

**:: Response to Obergefell vs. Hodges ::**

**The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America**

*In response to the Supreme Court's recent attempt at a redefinition of marriage, all of our Orthodox bishops in the USA have spoken clearly, concisely, and with a united voice on this matter. This is not the first time our Church has been at odds with the law of the land, and I'm sure it will not be the last. Our own Bishop ANTHONY has requested that this statement appear in all church bulletins across the diocese.*

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“The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America strongly disagrees with the United States Supreme Court decision of June 26, Obergefell v. Hodges, in which the Court invents a constitutional right for two members of the same sex to marry, and imposes upon all States the responsibility to license and recognize such “marriages.”

“The Supreme Court, in the narrowest majority possible, has overstepped its purview by essentially re-defining marriage itself. It has attempted to settle a polarizing social and moral question through legislative fiat. It is immoral and unjust for our government to establish in law a “right” for two members of the same sex to wed. Such legislation harms society and especially threatens children who, where possible, deserve the loving care of both a father and a mother.

“As Orthodox Christian bishops, charged by our Savior Jesus Christ to shepherd His flock, we will continue to uphold and proclaim the teaching of our Lord that marriage, from its inception, is the lifelong sacramental union of a man and a woman. We call upon all Orthodox Christians in our nation to remain firm in their Orthodox faith, and to renew their deep reverence for and commitment to marriage as taught by the Church. We also call upon our nation's civic leaders to respect the law of Almighty God and uphold the deeply-rooted beliefs of millions of Americans.”

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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, July 5, 2015 – Fifth Sunday of Matthew  
St. Athanasius of Mt. Athos**

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

**Epistle Reader:** George Forsa

**Holy Bread/Coffee Hour:** Matt and Olly Rowan

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

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**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 for St. Athanasius of Athos (Tone 3):**

The Angels' ranks were awed by thy life in the flesh, how, though corporeal, and clad with earthly clay, thou didst set forth with courage to invisible wars and wrestlings and didst boldly smite the hordes of the demons with mortal wounds. Wherefore, Christ rewarded thee with abundant gifts in return. Entreat Him that our souls find salvation, O most renowned Father Athanasius.

**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.

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

How magnified art Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom Thou hast made them all.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

#### **The reading from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans (10:1-10)**

Brethren, my heart's desire and my supplication to God is for Israel, that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the fulfillment of the Law for righteousness, to everyone who believes.

For Moses describes the righteousness that is from the Law, that "the one who does those things shall live by them." But of the righteousness that is from faith, he says thus: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who shall ascend into heaven?' (That is, to bring Christ down) or, 'Who shall descend into the abyss?' (That is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)" But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart," that is, the word of faith which we preach; because if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart there is the belief to righteousness, and with the mouth, the confession to salvation.

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (8:28-9:1)**

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

### **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:**

- No services on Wednesday evenings for the rest of July. We will resume Wednesday evening prayer in August.
- **Saturday, July 11:** Vespers at 6pm
- **Next Sunday, July 12:** Baptism, 9:30am (*see below*) and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: OPEN. Epistle Reader: David Anderson.
- **Sunday, July 19:** Parish Council meeting, after Liturgy

**We are pleased to announce the baptisms of Jordan and Gianna Neven, children of Jeff and Marsha and grandchildren of Ron and Dottie Malooley.** The baptisms will take place next Sunday, July 12, before the Liturgy at 9:30 am, so please come a little early to participate in this blessed event.

**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 were due June 30**, but there may still be space. 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!

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"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion . . . Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." ~ *John Adams, speech to the military in 1798*

"The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts." ~ *John Jay, 1st Chief Justice of the Supreme Court*

"Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom. As nations become corrupt and vicious, they have more need of masters." ~ *Benjamin Franklin*