

:: Take up and Read! (Part 1) ::

By Fr. John Breck

courtesy of www.oca.org

Orthodox Christians have always known theirs to be a “biblical Church.” The Bible play a key role in virtually every aspect of our life, from personal meditation to the public Liturgy and mission outreach.

Yet it is true that we more often venerate the Bible than read it. We hear it in church, we encourage our children to peruse and even memorize select passages, and we bow before and kiss it when it is processed at Matins. We would immediately miss its countless quotations if they were extracted from our services of worship, and we would be scandalized if someone casually tossed it onto the floor. Yet in many ways we treat it more as an icon than as a book, more as a sacred object than as a living Word.

St. Augustine heard a child’s voice summon him to “Take up and read!” He obeyed, took up Holy Scripture, and became a devoted disciple of Jesus Christ. That same voice speaks to each of us, calling us to take up the Word of God and to read.

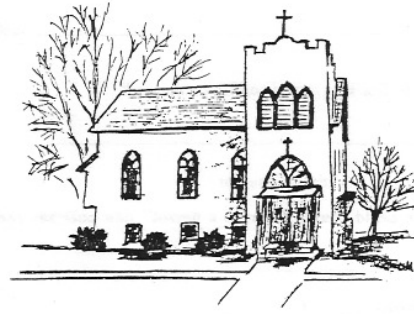
Scripture is not like a newspaper or a novel that we scan for information or entertainment. It is an inexhaustible wellspring of wisdom and illumination that both reveals God to us and enables us to commune with Him. Therefore we need to ask just how we are to read His Word.

The Holy Fathers prescribe for us a certain approach to Scripture, one which is neither a method nor a “technique.” It is a “vision” (theôria), a perception of God’s presence and activity in history and in our personal life. That vision includes certain convictions about the nature of Scripture and its place within God’s work of salvation. Here are perhaps the most important of those convictions.

First, the entire Bible is “inspired” by the Holy Spirit. Although it is written in human language, with human limitations, it is God’s Word in the sense that the biblical authors were guided in their writing to convey all that is necessary for us to “know” God and to enter into eternal communion with Him.

...To be continued next week.

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 12, 2015 – Sixth Sunday of Matthew **St. Veronica, the Woman with the Issue of Blood**

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

Epistle Reader: David Anderson

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: OPEN

Next Week’s Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Richard and Bette Malooley

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5):

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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

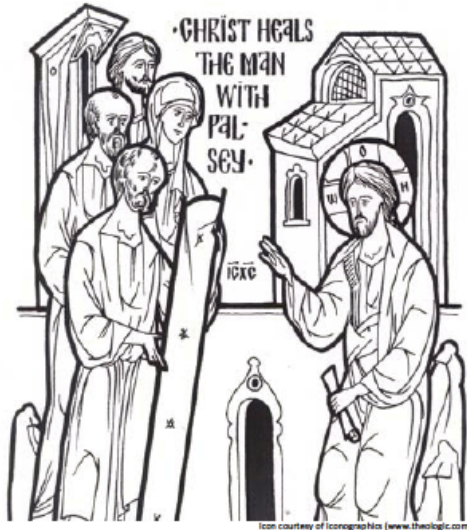
Thou, O Lord, wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation.
Save me, O Lord, for the Godly man hath disappeared.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: for prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

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

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.



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:

- No services on Wednesday evenings for the rest of July. We will resume Wednesday evening prayer in August.
- **Saturday, July 18:** Vespers at 6pm
- **Next Sunday, July 19:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Richard and Bette Malooley. Epistle Reader: Matthew McNatt.
- **Also next Sunday:** Parish Council meeting, after Liturgy

Today: Baptism of Jordan and Gianna Neven, children of Jeff and Marsha and grandchildren of Ron and Dottie Malooley. May God grant all of them and their entire family many blessings on this joyous day!

Happy Anniversary to George and Mona Kaleel, who celebrate their 58th year together this week. May God continue to bless them and grant them many more years!

Camp St. George in Cedar Rapids, IA will take place August 9-15. 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, 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!
