

**:: Metropolitan PHILIP on goals and priorities ::**

What better goals can we strive for than those goals already set for us by our Lord and Master Himself? “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything else will be added unto you.” When a man came to Jesus asking Him, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Our Lord answered in simple words, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and your neighbor as yourself.”

These goals are not easy to attain by any means. For to seek the Kingdom of God in the midst of all these worldly and demonic kingdoms, is very difficult, and to love God and neighbor in a world so indifferent to God and neighbor, is most difficult indeed. We may reach the farthest planet in this cosmos, but if we don't have love, we are nothing. Author Emmet Fox wrote, “There is no difficulty that enough love will not conquer, no disease that enough love will not heal, no door that enough love will not open, no gulf that enough love will not bridge, no wall that enough love will not throw down, no sin that enough love will not redeem. If only you could love enough, you would be the happiest and most powerful being in the world.”

*~from a talk in Los Angeles, 1972*

**:: Metropolitan PHILIP's Paschal Meditation, 1971 ::**

Lord, every time I gaze at your crucifix, I tremble with fear and ask myself: ‘Why did you love me so much?’ I should be hanging there in your stead. I rebelled against you in paradise. I murdered my brother in the field. I betrayed you in Gethsemane. And when they crucified you, I was the leader of the gang. ...

Lord, beyond the innocence of Bethlehem, the tears of Gethsemane, and the agony of Calvary, there is the joy of the new wine, the brightness of the new dawn, the hope of the new creation and the eternal reality of the empty tomb. “O Death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory?”

---

*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](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org)

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

### Sunday, March 23, 2014 – Veneration of the Holy Cross Morning Prayer and Children's Sunday School, 9:00 am Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

**Holy Bread and Coffee Hour:** Khouria Kathryn Buss, in memory of Fr. Gregory  
**Epistle Reader:** Dottie Malooley  
**Collection:** Patrice Nimee and Carol Bachio  
*Next Week: Coffee Hour is OPEN*

---

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6):**

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.

**Troparion of the Holy Cross (Tone 1):**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

**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.

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](http://www.antiochian.org)

### **Kontakion for the Theotokos (Tone 8):**

To thee, the Champion Leader, I thy city ascribe thank-offerings of victory! For thou hast delivered me from terrors, O Theotokos; but as thou hast that power which is invincible, from all dangers set me free, that I may cry out unto thee: 'Hail, O Bride, without bridegroom!'

---

### **Epistle Reading for the Third Sunday of Lent**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him Who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee"; as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

### **Gospel Reading for the Third Sunday of Lent**

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

## **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

*For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, consult the calendar on our website, [www.stgeorgeorthodox.org](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org). All extra services for Lent and Holy Week are now posted!*

It was one year ago, on March 19, 2013, that our beloved **Fr. Gregory Buss** passed from this life into the eternal Kingdom of God. Exactly one year later, this past Wednesday, we lost our Chief Shepherd and Master, **His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP**. Metropolitan PHILIP had been the head of the Antiochian Archdiocese since 1966, and oversaw its growth from around 50 churches to just under 300 today. It's no exaggeration to say that Sayedna PHILIP was perhaps the greatest leader and pastor the North American Orthodox Church has been blessed to have. And never forget that it was Sayedna PHILIP who referred to our own church here in Spring Valley as "the mouse that roars"! He will be missed. May his memory be eternal!

### **Lenten Services this week (March 24-29):**

- Tuesday, March 25, 10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation
- NO SERVICES on Wednesday this week
- Friday, March 28, 6:00 PM: Akathist to the Theotokos (Part 4)

### **Holy Week: Saturday, April 12 to Sunday, April 20**

A schedule of Holy Week services is available downstairs by the food tables. Pascha vigil will begin at 10pm, Saturday, April 19, and we will have a short Paschal Agape service Sunday, April 20 at noon, followed by an Easter Egg hunt in the church yard for all the children!

### **Children's Sunday School continues**

Each Sunday, bring your children to Sunday School at 9:15 am! No registration is necessary. During the month of March, we will focus on 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 and teens are encouraged to attend as helpers. Younger children are also welcome with a parent to guide them. See Khouria Patty if you have any questions.

### **2014 Parish Life Conference**

We encourage all of you to consider attending the 2014 Parish Life Conference! It will take place in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, June 25 - 29 (just 3 months away!). See the conference website <http://www.midwestplc2014.com> for information on how to register.

---