

:: St. Augustine of Hippo ::
Excerpt from *Homilies on the Gospels*, no. 87

Acknowledge yourself feeble, acknowledge yourself man, acknowledge yourself a sinner; acknowledge that it is He that justifies, acknowledge that you are full of stains. Let the stain of your heart appear in your confession, and you shall belong to Christ's flock. For the confession of sins invites the physician's healing; as in sickness, he that says, "I am well," seeks not the physician. Did not the Pharisee and the Publican go up to the temple? The one boasted of his sound estate, the other showed his wounds to the Physician. For the Pharisee said, "I thank You, O God, that I am not as this publican." He gloried over the other. So then if that publican had been whole, the Pharisee would have grudged it him; for that he would not have had any one over whom to extol himself. In what state then had he come, who had this envious spirit? Surely he was not whole; and whereas he called himself whole, he went not down cured.

But the other casting his eyes down to the ground, and not daring to lift them up unto heaven, smote his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner." And what says the Lord? "Verily I say unto you, that the publican went down from the temple justified rather than the Pharisee. For every one that exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted." They then who exalt themselves, would go up into the sheepfold by another way; but they who humble themselves, enter in by the Door into the sheepfold. Therefore said He of the one "he enters in," of the other, "he goes up." He that goes up, you see, who seeks exaltation, does not enter in, but falls. Whereas he that abases himself, that he may enter in by the Door, falls not, but is the shepherd.



Any announcements for the Sunday bulletin? Please submit by Wednesday each week to Fr. Andrew, by email or phone.



St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley

211 E. Minnesota St., Spring Valley, IL 61362
Church Office: (815) 664-4540
www.stgeorgeorthodox.org

Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler
frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org
773-575-3272 (cell)

February 9, 2014 – Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Leave-Taking of the Presentation of the Lord

Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch; Hieromartyrs Markellos, bishop of Sicily, Pankratios, bishop of Taormina, Philagrios, bishop of Cyprus; and Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk

Orthros Morning Prayers, 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

TODAY: Memorial for Paul, husband of Dee Khoury
NEXT SUNDAY: Holy Bread and Coffee Hour offered by Sally Favia and family

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8):

O Compassionate One, Thou didst descend from the heights; Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our life and our resurrection, O Lord: Glory to Thee!

Troparion for the Presentation of the Lord (Tone 1):

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace; for from thee arose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, enlightening those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous old man, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, who granteth us resurrection.

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Metropolitan PHILIP, primate
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
www.antiochian.org

Troparion for St. George the Great-Martyr (Tone 4):

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and succour of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among martyrs, the victory-clad George: Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion for the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1):

Thou, O Christ God, who by Thy birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms and didst also come to save us. Preserve Thy fold in wars and confirm them whom Thou dost love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

Epistle Reading for the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (3:10-15)

Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings; and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading for the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, consult the calendar on our website, www.stgeorgeorthodox.org.

Note that there is no fasting on Wednesday and Friday this week. Why is this? In today's Gospel reading, the Pharisee brags that he fasts "twice a week." So that we do not become like the Pharisee, so that we may be humble in our Christian discipline, the Church asks us to break the fast this week! Regular Wednesday and Friday fasting resumes next week.

Next **Sunday, February 16**, we will have a brief **Church Council meeting** after Liturgy. All council members and officers should plan to attend.

Saturday, February 22, is the Saturday of Souls, and so we will have Divine Liturgy that morning at 10:00 am to remember all of our parishioners, family members, friends, and loved ones who have passed on. All of the names of the departed on your lists will be read at that service. (If you need to update your family's prayer list, this would be a good time to do it!)

Children's Sunday School Resumes! Sunday, March 2, at 9:15am, we will kick off with a month of lessons pertaining to the Parish Life Conference theme verse (Luke 10:27) and begin working on Creative Arts Festival entries, to be submitted at the end of the month. For the present, we will have classes for children ages 3 through Grade 5. Older youth are welcome to attend as helpers. Younger children are also welcome with a parent to guide them. All other parents are free to attend Matins.

Great Lent begins this year on **Sunday, March 2**, at sundown.

Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-Orthodox Vespers will take place Sunday evening, March 9, at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines, IL. Our own Bishop Anthony of the Diocese of Toledo will be the homilist.

A note on home blessings: The Orthodox Church recommends that each home be blessed by a priest with prayer and Holy Water each year. As soon as my family gets settled into our new home in Spring Valley, it will be my great joy to visit all of you, spend time with your families, and bless your homes with the blessing of the Jordan River. More information and a sign-up sheet will be available in the coming weeks. Nothing elaborate is required on your part, and even a meal is not necessary. Feel free to ask if you have any questions.
