

**:: 2014 Nativity Pastoral Message of His Eminence JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America ::**

*“Come, O God-inspired faithful, arise and behold the descent of God from on high! He manifests Himself to us in Bethlehem. Let us cleanse our minds and offer Him a life of virtue instead of myrrh. Let us prepare with faith to celebrate His Nativity, storing up spiritual treasure and crying out: Glory in the highest to God in Trinity! His good pleasure is now revealed to men. In his love for mankind He sets Adam free from the ancestral curse.” (Idiomelon for the Sixth Hour of the Nativity)*

We greet you with joy as we draw near to the glorious feast of the Nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ!

The beautiful hymn above embodies the true spirit of Christmas as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. God comes down to us from on high, and chooses to be born as a babe in the most humble of settings, the cave in Bethlehem. We strive to respond to this outpouring of love from God by cleansing our minds from all carnal thoughts and passions. Whereas the Kings of the East offered Him myrrh, our appropriate offering is a life of virtue, free from all of the sinfulness that would separate us from our God.

We convey our most heartfelt love to you as we stand on the threshold of this joyous feast and we ask our loving God to bless you and grant to you a most joyous, healthful and spiritually rewarding celebration of His birth.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

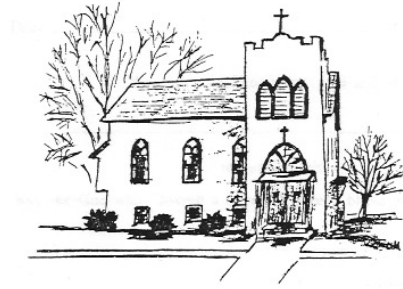
Yours in Christ,

+ JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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*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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### December 28, 2014 – Sunday after the Nativity King David, St. Joseph, and St. James

Matins (Morning Prayer), 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM  
Today's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: OPEN  
Next Sunday: George and Lynette Forsa

**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 of the Nativity (Tone 4):** Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn there from to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Troparion of St. Joseph (Tone 2):** Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

**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 (Tone 3):**

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

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### **Scripture Readings**

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

#### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)**

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel, which was preached by me, is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:13-23)**

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

### **Announcements and Upcoming Events**

*For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, [www.stgeorgeorthodox.org](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org).*

#### **Upcoming Events and Services:**

- **New Years Eve (Dec. 31):** Divine Liturgy at 6:00 PM. *In addition to the New Year, this is the feast of Christ's Circumcision and Naming, and St. Basil the Great. We will also commemorate St. Seraphim of Sarov at this service, an important saint in the history of St. George Church!*
- **Next Sunday, Jan. 4:** Blessing of the Holy Water at the end of the Liturgy. *Fr. Andrew will begin blessing homes at this time.*
- **Monday, Jan. 5:** Divine Liturgy for the Theophany of our Lord, 6:00 PM
- **Sunday, Jan. 18:** January Parish Council meeting
- **Sunday, Jan. 25:** St. George Church Annual Meeting and Sausage Breakfast. *Please mark your calendars! All members of our church should make every effort to attend.*

#### **Next Sunday - Blessing of the Holy Water**

Next Sunday, January 4, Father Andrew will bless the Holy Water at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please pour out your old Holy Water on plants or on the ground, and bring your bottles to be refilled. ALSO, feel free to begin contacting Father to schedule your home blessing!

#### **Coffee Hour Schedule**

The Holy Bread and Coffee Hour schedule for 2015 is downstairs. 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.**

#### **Raffle Tickets**

Our friend Sally Favia of Apple Vacations has graciously donated to our church a trip for 2, three nights all-inclusive vacation at the Iberostar Paraiso Del Mar in Riviera Maya, Mexico. George Forsa is overseeing the sale of raffle tickets for \$10 each. **Most of them have been sold, but we have about 45 more. Please see George if you are willing to sell any of these additional tickets on behalf of the church.** The trip may be taken anytime between May 1 and Oct. 5, 2015, and we are asking all the tickets are sold by January 15 and the drawing will take place at our annual meeting, January 25.