

**:: Pastoral Message for the Feast of The Transfiguration ::**  
**His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH**  
**August 6, 2015**

“Today hast Thou manifested on Mount Tabor, O Lord, the glory of Thy divine image to the chosen of Thy Disciples, Peter, James and John; for when they saw Thy garments glistening as light, and Thy face surpassing the sun in splendor, and they could no more bear to behold Thine unbearable radiance, they fell to the ground, utterly unable to gaze upon it; and they heard a voice from on high testifying and saying: “This is My beloved Son, Who cometh into the world to save man.” (The Idiomelon for the Feast of the Transfiguration from the Vespers of the feast)

We greet you with love and joy on this Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ on Mount Tabor.

The text above transmits to us the essence of this feast. Whereas our Lord Jesus Christ had previously revealed His divine power through His working of miracles, He now physically reveals “the glory of His divine form” to Peter, James and John on Mount Tabor. The great prophets Moses and Elias appear with deference to the Lord further revealing that the prophets are His servants, and that our Lord Jesus Christ rules as King above all creation.

Our Lord granted this vision to the three Apostles as a way of strengthening them against fear and despair at the time that He was to be arrested and crucified. Likewise, we are strengthened by the sure knowledge that Jesus Christ is God, and that our God is loving, compassionate and merciful. This assurance stands against all of the evil of the world and lifts us up with assurance that His promise of eternal life with Him in paradise can never be compromised or taken away.

The great joy of this feast, occurring in the midst of the Dormition Fast, causes us to pause in brief celebration before we resume the fast which honors the Most Holy Theotokos. We convey our most heartfelt love to you as we celebrate this joyous feast and we ask our gracious Lord to bless you and to grant that the remainder of the Dormition Fast will bring you spiritual rewards.

Yours in Christ,  
+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

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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, August 9, 2015**

**After-Feast of the Transfiguration**

**St. Herman of Alaska**

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

**Epistle Reader:** Mark Kerasotes

**Holy Bread/Coffee Hour:** Kishler, Buss, and Anderson

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

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**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 1):**

The stone being sealed by the Jews, and Thy pure body being guarded by the soldiers, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world! Wherefore, the heavenly powers acclaimed Thee, O Giver of Life, crying: ‘Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy kingdom! Glory to Thy gracious providence, O Thou only Lover of mankind!’

**Troparion of the Transfiguration (Tone 7):**

When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee!

**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.

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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 Transfiguration (Tone 7):**

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

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

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

#### **The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (4:9-16)**

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill clad and buffeted and homeless; and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (17:14-23)**

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day."

### **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:**

- **All this week:** Camp St. George in Cedar Rapids, IA. *(See note below)*
- **Wednesday, Aug. 12:** Paraklesis to the Theotokos, 6pm.
- **Saturday, Aug. 15:** No services. *(Father will be traveling to Cedar Rapids to pick up the kids!)*
- **Next Sunday, Aug. 16:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread/ Coffee Hour: Rowan. Epistle Reader: Kenneth Wiltse.

**August 1 to 14 is a season dedicated to St. Mary, the Mother of God, the 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! Most of our regular evening services will be replaced with the Paraklesis to the Theotokos, a beautiful service of prayer to the Mother of God for health and healing.

**Our regular Wednesday evening prayer and Bible study group** continues this Wednesday at 6pm. All adults and teens are welcome! Do you have a topic or question you would like to discuss? Please see Fr. Andrew with any questions or suggestions.

**Camp St. George in Cedar Rapids, IA, begins today!** Our kids will depart after church, and return this Saturday (Aug. 15). Please keep the camp, and its kids and counselors, in your prayers over the coming week!

**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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