

:: St. Brigid (or Brigid) of Ireland ::

Commemorated on February 1

St. Brigid, “the Mary of the Gael,” was born around 450 in Faughart, about two miles from Dundalk, in County Louth, Ireland. According to tradition, her father was a pagan named Dubthach, and her mother was Brocessa, one of his slaves.

As a child, Brigid was known for her compassion for the poor. She would give away food, clothing, and even her father’s possessions. One day, her father took Brigid to the king’s court, leaving her outside to wait for him. He asked the king to buy his daughter, since her excessive generosity made her too expensive to keep. The king asked to see the girl, so Dubthach led him outside. They were just in time to see her give away her father’s sword to a beggar. This sword had earlier been presented to Dubthach by the king. Seeing her actions, the king exclaimed, “I cannot buy a girl who holds us so cheap!”

St. Brigid received monastic tonsure at the hands of St. Mael of Ardagh. Soon after this, she established a monastery on land given to her by the King of Leinster. The land was called Cill Dara (Kildare), or “the church of the oak.” This was the beginning of women’s cenobitic monasticism in Ireland.

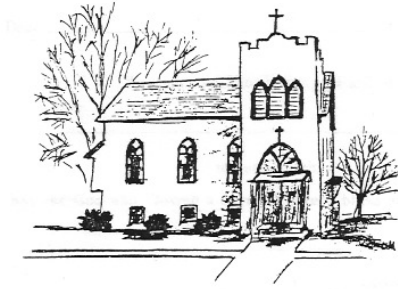
The miracles performed by St. Brigid are too numerous to relate, so only one will be given. One evening, the holy abbess was sitting with a blind nun named Dara. From sunset to sunrise, they spoke of the joys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and of the love of Christ, losing all track of time. St. Brigid was struck by the beauty of the earth and sky in the morning light. Realizing that Sister Dara was unable to appreciate this beauty, she became very sad. Then she prayed and made the Sign of the Cross over Dara’s eyes. All at once, the blind nun’s eyes were opened and she saw the sun in the east, and the trees and flowers sparkled with dew. She looked for a while, then turned to St. Brigid and said, “Close my eyes again, dear Mother, for when the world is visible to the eyes, then God is seen less clearly by the soul.” St. Brigid prayed again, and Dara became blind once more.

St. Brigid fell asleep in the Lord in 523 after receiving Holy Communion from St. Ninnidh of Inismacsaint. She was buried at Kildare, but her relics were transferred to Downpatrick during the Viking invasions. It is believed that she was buried in the same grave with St. Patrick and St. Columba of Iona.

The tradition of making St Brigid’s crosses from rushes and hanging them in the home is still followed in Ireland, where devotion to her is strong. She is also venerated in northern Italy, France, and Wales.

Source: www.oca.org

Any announcements for the Sunday bulletin? Please submit by Wednesday each week to Fr. Andrew, by email or phone. If you are not on the church’s email list and would like to be, please let Fr. Andrew know.



**St. George Orthodox Church
of Spring Valley**

211 E. Minnesota St., Spring Valley, IL 61362
www.stgeorgeorthodox.org
815-664-4540 (church office)

Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler
frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org
773-575-3272 (cell)
815-663-8701 (home)

Sunday, September 7, 2014 – Nativity of the Theotokos

Matins (Morning Prayer), 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Today’s Holy Bread: Beverly Malooley and family

Next Week: Kerry and Leona Kelly

Immediately following the Liturgy, we will celebrate the Chrismation of **Bridget Rose Kishler**. (Read all about her patron saint, Bridget of Ireland, on the back page.)

Welcome to all of our guests who are here today! Join us afterwards for a meal downstairs.

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4):

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion for the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4):

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

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.

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

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 nourishes our life.



O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For, God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

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:

- **This Wednesday, September 10:** Evening Prayers and Bible Study, beginning at 6:00 PM. *A number of you have asked for this and now it's here. The first topic will be how to read and understand the Bible as Orthodox Christians; we'll start "in the beginning" with Genesis and continue with a general overview. Come with your questions!*
- **Saturday, Sept. 13:** Vespers at 5:00 PM
- **Next 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, hosted by the Malooley family, 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). We will continue our lessons on each Sunday's Gospel to open our children's minds and hearts to the readings of Holy Scripture during 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! See Fr. Andrew if interested.

Bake Sale

Our annual bake sale is just a month away, **Saturday, October 11**. The Ladies of St. George will begin the baking tomorrow evening, Sept. 8, at 6:00 PM. A full schedule for the baking is available downstairs on the food table. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and a great opportunity to introduce the community to our church and to the Orthodox faith! All ladies (and men too) are encouraged to help out, even if you cannot attend all of the baking evenings. See Dottie Malooley if any questions.
