

**Saint George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church**  
**1250 Oakdale Avenue, West Saint Paul, Minnesota 55118**

**Parish Website:** <http://www.saintgeorge-church.org>

Church Phone: 651-457-0854

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA,  
*Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America*

Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY

*Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*

Right Reverend Archimandrite John Mangels, *Pastor*

Pastor's email: [ajamnn@aol.com](mailto:ajamnn@aol.com)

Reverend Father John Mikhail, *Assistant Pastor*

Very Reverend Archpriest Paul Hodge, *attached*      Very Reverend Archpriest Thomas Begley, *retired*

Reader Michael Begley, *Music Director*      Christina Worrall, *Church School Director*

Heath Nelson and Sophie Haddad, *SOYO Advisors*

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**Sunday, December 17, 2023**  
**Sunday of Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ**

**TONE 3**

**EOTHINON 6**

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*Commemorations: Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Mishael; Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonderworker*

**THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLITIKION IN TONE THREE**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFATHERS IN TONE TWO**

Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

*Now sing the apolytikion of Saint George*

**KONTAKION OF PREPERATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE**

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.

**EPISTLE:**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)**

**B**RETHREN, when Christ, Who is our life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

**GOSPEL**

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (14:16-24)**

**T**HE Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

**HOLY BREAD**

**Holy Bread** is offered for the health and welfare of Beverly and Joseph Zaine, Adrianne and Robert Andrews, Christina and Jonesy Worrall (Robert Jr, Christian and Samuel), Members of the Order of St. IGNATIUS of Antioch and all Parishioners of St. George.

**In loving memory of** Soad Kandeel, Bashaar Haddad, Kheralla Haddad, Lyla and Saleem Andrews, Amelia and Elias Andrews, Marian Artzt, Joseph Worrall, deceased Members of the Order of St. IGNATIUS of Antioch and all departed Parishioners of St. George.

**COFFEE HOUR** is hosted by Members of the Order of St. Ignatius. Please join us!

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**W**ELCOME 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/christian members of the Orthodox Church who have made a recent Confession before an Orthodox priest and prepared themselves by fasting may receive Holy Communion.** We invite you to come forward after Liturgy to venerate the Cross and partake of the *Antidoron*-Holy Bread. Please **turn off your cell phones and all electronic devices.**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Please pray for Lamese McDowell, Dorina Morcan, Lisa Rudquist, Sh. Phyllis Hodge, Danny Zaine, Deborah Knooihuizen, Lisa Price, Vera, Lorraine Hartwig, Rosina Schwager, Vincent, Tim Anderson, Frank Abraham, William Baker, Michelle Apman, Ruth Nasseff, Lisa Bridges, Larry Andersen, Shula, Laura Mellow, Cordelia and Jody Copa, Nancy Maker, Paisios Sundin, Ilyas Haddad, Elliott, Anna Windsor, Elaine Acheson, Paul Kloos, Marie Ferren, Joe Dragich, Julie Laumer, Maria Golden, Letensie, Ethan Glynn, Yasmine & Samir Kakish, Kh Eileen Simon, John

N & John J Etoll, Mike & Jim Etoll, Camille Goll, Eleanor & Peter Hafiz, Jeff Toby, Gigi Daugherty, Lisa Hargrave, Mervat & Abigail Lotfalla, Genevieve, Mikhail & Nikolai Lehnen, Feryal Rahme, Tony Khoury, Mary & Alan Poulsen, Natalie Mozey, Eva & Mike Etoll, Barb & Dawn Tilbury, Steve Salla, Tracy L, Richard Lang, Taras Ostroushko, Micaela Palumbo, Dan Flies.

If you are ill or having surgery and wish to be remembered in the Liturgy and daily prayers of the priest, please contact Fr. Mangels. Please **contact Brigitte Khoury** if you would like to have someone placed on the Prayer List at [bgkstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:bgkstgeorge@gmail.com)

**BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENT PROCEDURE**  
ALL announcements in the weekly bulletin and monthly Newsletter are subject to approval by Fr. Mangels/and the Council. **Notify Brigitte by e-mail ([bgkstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:bgkstgeorge@gmail.com)) or phone with your bulletin information and Holy Bread names by NOON Wednesday** of the week before. Our **JAN-UARY NEWSLETTER deadline is Thursday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**. Please make sure any news items or photographs are sent to Brigitte for the Newsletter.

