

**:: Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev ::
On Prayer, Part XIV: Family Prayer**

Until now we have spoken primarily about personal, individual prayer. Now I would like to say a few words about prayer in the family circle.

The majority of our contemporaries live in such a way that family members gather fairly rarely, at best twice a day: in the morning for breakfast and in the evening for dinner. During the day, parents are at work, children at school, and only preschoolers and pensioners remain at home. It is very important that, in the daily routine, there be some moments when everyone can gather together for prayer. If a family gathers for dinner, then why not pray for a few minutes together beforehand? One can also read prayers and a selection from the Gospel afterwards.

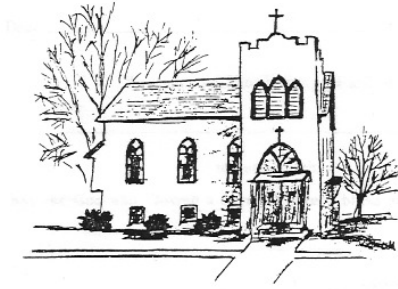
Common prayer strengthens the family, because family life can only be truly full and happy when its members are joined not only by family ties, but also by spiritual kinship and a common understanding and outlook. Common prayer, moreover, has beneficial effects on every member of the family, and is particularly helpful for children.

In Soviet times it was forbidden to raise children in a religious spirit. This was motivated by the fact that children were to grow up first, and only later to make an independent choice about whether to go the religious way. There was a deep lie within this argument, because before one can have the opportunity to choose, one must have learned something. And the best age for learning is, of course, childhood. It is very difficult for someone who has learned to live without prayer from childhood to learn to pray. Someone who has been raised from childhood in a prayerful, blessed spirit, who from his earliest years knows about the existence of God and how one can always turn to God, even if he later departs from the Church, will still preserve somewhere in the deep recesses of his soul the skills of prayer and the religious charge obtained in childhood. It often happens that people who have departed from the Church return to God at some stage in their life because in childhood they had become accustomed to prayer.

There is another point. Today in many families there are relatives of the older generation, grandmothers and grandfathers, who were raised in a non-religious environment. Even twenty or thirty years ago one could say that the Church was a place for “grandmas.” Now it is grandmothers who represent the very most irreligious generation, having been brought up in the thirties and forties, in the era of “militant atheism.” It is very important that older people find their way to church. It is not too late for anyone to turn to God, but those young people who already know this path should tactfully, gradually, but consistently engage their older relatives in the orbit of the spiritual life. Through daily family prayer one can do this particularly well.

Source: www.pravmir.com

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

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Sunday, August 31, 2014 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost **Matins (Morning Prayer), 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM**

Today's Saints: Gennadius, Patriarch of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage; John, Metropolitan of Kiev; Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3):

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

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 Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4):

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

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

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (9:1-7)

Brethren, even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lamp stand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to Him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Upcoming events and services:

- **Saturday, Sept. 6:** Vespers, 5:00 PM.
- **Next Sunday, Sept. 7, Nativity of the Holy Theotokos:** Chrismation of Bridget Rose Kishler immediately after the Liturgy. We will have a **potluck meal** afterwards.
- **Sunday, Sept. 14, Holy Cross Day:** Church school resumes (see note below) and the procession with the Holy Cross will take place at the end of Liturgy.
- **Sunday, Sept. 21:** Join us for a Fish Fry, at the church after 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!

Kitchen Clean-Up

It seems that the same few ladies are often stuck cleaning up the entire kitchen and the fellowship hall every week. This should not be! Let us *all* help pitch in, and clean up after coffee hour each Sunday, out of love for Christ and our church community. This job should not be left to a select few.
