

**:: Synaxarion reading for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul ::**

**Today in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy, glorious, all-laudable and foremost of the Apostles, Peter and Paul.**

Together, they are the patrons and protectors of the Patriarchate of Antioch. Peter was the first of the disciples to clearly express faith in the Lord Jesus saying: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16). When the Lord was brought to trial, Peter denied Him three times but Peter repented of this shame. When Peter answered Jesus three times that he loved Him, (John 21:15-17) this covered the three denials. After the descent of the Holy Spirit, Peter powerfully preached the gospel, healed the sick and resurrected the dead, even from his shadow. Seeing his cross before him, Peter begged his executioners to crucify him upside down, for he considered himself unworthy to die as did his Lord.

Paul was born as Saul in Tarsus of the tribe of Benjamin. He studied under Gamaliel, was a Pharisee and a persecutor of Christianity. He was miraculously converted to the Christian Faith by the Lord Himself Who appeared to him on the road to Damascus. The Lord asked, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?” (Acts 9:4). Saul was blinded, but regained his sight when he was baptized by the Apostle Ananias. Then, with a fiery zeal, Paul preached the Gospel everywhere from the borders of Arabia to Spain, among the Jews and Gentiles. As horrible as his sufferings were, so much more was his superhuman patience. Paul attained such a degree of perfection he could say: “It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me” (Gal. 2:20).

Church tradition teaches that Paul was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Emperor Nero at the same time as Peter’s crucifixion in 64 A.D. Thus these great servants of the Great Lord reposed and received the wreath of eternal glory.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. 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

211 E. Minnesota St., Spring Valley, IL 61362

[www.stgeorgeorthodox.org](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org)

815-664-4540 (church office)

Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler

[frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org](mailto:frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org)

773-575-3272 (cell)

**Sunday, June 28, 2015 – Holy Apostles Peter  
and Paul**

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

**Epistle Reader: Kenneth Wiltse**

**Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: OPEN**

**Next Week’s Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Matt and Olly Rowan**

---

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3):**

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the great mercy.

**Troparion of Sts. Peter and Paul (Tone 4):**

O foremost in the ranks of Apostles, and teachers of the world, Peter and Paul, intercede with the Master of all to grant safety to the world, 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](http://www.antiochian.org)

### **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.

---

### **The Epistle and Gospel Readings**

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands all ye peoples.

#### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (6:18-23)**

Brethren, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For, the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (16:13-19)**

At that time, when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His Disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in Heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven."

### **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** ends today, June 28 with the celebration of the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.
  - **No services on Wednesday or Saturday this week.** Enjoy the fireworks and Independence Day!
  - **Next Sunday, July 5:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Matt and Olly Rowan. Epistle Reader: George Forsa
- 

**May his memory be eternal.** Sam Abraham, longtime member of St. George Church, passed away peacefully in his sleep this past Monday. Our sincere condolences to his wife Judy and his entire family.

**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.

**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!

---

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (St. Paul the Apostle, Philippians 4)

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and become partakers of the divine nature." (St. Peter the Apostle, 2 Peter 1)