To schedule **Holy Bread offering**, contact Joan Alevizos at 651-453-1894. To host **Coffee Hour**, contact Sanaa Jubran at [sanajubran@gmail.com](mailto:sanajubran@gmail.com) or 651-245-7173. Let us be grateful for what is offered! The expense and effort that our Coffee Hour hosts donate for our period of fellowship is immense!

It is completely appropriate to offer the Memorial Service for more than one person or to share the Holy Bread on the same Sunday.

HOLY BREAD LIST		COFFEE HOUR
Dec. 24, Michaels	Memorial	Michaels
Dec. 25. Kakish	Christmas Day	
Dec. 31, open	Sunday after Nativity	
Jan. 1, open	New Year’s Day St. Basil	

**THIS WEEK AT ST. GEORGE**

Saturday, December 23, Adult Education, 10:00am  
Saturday, December 23, Vespers at 5:00pm  
<https://youtube.com/live/ErDgwGsq-yc?feature=share>  
Sunday, December 24, Orthros & Divine Liturgy Service at 9:00am  
[https://youtube.com/live/OxNGA49\\_xb0?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/OxNGA49_xb0?feature=share)  
Sunday, December 24, Vespers of Christmas Eve  
<https://youtube.com/live/WB7Xbb4xOGI?feature=share>  
Monday, December 25- Christmas Day Matins at 9:00am followed by Divine Liturgy  
[https://youtube.com/live/4jchBevXe\\_g?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/4jchBevXe_g?feature=share)

**SOYO CHRISTMAS SHOPPING**  
On Sunday, December 17, SOYO will be shopping for gifts for the “Christmas Tree Family”. Please meet Heath and Sophie in the SOYO room after Liturgy. Thank you, Heath

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS**  
If you would like to donate towards the Church Christmas decorations please mark your checks as such.

**CHRISTMAS LENT 2023**  
The **Nativity Fast** runs through December 24, it sanctifies the last part of the year and is established so that by the day of the Nativity of Christ we will purify ourselves by repentance, prayer and abstinence. As a result, we could piously meet the Son of God who came to this world and, in

addition to the usual gifts and sacrifices, bring Him a pure soul and a passionate intention to follow His commandments and teachings.

**BOOKSTORE SALES EVENT**  
Thank you to all who shopped at the Bookstore Sale event and made it a huge success. It was fun shopping for all the beautiful treasures that were brought back from the pilgrimage to Serbia visiting gorgeous centuries old monasteries, churches and convents. There are still some items left as well as the wonderful icons, jewelry, books and cards that are always available. There will be another special sale on Sunday, Dec. 17. Please come, peruse, buy and enjoy the beautiful items, you can do a lot of Christmas shopping here!  
*\*Information Meeting Sunday, January 14th "Serbia- Monasteries, Vineyards and Spas 2024" Icon Art Studios will be forming a group pilgrimage to Serbia in 2024. Please attend the informational meeting on Sunday, January 21st at 12:00 in the conference room. A group went to Serbia last fall visiting gorgeous century old monasteries, churches and convents along with enjoying wine and beautiful spa hotels. Serbia is known to be a country having natural springs of healing potential in the beauty of the landscape. Please contact Deb Korluka at [akorluka@aol.com](mailto:akorluka@aol.com) or 612-889-5868 to sign onto the pilgrimage.*

**KITCHEN AND HALL USE**  
**Please contact George Khoury for ANY & ALL kitchen or hall use!**

**GO FUND ME—PLEASE HELP**  
Bob Dralle (Annemarie Kammeyer Villareal's companion) died when he fell off a ladder cleaning his gutters. Bob was a kind and caring man and was Anne's partner and strength for the last 11 years. He was a tremendous help to her with the care of Lauretta who is still wheelchair bound. He was not just physical help, but emotional and financial help. I have started a "go fund me" account that will be given to Anne to help with expenses. Please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/anne-marie-and-lauretta> to donate. Annemarie is the granddaughter of Marie Ablan and the niece of the Etoll's. Link also on my Facebook page.<https://gofund.me/237294f5> Thank you, Mona Etoll

**SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S EVE, AND THEOPHANY  
2023-2024**

- Saturday, December 23- Regular Vespers at 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Day (Sunday before Nativity) Regular Sunday Morning Schedule, Matins at 9:00 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy
- Vespers of Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 25 – **Christmas Day** Matins at 9:00 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, December 30 Regular Vespers at 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve Day (Sunday before Theophany) Regular Sunday Morning Schedule Matins at 9:00 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy
- Monday, January 1 – New Year’s Day Divine Liturgy for St. Basil at 10:00 a.m.
- Friday, January 5, 2024—**Epiphany/Theophany** Evening Divine Liturgy at 6:30pm

**PHYLLIS HODGE**  
**Shamassy Phyllis** - For those wishing to send Shamassy Phyllis Hodge a card, she is at Good Samaritan Society, Room 208, 550 Roselawn Avenue E, Maplewood, MN 55117.

**NEIGHBOR’S INC**  
As we enter the holiday season, the need is great! Please continue to be generous.

- **MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:** - Canned/dried fruit; Plant proteins such as: dried beans, lentils, peanut butter; - Canned meats; - Cooking & baking supplies such as: flour, oil, pancake mix & syrup; - Rice & canned or instant potatoes; - Soup; - Pasta & pasta sauce; - Cereal

- NON-FOOD ITEMS: - Diapers (sizes 4 & 5); - Feminine products; - Toilet paper; - Personal care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap & shampoo; - Laundry soap

## FOCUS MN

### • FOOD SHELF UPDATE

We are in need of all types of staples including: soups, beans (black, chick peas, kidney), canned vegetables, pasta sauce, chili, spaghetti, ravioli and the like (meal-in-a-can), crackers, cookies, cereal, ramen noodles, canned meats, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, tea bags, ground coffee, hot chocolate, canned fruit, oil, condiments, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jelly, granola bars.

- Needed as well all these hygiene products: deodorant, shampoo, lotion, razors, and toothbrushes and toothpaste. All sizes are needed from travel to large bottles for big families.
- FOCUS Minnesota has an opening for an Administrative Assistant/ If you, or someone you know, might find this is a good fit, please send a resume to our director Vera Proctor at [vproctor@focusna.org](mailto:vproctor@focusna.org), or give us a call at (651) 222-0712. Your work can make a big difference to our neighbors in need.

## WINTER CAMP 2024

For 6th—12th graders from Jan 12 –15 @ Camp Courage in Maple Lake, MN (*note place change*) Cost: \$270

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/kLmKgGY1mFt9obmx5> (Deadline is Dec 30th)

Payment info: [https://venmo.com/code?user\\_id=3418849642807296613&created=1698173011.3536448&printed=1](https://venmo.com/code?user_id=3418849642807296613&created=1698173011.3536448&printed=1)

Or send a check to St. Mary's c/o Lisa Tucci 414 17th Ave

Minneapolis, MN 55413 For questions contact Matushka Lisa Tucci: 612-599-0814 or [lisatucci71@gmail.com](mailto:lisatucci71@gmail.com)

## YAL Chicago Conference

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago's annual YAL conference will be taking place this President's Day Weekend (February 16-19) in Chicago! This conference is filled with inspiring speakers, fulfilling workshops, fabulous service projects, amazing glendies and many opportunities to connect with Orthodox young adults from across the country! Registration is now open and tickets WILL sell out! Link to register: <https://www.yalchicago.com/conference-registration>

**ST. GEORGE PARISH CONNECTION COMING** -With God's blessings the Parish of St. George overcame the challenges of Covid and emerged stronger and with many NEW members. Now it's time to better acquaint ourselves with each other and in order to achieve this, we will create a simple document that will be forwarded via email to the parishioners that will have a photo of the family/individuals with their names. No other information will be included or required. **This is totally optional.** The goal is to put the name and the face of the parishioners together to make the connection easier. The completed document will be sent to you by the end of January 2024. Please send your family or individual photos to Assaad Haddad at [haddadlb@msn.com](mailto:haddadlb@msn.com) or via text message to 651-335-1776.

