

**:: Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev ::
On Prayer, Part XI: Prayer for our Neighbors**

We should pray not only for ourselves, but also for our neighbors. Every morning and every evening, as well as when we are in church, we should remember our relatives, family, friends, enemies, and offer prayer to God for them all. This is very important, because people are bound together by indissoluble bonds and often the prayer of one person for another saves the other from great danger.

In the Life of St. Gregory the Theologian there is the following incident. When he was still a young man and unbaptized, he crossed the Mediterranean by ship. A heavy storm suddenly began, which lasted for many days, and no one had any hope of rescue; the ship was almost flooded. Gregory prayed to God and, during his prayer, saw his mother, who was then on the shore but who, as it later turned out, felt the danger and fervently prayed for her son. The ship, contrary to all expectations, reached the shore safely. Gregory always remembered that his deliverance came about as a result of his mother's prayers.

Someone might say: "Well, that's just another story from the lives of the ancient saints. Why don't similar things happen today?" I can assure you that they do happen today. I know many people who were saved from death or great danger by the prayers of their loved ones. And in my own life there have been many cases when I was saved from danger by the prayers of my mother or other people, such as my parishioners.

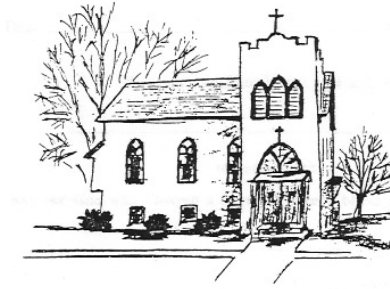
I was once in a car accident and one might say that I stayed alive miraculously, because the car fell off a precipice and rolled over several times. Nothing remained of the car, but the driver and I were left safe and sound. This took place early in the morning, around five. When I returned to the church in which I was serving that same evening, I found several parishioners who had woken up at half past four in the morning and, sensing danger, had begun to pray for me. Their first question was: "Batuishka, what happened to you?" I think that it was by their prayer that the driver and I were saved from disaster.

We should pray for our neighbors not because God does not know how to save them, but because He wants us to participate in one another's salvation. Of course, He Himself knows what everyone needs: both what we need, and what our neighbors need. When we pray for our neighbors, it does not at all mean that we want to be more merciful than God. What it does mean is that we want to participate in their salvation. And in prayer we should not forget about the people with whom life has brought us together, and that they also pray for us. Each of us, laying down to sleep, should say to God: "Lord, through the prayers of all those who love me, save me!"

Let us remember the living connection between our neighbors and us, and let us always remember one another in prayer.

Source: www.pravmir.com

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



St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley

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Sunday, August 10, 2014 – Sunday after the Transfiguration **Matins (Morning Prayer), 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM**

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8):

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and 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 of the Transfiguration (Tone 7):

When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.

Troparion of 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 of the Transfiguration (Tone 7):

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God. So that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the bright splendor of the Father.

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

*Make vows to the Lord thy God and perform them.
In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (3:9-17)

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (14:22-34)



At that time, Jesus made the Disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the Disciples' boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is Thee, bid me come to Thee on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw

the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly, Thou art the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Camp St. George in Cedar Rapids, IA begins today!

We are blessed to have four campers this year: Michael Harshman, Rebecca Harshman, Maggie Kishler, and Keeley Thompson. They will be departing TODAY immediately after Liturgy. Pray for them this week and wish them well!

Upcoming events and services:

- The **Dormition Fast** continues through August 14, and it is traditional to abstain from meat during this time. Please observe the fast as you are able. See Fr. Andrew if any questions.
- **This Thursday, Aug. 14:** Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Mother of God, 6:00 PM. *This is the most important feast day of the Theotokos. Please consider setting this time aside for our Mother!*
- **Saturday, Aug. 16:** Paraklesis to the Mother of God, 5:00 PM
- **Saturday, Aug. 30:** Crowning of Matthew and Nan McNatt, at 1:30 PM in honor of their 5th wedding anniversary. All are invited!
- **Sunday, Sept. 7:** Chrismation of Bridget Rose Kishler immediately after the Liturgy.

Children and Youth

- St. George's Church school program will resume Sunday, Sept. 14 at 9:15 AM (immediately before Liturgy). Please see Khouria Patty if you have any questions.
- All of our teenagers are invited to attend a back-to-school overnight retreat at St. George Church in Cicero, Friday Sept. 19 and Saturday, Sept. 20. Our good friend Archdeacon Saed Rihani is in charge of the event and would be excited to have any of our teens participating!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

A number of you have requested this and now it's here! Starting Wednesday, Sept. 10, all are welcome to gather at the church at 6:00 PM for Evening Prayers and an informal discussion on the Bible and our Orthodox Faith. All adults and teens are welcome and encouraged to attend!