

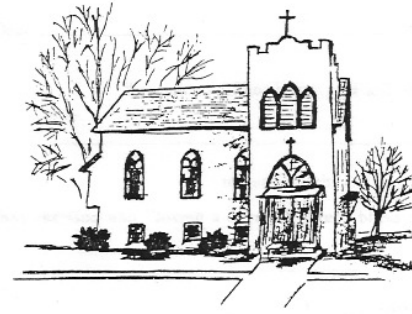
:: Address to the 52nd Antiochian Archdiocese Convention ::
By His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph
Excerpt from www.antiochian.org

[St. Paul] reminds us, in the most powerful terms possible, of our struggle to run the race which is set before us with faith and endurance (Hebrews 12). But it also reminds us that we cannot run this race on our own, but rather we look to the power of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, the "author and finisher of our faith" to be the force by which all things are possible. This is expressed so beautifully by St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians when he teaches "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

Among the "great cloud of witnesses" stand those men who have preceded me as the leaders of this God-protected Archdiocese, most notably our Father among the Saints Raphael of Brooklyn, Metropolitan Antony Bashir, and Metropolitan Philip Saliba, all of thrice blessed memory. As you know, our Father in Christ Patriarch John X has declared this year to be the official Jubilee year commemorating the 100th anniversary of the repose of St. Raphael of Brooklyn. We acknowledge with gratitude the strong foundation which has been granted to us by the tireless work and sacrifice of these men, and ask our Lord to grant them rest in His Eternal Kingdom. We especially acknowledge our beloved Metropolitan Philip as we gather at the first Archdiocesan Convention without his strong physical presence, but with the assurance that he intercedes with the Lord on behalf of this Archdiocese. His accomplishments over the 48 years of his leadership have given us a very strong foundation upon which we will build. May His Memory be Eternal!

There is much work to be done in many areas throughout this Archdiocese. Foundations are very important, but the Church cannot prosper on foundations alone. We must continue to build beautiful and magnificent structures upon those foundations. I do not speak of physical structures alone, but more importantly spiritual structures. If we are to run this race with endurance, it will take a strong team effort from everyone who is a part of this Archdiocese. Hierarchs, clergy, and laity alike must all be contributors. The Metropolitan is not separated from his brother bishops, the clergy, or the laity. Rather, he is called to be the brother to the hierarchs, and the father to all of the spiritual children who have been placed under his care. Everything that we do must be rooted in our Lord Jesus Christ who teaches us that "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

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 26, 2015

The Holy Martyr Paraskeva of Rome

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

Epistle Reader: Matthew Rowan

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: OPEN

Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: George and Mona Kaleel

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6):

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy.

Troparion of St. Paraskeva (Tone 1):

Showing a diligence befitting thy calling, O namesake of preparedness, thou hast gained, as thy dwelling, a faith worthy of thy name, O prize-winning Paraskeva. Hence, thou pourest forth healings and intercedest for our souls.

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 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
The Reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (1:10-18)

I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I am thankful that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (14:14-22)

At that time, when Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to Heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

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 evening this week.
- **This Saturday, Aug. 1:** Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 6pm
- **August 1-14: Dormition Fast.** *This is a season of fasting and prayer, in honor of St. Mary the Mother of God. Please avoid meat (if you are able), be generous with the poor, and attend some of our evening services!*
- **Next Sunday, Aug. 2:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: George and Mona Kaleel. Epistle Reader: Mike Kasap.

Our Antiochian Archdiocese convention took place in Boston this past week. Speeches, addresses, liturgical services, and sermons from Patriarch John, Metropolitan Joseph, and others are available online at www.antiochian.org. I encourage you to read or listen to their inspiring words. If you would like a print copy, please see Fr. Andrew.

There are a few available coffee hours over the coming weeks. If you or your family are able, please considering hosting a coffee hour on August 16, Sept. 6, or October 11.

Feast of the Transfiguration takes place each year on August 6, and we have been invited to celebrate the Liturgy at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Rockford. It will be Thursday morning, Aug. 6 at 10am. Please see Fr. Andrew if you are interested in carpooling or coming along.

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!