**WINE TASTING EVENT** This fun fellowship event is coming back to St. George Saturday, February 24, 2024. More details will follow soon. Mark your calendars.

**HERE IT IS -- THE INVITATION YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!** You are invited to clean up YOUR table, take out the trash, help wash dishes and put them away - even if you are not hosting the Coffee Hour! Men and women are welcome to help in the kitchen. A special thanks to our 70, 80 and 90 year-olds that have been helping and didn't need this special invite!

## ALTERNATE WAY TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ST GEORGE

Scan the QR code below to make contributions via Venmo. In the field that says "What's this for?", you can specify where the contribution should go (building fund, candles, flowers, memorial, etc.). If not specified, the contribution will go to the general fund.



## FESTIVAL 2024 UPDATE

Dear Friends of St. George,

Holiday greetings to you all, we pray the hope and promise of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continues to shine over humanity.

It is with great pleasure and much happiness that the initial planning stage for the 2024 St. George Middle Eastern Festival is set to begin. Without the hard work, enthusiasm, and overall commitment of everyone who participated in last summer's festival, this could not be possible. What a great testament to the parish of St. George, that after a 3-year hiatus the festival went off virtually without a single negative issue. So much so that we experienced record numbers in attendance and overall sales. All glory goes to God. The execution of putting on such an event is no easy task and needs the help and effort of many to ensure the event goes as smoothly as possible. The first thing we need to do is have our annual festival meeting. At this meeting we will look back to last summer's festival and collectively as a committee, discuss the pros and cons and determine what positives we can emphasize and what negatives we can improve. Listening and discussing as a group on how to make our festival better is of the utmost importance and will be priority number 1. It's the only way we can continue to keep this an event fun and enjoyable for all.

For all those who are interested again in joining the festival committee please join us Sunday, January 28 in the conference room after church. We will need many new people this year to step up as area leaders along with asking those who were leaders last year to again volunteer their time and expertise. The good news is there are no major changes from last year's festival and we are planning on using the 2023 blueprint for the 2024 festival. We hope you can find it in your heart to give your time once again to help your church in the event that has given us the identity around the Twin Cities as the welcoming, friendly, humble, selfless, and close church family we are, that also by the way has amazing food and camel rides. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or Fadi Bsharra at any time. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Yours in Christ,

John Khoury & Fadi Bsharra, Festival co-chairs

Date: Sunday, Jan 28, 2024

Time: After Church in Conference room



## THOUGHTS ON THE PARABLE TODAY

Pope Gregory the Dialogist has said some marvelous things about this parable in his marvelous sermon, and I must share this with you.

There are two kinds of hunger in the world. There is carnal hunger, a natural hunger. Everyone has it. These sins are all carnal type things, wanting money or wealth, indulging in the pleasures of life, or even in illicit things. Eventually, the indulging in carnal pleasures leads to satiety, and even revulsion. A man who gorges himself with food will eventually pull away from the table, and will not want food for a long time. It is the same, really, with any other kind of pleasure. We get tired of it. We have enough of it.

Spiritual hunger is much different than this. It takes a longer time to develop a palate for spiritual things. The sweetness of the Lord is so sweet, that He is too sweet for us, until we have lived the Christian life for a period of time, and struggles, and then He becomes so sweet that all we want to do is taste of Him. In the beginning, this food appears bland, or even unpalatable to us. We must learn to continually strive to taste of the Lord, to taste of spiritual things, even though they might not appear to us to be so pleasurable compared to the enticements of the world, the flesh pots of Egypt, shall we say. If we do this, surely the Lord will enlighten us, and He will become sweet to us, and we will want nothing else beside the Lord.

Men barter carnal things over and over for their salvation. An honest man realizes that he does this too, even if only on a small scale.

So I tell you again, the clarion bell has sounded, the final preparation for the Nativity. We must make ready. We must consider within ourselves – do we have a field, or a yoke of oxen, or a wife that we are paying more attention to than the Lord?

I speak in spiritual terms of course. If we are, is it endangering us, to turn down His invitation? I tell you, these people, who said they did not want to come to the supper did not even know what they were turning down. They were too taken with what they were doing at the moment. They did not know that they were rejecting our Lord permanently.



Sunday, December 17, 2023  
Sunday of Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