

**:: Who We Are To Become; Who We Can Be ::**  
**By Archpriest Steven Rogers – Word Magazine, June 1999**

There are perhaps no two men more greatly revered yet so seemingly different than Saints Peter and Paul. ...

Their power and end were the same, and yet when we first meet them in scripture, they are so seemingly different. There is Peter, the fisherman, simple and uneducated. There is Paul (then Saul), the Pharisee, brilliant and educated, learned in Jewish, Greek and Roman thought. There is Peter, emotional and impulsive, often speaking and acting hastily but always remorseful. There is Paul, seemingly cold and calculating, a powerful and even ruthless intellect, able to persecute and kill without remorse. ...

Yes, these men were vastly different. But they had one thing in common — one thing that transcended their differences and made them one. That one thing was a personal encounter with the Son of God.

Peter encountered Christ and was raised up from his humble beginnings to a man of power. Paul encountered Christ and was lowered from his lofty position to a man of godly humility. Both gave up what they were, to become what God desired them to be. And through them the whole world was changed.

Oftentimes, we look at ourselves with our limitations and inadequacies and feel we have nothing to offer to God. We shy away from serving His Church because we feel we have no skills or gifts to offer. We see others with all their gifts, and we back away thinking there is nothing within us that God can use.

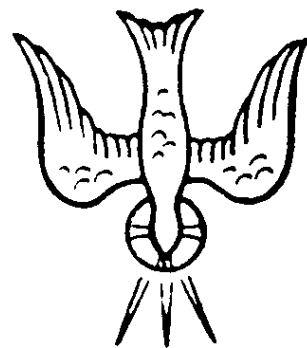
Seen together, Saints Peter and Paul teach us a great lesson — that no matter who we are — no matter our backgrounds, our talents, our station in life — if we offer who we are completely to God, He will make us who we are supposed to be. If we offer ourselves completely to God — both our abilities and our limitations — He can and will use us to the glory of His kingdom. If we offer ourselves completely, whether we are a simple fisherman or a towering intellectual, the world will see God within us.

God created us who we are and He came into the world to make us all we can be. Peter continued to be Peter and Paul continued to be Paul, but it was Christ within them that made them into all that God desired them to be.

And so it is with us. If we offer ourselves to God with all our strengths and weaknesses, He will use us to the glory of his Kingdom. As we, the Church of Antioch, gather together to celebrate the feast of our beloved Apostles Peter and Paul, ... let us commit ourselves to give all that we are to God as they did, so that like them, we may radiate the love of God into a cold and unbelieving world.

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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

211 E. Minnesota St., Spring Valley, IL 61362  
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Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler  
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### Sunday, June 21, 2015 – The Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

**Epistle Reader:** Mark Kerasotes

**Holy Bread/Coffee Hour:** George and Lynette Forsa

**Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour:** OPEN

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**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2):**

When Thou, O Immortal Life, didst humble Thyself unto death, then didst thou destroy death by the brightness of Thy Godhead. And when Thou didst raise the bowels of the earth, then all the heavenly powers exclaimed: 'O Christ, Thou art the Giver of Life! Glory to Thee, O our God!'

**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 of the Theotokos (Tone 2):**

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

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 Epistle and Gospel Readings

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me sorely.

### The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (5:1-11)

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received our reconciliation.

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (6:22-33)

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

## 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:

- **The Apostles' Fast** continues through June 28. This is one of the four fasting seasons of the year, so if you are able, please refrain from meat.
- **This week, Tuesday, June 23 to Saturday, June 27:** Midwest Diocese Parish Life Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. (See note below.)
- NO SERVICES Wednesday or Saturday this week at St. George, but we will have Matins and Divine Liturgy next Sunday, June 28.
- **Next Sunday, June 28:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: OPEN; Epistle Reader: Kenneth Wiltse

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**Camp St. George** in Cedar Rapids, IA will take place August 9-15 this year! Camp is for all children and teens ages 9 to 17, and the total cost is \$330 for the week. Camp applications are due June 30. See Fr. Andrew if you are interested or have any questions.

**Congratulations to Matt and Olly Rowan**, on the baptism of their son Andrew Ivan yesterday! May God bless him and grant him many years.

**The Midwest Parish Life Conference** is this week, and Fr. Andrew and his family will travel to Grand Rapids, MI to attend. If any pastoral emergencies do arise, please call my cell phone or send me an email or text message. I may not be immediately available, but I'll do my best to respond as soon as possible.

**Sermons and Feast Day videos are now online!** On the front page of our website, you will now have access to videos of the sermons from here at St. George Church. Go to [www.stgeorgeorthodox.org](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org), scroll down to the bottom, and click on the video window to view the latest sermon. Also, if you place your cursor over "About our Parish," and click "Feast Days," you will be able to view a video of our entire Easter service. Thank you to Mark Kerasotes and Matthew McNatt for making this possible!

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