March 26, Robel & Welela
April 2, (open)
April 8, Rosa & Denise
April 9, Jubran-Ferraro

COFFEE HOUR LIST

Robel & Welela
(open)
Fried Dough
Palm Sunday

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.* Coffee hour does not have to be an elaborate meal. If you have any questions, please contact Sanaa Jubran. **It is important to e-mail or call both Fr. Tom and Brigitte with your information by Wednesday before your coffee hour, in order to print the bulletin in a timely manner.**

MEOCCA LENTEN VESPERS

We will host the Pan Orthodox Vesper Service is at 4:00 pm on April 2. The Antiochian Women will serve dinner, circles assignments, Cook- Katrina Begley and Patty Percy, Serve- Nancy and Patty Burbank, Set up- Susie and Sandy, Clean up- Vicky and Joannie. Thank you.-Sue Perry

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

The Antiochian Women will meet on Thursday, April 6 with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

PAN ORTHODOX TEA

April 22 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, we will have the Sixth Pan Orthodox Tea in our beautiful Social Hall. The topic is Visitation with our "VIP" very important parishioners, who are those who do not get out as often. Come listen to this interesting presentation and enjoy this wonderful fellowship with our sisters in Christ. Vespers is at 5:00 pm. Thank you.-Sue Perry

ST. GEORGE CHURCH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Rob Hafiz, Paul Abrass and Assaad Haddad families will sponsor a Pancake Breakfast in memory of Jimmy Hafiz, Sunday, April 23, 2017 from 12:00 to 1:30. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee, milk and juice. The proceeds will go towards the building fund. Costs: Adults \$8.00, Children under 12, \$4.00.

The Annual Diocese of Toledo Parish Life Conference - June 21-25, 2017, St. George Church of Cicero, IL, is honored to be the host at the Oak Brook Marriott and give the parishioners of our diocese the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Cicero. For more information on the Parish Life Conference, go to www.antiochianevents.com/toledo.html - 2017 Diocese of Toledo Parish Life Conference Committee

ANNOUNCING THE 10TH ANNUAL ST. GEORGE MIDDLE EASTERN FESTIVAL – JULY 2017

Don't miss the 10th Annual St. George Middle Eastern Festival on July 14, 15 and 16, 2017. Plan to join us for a fun-filled weekend of fantastic food, great entertainment and warm hospitality! Enjoy authentic Middle Eastern cuisine, homemade pastries, silent auction, Middle Eastern marketplace and much, much more! Visit the festival website at www.mideastfest.com Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mideastfest

*Senior Dance Group: 15+ years see Nancy Ayoub

*Junior Dance Group: 8-14 years see Grace Ablan Martinovic

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to have an announcement published in the weekly bulletin/submit the names for holy bread, you must submit the information to **Fr. Tom and Brigitte** by **Wednesday NOON** before the Sunday you desire to have it in the bulletin.

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. Deb Korluka is donating the work of the crosses and border. However, donations will be needed 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 in any amount to beautify the Lord's house and to those that have already contributed.

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. **Let's keep the cupboard full!**

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://areyouinfoocus.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!

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 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.