

**:: 14 New Year's Resolutions for Orthodox Christians ::**

*Part 4, by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick*

*Around this time of year, many people start thinking about ways they can change for the better. While New Year's resolutions are not particularly a feature of the Orthodox faith, change certainly is, and resolving to change based on times and seasons is certainly part of our liturgical tradition. So adapting the cultural custom of New Year's resolutions to become a better Orthodox Christian seems perfectly fine to me. Anyway, here are some suggestions for Orthodox Christians resolving to change for the better in the New Year, things every Orthodox Christian can do.*

**8. Invite someone to church.**

Did you know that 82% of the unchurched say that they would come if invited? Did you know that only 2% of church members invite someone to church in a given year? ...

Do you really believe that you've found the true faith, seen the true light and received the heavenly Spirit, like you sing near the end of the Liturgy?

Then why are you keeping it to yourself? Think of at least one person you know who isn't in church. Make him or her a spiritual priority this year. Pray every day for that person. And when the time is right, give the invitation. Statistically speaking, they are probably going to say yes.

And when you make the invitation, don't say, "You should come to church with me sometime." "Sometime" is no time. Say, "We're celebrating the Divine Liturgy this Sunday at 10am at my church. Can I pick you up and bring you with me?"

**9. Visit a monastery.**

You won't believe how amazing monastic visits are until you go on one. There are few things that underline for us how much is really possible in the Christian life like visiting people who are actually making a go at being 24/7/365 Christians.

And don't you think that people who practice prayer that much might know a thing or two about it? Monasteries aren't just for monks and nuns. They're for all Christians. They are not only spiritual havens but also spiritual powerhouses. And don't just visit once and say you did it. Develop a relationship.

And maybe if you're really blessed, one of your kids will join a monastery and pray for you a whole lot. I hope one of mine does.

*~ Read the entire article at <http://blogs.ancientfaith.com/roadsfromemmaus>*

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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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**Sunday, January 25, 2015 – Sunday of Zacchaeus**

**St. Gregory the Theologian**

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

**Today: Sausage breakfast and Annual Meeting, immediately following Liturgy**

**Next Sunday's holy bread and coffee hour: Dee Khoury (Memorial for Paul)**

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8):** O compassionate One, Thou didst descend from the heights. 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 St. Gregory (Tone 1):** The pastoral psalter of thy discourse in theology triumphed over the trumpets of orators and overcame it; for having sought the depth of the Spirit, there was also vouchsafed to thee excellence of speech, O Father Gregory. Wherefore, intercede 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.

**Kontakion for the Presentation (Tone 1):** Thou, O Christ God, who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

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](http://www.antiochian.org)

## Epistle and Gospel Readings at the Divine Liturgy

My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.  
Hear this, all ye people.

### The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (7:26-8:2)

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a High Priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

### The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

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### St. George Church Cash Flow for December 2014

Income: \$7780.15  
Expenses: \$5490.66

*Thank you for your faithful support of the church. Please see our treasurer, Anyisia Medawar, if you have any questions about our finances.*

## 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:

- **Home blessings** continue this week. See note below.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 28:** Evening Prayer and Bible Study. *We will begin a new series this week on the themes of Lent and Holy Week.*
- **Saturday, Jan. 31:** Vespers, 6:00 PM. *Please note the new time!*
- **Next Sunday, Feb. 1: Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican.** Matins at 9 AM, Sunday school at 9:15, and Liturgy at 10 AM
- **Monday, Feb. 2: Presentation of Christ in the Temple.** Divine Liturgy at 10 AM

**From Fr. Andrew and Kh. Patty: A big THANK YOU for all of your Christmas cards, greetings and generous gifts!** We are blessed to be a part of the St. George community. May God grant all of you his abundant blessings in the new year!

**Today is our church's Annual Meeting.** Every member of our church community should make every effort to attend. We will discuss and approve our 2015 budget and also elect new council members. Thank you to Ron and Dottie Malooley, who have graciously offered to sponsor a sausage breakfast for us this morning after the service.

**Tis the season for home blessings:** The Orthodox Church recommends that each home be blessed by a priest with prayer and Holy Water each year. It will be my great joy to visit all of you, spend time with your families, and bless your homes with the blessing of the Jordan River. Nothing elaborate is required on your part, and even a meal is not necessary. **Please make contact with Father at your convenience and arrange for a date and time.**

**Summer Conventions.** It seems early with snow still on the ground, but mark your calendars: Our **Diocesan Parish Life Conference** will be held in Grand Rapids, MI, June 24-28 this year, and the national Archdiocese Convention is July 20-28 in Boston.

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*"As a fish cannot swim without water, and as a bird cannot fly without air, so a Christian cannot advance a single step without Christ."*

*~St. Gregory the Theologian*