

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 31, 2023

Sunday Before The Theophany of Christ,

the Apodosis (Leave-Taking) of the Nativity of Christ

TONE 5

EOTHINON 8

Commemorations: Venerable Melania the Younger of Rome

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLITIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY 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 there from 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.

APOLYTIKION OF THE SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY IN TONE TWO

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

Now sing the apolytikion of Saint George

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.

EPISTLE:

All those on earth worship Thee and sing unto Thee: Alleluia to God, O all the earth.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:5-8)

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (1:1-8)

THE BEGINNING of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send My messenger before Thy face, who shall prepare Thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

HOLY BREAD

Holy Bread is offered for the health and welfare of Nusrallah, Sanaa, Rami, Deanna, Prince, Jerrius & Katie Jubran, Rana, Dane & Annika Gallagher, all members of the Jubran/Bisharat families and all Parishioners of St. George.

In loving memory of all the departed members of the Jubran/Bisharat families, the recent Nadia and Anton and all departed Parishioners of St. George.

COFFEE HOUR is open to everyone. Please join us! New Year Blessings to all!

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 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 Dorina Morcan, Lisa Rudquist, Sh. Phyllis Hodge, Danny Zaine, Deborah Knooi-huizen, 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. 1, open	New Year’s Day	St. Basil
Jan 5, open	Epiphany/Theophany	
Jan 7, Ladies		Ladies
Jan. 14, open		
Jan. 21, open		
Jan. 28, open		

THIS WEEK AT ST. GEORGE

- 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
- No adult education class January 6, 2024
- Saturday, January 6, 2024 Vespers at 5:00pm
- Sunday, January 7, Orthros & Divine Liturgy Service at 9:00am
- <https://youtube.com/live/R1rAFdb7CeE?feature=share>

MEMORY ETERNAL

On Friday, December 29, we received the sad news that our dear sister in Christ LAMESE MCDOWELL, life-long parishioner of St. George Parish was found unresponsive by her caregiver. She was beloved by many of our parishioners and a wonderful, active member of this parish all of her life **The Funeral** will be here at St. George on Tuesday, January 2 at 11:00am with a **Visitation** at 10am. **The Mercy Meal** will follow immediately and **burial** will take place at Oakland Cemetery at 1:30pm. Senaa Jubran is in charge of the Mercy Meal. Please contact here for more information and to help. Memory Eternal!

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

CONGRATULATIONS! MABROOK!
Last Saturday we welcomed little Annika Mary Gallagher into our holy fellowship through the Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Communion. Congratulations to her and her parents Dane and Rana Gallagher and Godparents!

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 Sunday, January 7! Please join the Ladies for a fun afternoon!

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.

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

THE CHURCH FATHERS SPEAK—Nor does this JESUS bear his Name as a vain and empty image, as other men have done in time past; in him it is not the shadow of a great name, but the truth. The Evangelist bears witness that this Name was truly given him from heaven, Which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. See the depth of meaning in this saying. After JESUS was born, he was called JESUS by men, but he was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. In fact, he is the Saviour of both angel and man; but of man since the Incarnation, of the angel since the beginning of creation.
Lord JESUS, Son of God, have mercy upon me

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, 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

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

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>

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.

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.



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!

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.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!

Yours in Christ,

John Khoury & Fadi Bshara, Festival co-chairs

THE CHURCH FATHERS SPEAK—The tribes of Judah and Levi were united by a fusion of their lines of descent, and that is why Matthew assigns Christ's family to the tribe of Judah. And the Apostle says, 'for our Lord has sprung out of Judah' (Heb. 7:14). Thus, from the tribe of Levi may be counted a heritage that is priestly and filled with holiness, while from the tribe of Judah - to which David and Solomon and the rest of the kings belonged - there shines forth the splendor of a royal descent. And so, by the testimony of the Scriptures, Christ is shown to be at once both king and priest. —*St. Ambrose of Milan*

SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY

IN ORDER TO BEGIN his work, Christ prepares the ground with the preaching of St. John the Baptist. Without preparation, nothing that ought to happen is able to happen, in anything. The same occurs even with the work of Christ. St. John the Forerunner comes and urges men to prepare themselves, because the kingdom of God is approaching: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”. He calls them to **repentance**, and in this way prepares them to receive Christ the Saviour, to listen to his word, and to believe it.

If even for the work of Christ certain preparation is needed, how much more is needed for the spiritual **work** in our own souls? Many Christians seek to spiritually build up their souls, but do this without **preparation**. They prefer things a bit casual and superficial. And because of this they become tired and are not benefitted.

The hour in which you stand in the presence of God – either to pray or to confess or whatever else – you need to prepare yourself a little: you can read or listen to something, so as to warm, to sweeten, your soul and for you to be humbled a bit, to see yourself, to see your sin, and to repent. Then, you will talk to God differently, will communicate with him differently. God will hear you, differently. So why do we flee this preparation? Because it grieves the old man that we carry around within us. However, if we seriously consider this theme, the road of authentic life in Christ will open.



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Sunday Before The Theophany of Christ, which Falls on the Apodosis
(Leave-taking) of the Nativity of Christ