

:: Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev ::

On Prayer, Part XXVI: "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"

How lightly we speak these words! And how very rarely do we recognize that our will might not coincide with God's will. After all, sometimes God sends us suffering, but we turn out to be incapable of accepting it as sent by God, and we murmur indignantly. How often do people, coming up to a priest, say: "I cannot agree with such-and-such; I understand that it's God's will, but I cannot come to terms with it." What can one say to such a person? One isn't about to say that, apparently, when saying the Lord's Prayer he needs to replace the words "Thy will be done" with "My will be done"!

Each of us needs to struggle so that our will would correspond with God's good will. We say: "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." That is, God's will, which is already accomplished in Heaven, in the spiritual world, should also be accomplished here, on earth – and above all in our own lives. And we should be ready to follow God's voice in everything. One needs to find the strength within oneself to deny one's own will for the sake of fulfilling God's will. Often, when praying, we ask for something from God, but do not receive it. And then it seems to us that our prayer has not been heard. We need to find the strength within ourselves to accept this "refusal" on God's part as His will.

Recall Christ who, on the eve of His death, prayed to His Father saying: *O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me*. But the cup did not pass, which means that the answer to His prayer was different: Jesus Christ was to drink this cup of suffering, affliction, and death. Knowing this, He said to the Father: *nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt* (Matthew 26:39-42).

Such should be our relationship to God's will, too. If we feel that some affliction is coming our way and that we will have to drink from a cup for which we might not have the strength, we can say: "Lord, if it is possible, take this cup of sorrow from me, let it pass from me." But, like Christ, we should conclude our prayer with the words: "But not my will, but Thine be done."

We need to relate to God with confidence. Children often ask their parents for something that the latter don't give them because they consider it to be dangerous. Years go by, and one understands just how right one's parents were. So it is with us. Time passes, and we suddenly understand just how much more beneficial what the Lord sent us was than what we had wanted to get according to our own will.

Source: www.prawmir.com

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

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November 23, 2014 – Sunday after the Entrance of the Theotokos

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

Children's Sunday School, 9:15 AM (downstairs)

Today's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: Mary Majerus

Next Week: George and Lynette Forsa

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 7):

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy.

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

Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying, Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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 for the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone 4):

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

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

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (12:16-21)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Some thoughts for the Advent season....

"You look into a mirror so that you may know what is in your face, whether there are any blemishes in it, and having seen blemishes, you cleanse them. Let the immaculate life of Christ be a mirror to your soul. Does it desire the same things that Christ desires? And does it do what Christ did when He lived on earth? And in it you will see what is contrary to the life of Christ, and you will cleanse it all like blemishes with repentance and contrition of heart."

~ St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

"Incorruptible King of all ages, holding in your hand every path of human life through the power of Your saving Providence. We thank You for all the good things You do, those we know and those we do not know, for earthly life and for the heavenly joy of Your Kingdom to come. Hold us in Your mercy, now and ever, we who sing: Glory to You, O God, unto ages of ages."

~ Thanksgiving prayer, from the Akathist of Thanksgiving

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:

- **Wednesday, Nov. 26:** Akathist of Thanksgiving, 6:00 PM
- No Saturday Vespers this week
- **Next Sunday, Nov. 30: Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle.** Matins, 9:00 AM; Sunday School, 9:15 AM (downstairs); Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Parish Council

Next Sunday, November 30, we will have a parish council meeting after Divine Liturgy.

The Ladies of St. George

At the Nov. 16 meeting, the members voted to give \$200 to Project Success, our local food pantry, as an Advent project. All ladies of the church are asked to give something towards this; see Dee Khoury if any questions. One check will be sent from the Ladies of St. George for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, given to area families in need. **If you wish to donate, make your check payable to "Ladies of St. George," with "Advent Project" in the memo line.** Your support is appreciated!

Thank you also to all the men and women who helped with our recent Fall Bake Sale. A huge success: \$6,210.48! This is higher than last year, and we could not have done it without your helping hands and support!

The Season of Advent

Our Orthodox Advent began Nov. 15. The purpose of this season is to prepare our souls and bodies for the celebration of Christmas. As much as you are able, please do not neglect the traditional disciplines of fasting (at least from meat), prayer (a good time to begin attending our Wednesday or Saturday night services!) and almsgiving. All coffee hour food during that time should be meatless. Please see Fr. Andrew if you have any questions.

Coffee Hour Schedule

The new Holy Bread and Coffee Hour schedule for 2015 is available. Please look over the names already listed on it and sign up for any additional weeks as your family desires. Signing up for a week entails a donation for the Holy Bread, and providing the food for coffee hour. On your week, please also make sure you provide Father with an updated list of family prayer requests (living and deceased). **Also know that you are welcome to submit names and prayer requests to Fr. Andrew at any time for inclusion in the Liturgy.**