

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

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*

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost & Tenth Sunday of Luke

Martyrs Menas, Eugephos & Hermogenes of Alexandria

TONE 2

EOTHINON 5

Commemorations: Venerable Thomas Dephourkinos of Bithynia

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLITIKION IN TONE 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SS. MENAS, EUGRAPHOS & HERMOGENES IN TONE 8

Since they had slain through their abstinence and struggles * the fiery ragings and fierce motions of the passions, * the staunch Martyrs of Christ God laid hold on the graces * to drive off the pains and illnesses of the sick * and work wonders both while living and after death. * Strange indeed is the miracle: * that these bare bones should pour forth * such overflowing streams of cures. * Glory be to our only God.

Now sing the apolytikion of Saint George

KONTAKION OF PREPERATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE 3

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:

The Lord is my strength and my song.
With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (6:10-17)

BRETHREN, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

AT that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

HOLY BREAD

Holy Bread is offered for the health and welfare of the Rudquist, Price, Sicora, O'Brien, Kanavati and Sikaffy families and all Parishioners of St. George.

In loving memory of John Ashton Price IV, Fr. Essa and Kh. Olimpia Kanavati, Fr. Duane Peder-son, Fr. Daniel Simon, Leonard Soroka, Mercedes Sikaffy and all departed Parishioners of St. George.

MEMORIAL

There will be a Memorial Service today for the repose of the souls of Very Rev. Essa Kanaavati and for John Ashton Price IV. May their memory be eternal.

COFFEE HOUR will be the Christmas play/Potluck Luncheon! Please join the fun and merriment!

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/christ-mated members of the Orthodox Church who have made a recent Confession before an Or-thodox 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for 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

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) or phone with your bulletin information and Holy Bread names by **NOON Wednesday** of the week before. Our **JANUARY NEWSLETTER deadline is Thursday, Dec. 21st**. 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 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. 17, Worrall	Order of St. Ignatius
Dec. 24, Michaels	
Dec. 25, Kakish	
Dec. 31, open	
Jan. 1, open	
	Memorial
	Christmas Day
	Sunday after Nativity
	New Year’s Day St. Basil

THIS WEEK AT ST. GEORGE

Saturday, December 16, Adult Education, 10:00am
Saturday, December 16, Vespers at 5:00pm
Sunday, December 17, Orthros & Divine Liturgy Service at <https://youtube.com/live/TmlsxxgOkF7w?feature=share>

CHURCH SCHOOL NATIVITY FESTIVITIES Annual Christmas Program

Church School is busy learning and preparing for the Nativity season with a **holiday food drive** that supports Focus MN and Neighbors Inc as well as with a **Christmas Program** scheduled for Sunday, **Dec. 10th** for the entire parish community to enjoy. Thanks all, for your support and participation! The Coffee Hour that day will be a pot-luck-dinner. Please bring something to 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

THANK YOU

To the “Gracious Garden Lady” for the wonderful and welcoming arrangements provided all year long to beautify the Church entryway and grounds during the Festival!

THINK ABOUT IT: We are preparing to celebrate Christmas; there is **No Christmas without Christ** and there is **No Christmas without Mass! Put Christ and Mass back into ChristMass!**

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 have some items left as well as the wonderful icons, jewelry, books and cards that are normally 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 11:00 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 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

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

- For volunteer opportunities at FOCUS MN, go to <https://www.focusmn.org/get-involved> or call (651) 222-0712

- **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

- **MEN'S SHOES**

We are always in need of men's shoes, All sizes.

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. We recommend brands such as Suave or VO5 and encourage you to shop at discount stores such as the Dollar Store.

Lastly, we are so very thankful for each and everyone of you and your efforts to support those in need on Rice Street in St. Paul. - Vera and Judy

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

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

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>

THE CHURCH FATHERS SPEAK—Beware! At the dreadful Judgment you will be asked to give an account of what you have done with the words of God, whether you have listened to them and kept them, whether you have rejoiced in them or been ashamed of them. If you have been ashamed of them, then the Lord will also be ashamed of you when He comes in the glory of His Father together with the Holy Angels (Mark 8:38). *St. Justin Popovich*

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

CONCERNING TODAY'S GOSPEL

The hypocrisy of the ruler of the synagogue.

But envy and spiritual wickedness cast a pall over the joyful atmosphere. The ruler of the synagogue was indignant because the Lord hadn't observed the Sabbath as a day of rest. The soul of the ruler of the synagogue was at that moment in thrall to envy, and this impelled him to act in a thoroughly odious way. He wanted to attack Christ, but didn't have the gall to openly express what was in his soul. So he thought he would use the shadow of the law to mask his unlawful conduct.

The Lord answered the challenge immediately, however, calling the reaction of the ruler of the synagogue hypocrisy and expressing his love for people: 'You hypocrites! Should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?'

As we've already said, the ruler of the synagogue cowered behind the commandments of God's law. But this isn't the only time that disagreeable people have used the Law and the Gospel in order to further their dubious ambitions and satisfy their secular desires. Egotists use the word of God to promote themselves, and people in the Church who are obstreperous misinterpret it. In fact, there are times when, in order to hide their egotism and willfulness, these people quote words from the Holy Scriptures and Fathers, which they apply circumstantially. In this way, instead of actually conforming to God's commandments people hide behind them and use them to conceal their personal antipathies. This is how heresies arise, as well as other individual theories and teachings which vex the Church of Christ. When the heart isn't pure, it can't interpret the divine word in a proper manner. Because only a clean heart can present the word in a genuine and pure way. It's only such a heart that can receive and understand it.

Self-knowledge, humility and love

What we have to know is that Christ isn't interested so much in what we do, as much as in the reasons why we do it. Most often, our hostility towards and envy of other people, particularly in the name of Christ, is a pious way of establishing our own authority, and is the result of a lack of self-awareness and real love. When we have self-awareness, we acquire real humility. 'Solicitousness for others follows humility', writes Saint Isaac the Syrian. When humility isn't followed by solicitousness for others, it's mere pretense.

The mind of the Law

This is why we should all pursue the cleansing of our heart and should rely on our godly Fathers, who became vessels of the Most Holy Spirit and were enlightened by the Holy Trinity. With this illumination from the Comforter, they interpreted the word of God and Holy Scripture. In this way, we will be taught that we are the ones who can prevent our brothers and sisters from destroying themselves and that we can assist in their transfiguration, by living in the spirit of the law, or, as Saint Athanasios puts it, in the mind of the law.

May the Triune God illumine us so that we can interpret his law in a proper manner and can discover the essence of our faith.



Sunday, December 10, 2023
Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost & Tenth Sunday of Luke