

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, January 7, 2024

Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist John

Commemorations: New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; Venerable Brannock of Braunton

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLITIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE TWO

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us the Great Mercy.

Now sing the apolytikion of Saint George

KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY IN TONE FOUR,

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (thrice)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Have put on Christ. Alleluia. Dynamis!

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

EPISTLE:

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.

O God, hear my prayer.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (19:1-8)

IN those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the Kingdom of God.

GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:29-34)

AT that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, 'After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me.' I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

HOLY BREAD

Holy Bread is offered for the health and welfare of the Ladies of St. George, the Clergy and Choir and all Parishioners of St. George.

In loving memory of all the departed members of the Ladies of St. George and all departed Parishioners of St. George.

COFFEE HOUR is offered by the Ladies. Please join us for this period 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/christ-mated 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.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please pray for John & Sandra, Angela Nygard, Dorina Morcan, Lisa Rudquist, Sh. Phyllis Hodge, Danny Zaine, Deborah Knooihuizen, Lisa Price, 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, Barb & Dawn Tilbury, Steve Salla, Tracy L, Richard Lang.

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 **FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER deadline is Thursday, January 18, 2024**. 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.

| HOLY BREAD LIST | | COFFEE HOUR |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Jan. 14, | | |
| Jan. 21, | | |
| Jan. 28, | | |
| Feb. 4, | | |
| Feb. 11, J. Alevizos | Memorial (McDowell) | Alevizos |
| Feb. 18, | | |
| Feb. 25, | | |

THIS WEEK AT ST. GEORGE

- Adult education class January 13, 2024 at 10:00am
- Saturday, January 13, 2024 Vespers at 5:00pm
<https://youtube.com/live/zzjJE7joQXU?feature=share>
- Sunday, January 14, Orthros & Divine Liturgy Service at 9:00am
<https://youtube.com/live/IVIx0WESOa4?feature=share>

CANDLE STAND: *Attention Parents!*

With all due respect! We all know why we light candles in the back of the Church, but most of the kids do not. THIS IS A TEACHABLE MOMENT.

The Parents or Adults should be keeping an eye on the children who want to participate, making sure they don't burn their hands. Also, explain why we light the candles and that the SANDBOX is not for playing. We imprint the Cross in the center, to remind people the solemnity of this practice.

Profound and Sincere Thanks!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your generous, kind and thoughtful gifts at this holy time of the year. I am humbled by the outpouring of love from our parishioners as well as the organizations of this Parish. It is a joy and honor to serve you and again, I am so grateful for your thinking of me. I ask God's richest blessings on you and your families as we enter a new year.

Sincerely ours in Christ,
Father John A. Mangels, pastor

LADIES LUNCHEON

The Ladies Annual Christmas/Holiday Luncheon will be on **Saturday, January 13, 2024 at NOON**. It will be in the Church Hall like last year! Please use sign-up sheet located in Hall. Deadline for signing up is **TODAY Sunday, January 7!** Please join the Ladies for a fun afternoon!

MEN'S CLUB FUN NIGHT

Men's Club get-together night **Friday, January 12, 2024 at 6PM**. We will have food and a short meeting, then play some games. Please, come join us and if you have a favorite game, bring it.

KITCHEN AND HALL USE

Please contact George Khoury for ANY & ALL kitchen or hall use!

SPRING PILGRIMAGE INFORMATION

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 at 12:00, noon, 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.

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.

ORTHODOX GAME LEAGUE NIGHT

Come on Saturday, January 20, 2024 to St. Mary's OCA in Mpls. For a night of fun, games and to meet new friends and greet old ones. Bring a "Munchie or Dessert" to share! Check out flyer on bulletin board!

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>

From the Hoy Fathers: They had beheld with admiration the incomparable beauty of John's mode of life: the splendor of his conduct; the unparalleled and surpassing excellence of his piety. For so great and admirable was he, that even the Jewish populace began to conjecture whether he were not himself the Christ, Whom the law had described to them in shadows, and the holy prophets had before proclaimed. Inasmuch therefore as some ventured on this conjecture, he at once cuts away their surmise, declining as a servant the honors due to the Master, and transferring the glory to Him Who transcends all, even to Christ. For he knew that He is faithful unto those that serve Him. And what he acknowledges is in very deed the truth: for between God and man the distance is immeasurable. "Ye yourselves, there, he says, bear me witness that I said I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him." But where shall we find the holy Baptist thus speaking? In the Gospel of John, who has thus spoken concerning him; "And this is the testimony of John when the scribes and Pharisees at Jerusalem sent to ask him whether he were the Christ. And he confessed, and denied not, and said, that I am not the Christ, but am he that is sent before Him. Great therefore and admirable in very deed is the forerunner, who was the dawning before the Savior's meridian splendor, the precursor of the spiritual daylight, beautiful as the morning star, and called of God the Father a torch. *St. Cyril of Alexandria*

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, is the 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 or via text message to 651-335-1776.

