

:: On the Fast of the Holy Apostles ::

The Fast of the Holy Apostles begins TOMORROW (the Monday after All Saints Day) and ends on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, June 29. It is customary for all Orthodox Christians to avoid eating meat and dairy products during this time (as we are able).

We fast during this season, as I see it, for two reasons:

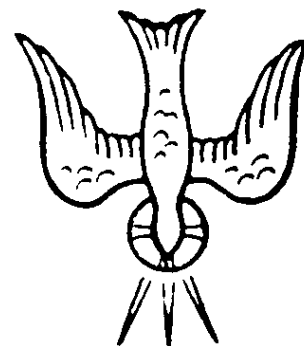
First, the Apostles endured many hardships and persecutions as they journeyed around the known world, teaching all people about Jesus Christ. We fast in remembrance of their sufferings and out of gratitude for their work. St. Symeon of Thessalonica explains: "The Fast of the Apostles is justly established in their [Sts. Peter and Paul] honor, for through them we have received numerous benefits and for us they are exemplars and teachers of the fast ... For one week after the descent of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution composed by Clement, we celebrate, and then during the following week, we fast in honor of the Apostles."

Second, we fast and pray that many in our own day would come to know the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the treasury of blessings that is the Orthodox Church. We want our church to grow, but even more importantly, we want those around us to come to know the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God.

Allow me to recommend to you the following prayer, to be offered to our Lord daily between now and June 29:

“Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful Savior of the world, we humbly beseech You, by the prayers of your Holy Apostles, that all the sheep who stray out of Your fold may be converted back to You, the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls. May all who do not know You come to experience Your friendship and forgiveness. Help us also to see Your truth more clearly, for You are the way and the truth and the life. Unto You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.”

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, June 7, 2015 – The Feast of All Saints First Sunday after Pentecost

Matins: 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM

Epistle Reader: Matthew Rowan

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Mitch Kaleel and family

Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: John and Melanie Thompson

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8):

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and 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 All Saints (Tone 4):

Thy Church, O Christ God, hath regaled herself in the blood of Thy martyrs throughout the entire world, as in porphyry and purple. Through them she lifts her voice, crying: Turn with Thy compassion toward Thy people, and grant peace to Thy city, and to our souls 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.

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 All Saints (Tone 8):

As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering unto Thee, O Lord. Through their earnest entreaties, keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquility, through the pure Theotokos, O Thou who art greatly merciful.

The Epistle and Gospel Readings

God is wonderful among His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:33-12:2)

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30)

The Lord said to His disciples, “Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father Who is in heaven; but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father Who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.” Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed Thee. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the New World, when the Son of Man shall sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name’s sake, will receive a hundred fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”

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, June 13:** Vespers, 6pm
- **Next Sunday, June 14:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: John and Melanie Thompson; Epistle Reader: Mike Kasap
- **Saturday, June 20:** Baptism of Andrew Ivan Rowan, 12pm

Congratulations to John and Melanie Thompson on their adoption of baby **Ryker James**. May God grant all of them many years!

Thank you to Mark and Janet Kerasotes for their generous donation of a new smart TV to our church.

Leona and Kaitlyn Kelley would like to thank all who donated food items to the pantry. Your generosity is appreciated!

Summer Conventions. 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. **If you are planning to go to Grand Rapids this month, please make sure you have made your hotel reservations! See Fr. Andrew or Ron Malooley if you have any questions.**

Congratulations to our 2015 graduates:

- **Tyler Thompson** (son of John and Melanie), from Bradley University in Peoria
- **Daya Desai** (granddaughter of Richard and Bette Malooley), from Dryfoos High School in Florida
- **Georgia Kapetaneas** (daughter of Leo and Christina), as valedictorian of her Eighth Grade class at Holy Family Catholic School in Oglesby
- **Devin Soldati** (grandson of Richard and Bette Malooley), from Eighth Grade at Peru Catholic School

Anyone else graduating in 2015? Please get the information to Fr. Andrew for inclusion in next week's bulletin.