WINE TASTING EVENT

Please mark your calendars for February 24, 2024 and join us for an entertaining evening! This fun adult fellowship event is coming back to St. George in time to treat your "valentine" to a special evening on Saturday, February 24, 2024.

Our own wine connoisseur, Youssef Haddad will guide you in savoring wine from different countries of the globe. You will identify their flavors, learn about the history of the wines and enjoy pairing delicious appetizers with the wine selections.

Ticket price per person is \$50. Tickets can be purchased from George Khoury. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sunday, February 18, 2024 in order to plan accordingly. For any questions please contact Assaad Haddad or George Khoury.

CALENDARS & OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2024 Liturgical Calendars and Offering Envelopes are in and available for pick up. We want to thank Deb Korluka and the Icon Studio for sponsoring the Calendars again this year. This is a great gift to the parishioners of St. George!

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 Sunday, January 28

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 Bshara at any time.

Yours in Christ, John Khoury & Fadi Bshara, Festival co-chairs

The Synaxis of St. John

SAINTE JOHN, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism.

St. John was the son of the Prophet Zacharias and Elizabeth, who was a cousin of the Virgin Mary. St. John is known as the "Forerunner" and "Baptist." He is known as the Forerunner because he preceded Christ and taught repentance, which prepared men for Jesus' teaching and His ministry. He even recognized Christ as the Messiah as early as when they were both still in their mothers' wombs. According to Holy Tradition, the Virgin Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and when they embraced John leapt in his mother's womb, which is considered his first acknowledgment of Christ as Messiah.

After his birth, St. John's father Zacharias was murdered in the temple. He and his mother fled to the desert and he was raised there. Thus he lived as an ascetic from the earliest part of his life. He ate plants and roots and wore rough clothing. When he grew, he baptized people in the Jordan, teaching repentance, but also saying that someone greater would come after him and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people.

At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, Saint John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome.

The body of Saint John the Baptist was buried in the Samaritan city of Sebaste. The holy Evangelist Luke, who went preaching Christ in various cities and towns, came to Sebaste, where they gave him the right hand of the holy Prophet John, the very hand with which he had baptized the Savior. The Evangelist Luke took it with him to his native city of Antioch.

When the Moslems seized Antioch centuries later, a deacon named Job brought the holy hand of the Forerunner from Antioch to Chalcedon. From there, on the eve of the Theophany of the Lord, it was transferred to Constantinople (956) and kept thereafter.

In the year 1200, the Russian pilgrim Dobrynya, who later became Saint Anthony, Archbishop of Novgorod (February 10), saw the right hand of the Forerunner in the imperial palace. From the Lives of the Saints, we learn that in the year 1263, during the capture of Constantinople by the Crusaders, the emperor Baldwin gave one bone from the wrist of Saint John the Baptist to Ottonus de Cichon, who then gave it to a Cistercian abbey in France.

The right hand continued to be kept in Constantinople. And at the end of the fourteenth to the beginning of the fifteenth centuries, the holy relic was seen at Constantinople in the Peribleptos monastery by the Russian pilgrims Stephen of Novgorod, the deacon Ignatius, the cantor Alexander and the deacon Zosimus. When Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453, sacred objects were gathered up at the conqueror's orders and kept under lock in the imperial treasury.

In the Lives of the Saints is clear testimony that in the year 1484 the right hand of the holy Forerunner was given away by the son of the Moslem sultan Bayazet to the knights of Rhodes to gain their good will, since a dangerous rival for Bayazet, his own brother, had allied himself with them. A contemporary participant, the vice-chancellor of Rhodes, Wilhelm Gaorsan Gallo, also speaks of this event. The knights of Rhodes, having established their base on the island of Malta (in the Mediterranean Sea), then transferred the sacred relic they had received to Malta.

When the Russian Tsar Paul I (1796-1801) became Grand Master of the Maltese Order in honor of the holy Prophet John, the right hand of the Baptist, part of the Life-Creating Cross and the Philermos Icon (October 12) of the Mother of God (from Mt Philermos on the island of Rhodes) were transferred in 1799 from the island of Malta to Russia [because of the Napoleonic threat], to the chapel at Gatchina (October 12). In the same year these sacred items were transferred into the church dedicated to the Icon of the Savior Not Made by Hands at the Winter Palace. A special service was composed for this Feast.



Sunday, January 07, 2024
Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist John