

:: Excerpts from On Positive Thinking ::
St. Paisios the Athonite

Elder Paisios stressed and greatly emphasised the specific characteristic of love, that is, that “love is not irritable or resentful.” He used to say that “we should never, even under the worst circumstances, allow a negative thought to penetrate our soul.” The person, who, under all circumstances, is inclined to have positive thoughts, will always be a winner; his life will be a constant festivity, since it is constantly based on his positive thinking. Our acts depend on and are determined by the “machine” we have inside us, and not by the “material” we digest, or the environment we live in. ...

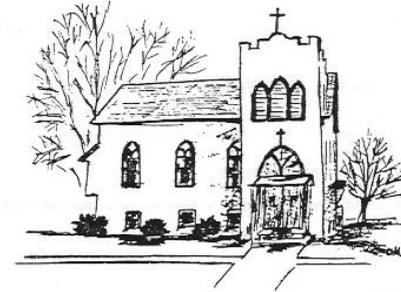
If one has a machine that produces bullets and feeds it with the highest quality material, let's say gold, the machine will still convert gold into bullets, golden but destructive bullets; if he feeds it with silver, then it will produce silver bullets; if he feeds it with iron, it will produce iron bullets, or if he feeds it with clay, it will produce clay bullets. In other words, no matter what material he feeds his machine, it still produces bullets, because it was made to manufacture these destructive products. If someone converts the machine into one that produces holy chalices instead of bullets, then whatever material he feeds it, it will always produces holy chalices. If he puts in the machine clay or iron, it will manufacture clay or iron chalices respectively.

I will now tell you a story regarding a very old father from Kapsala. The old father's “machine” was the kind that produced only positive thoughts. He only saw the good things in life and he was blind to every evil. Once, a group of people visited him and brought him a small radio as a present. The old father took it in his hands and examined it with lots of admiration. He asked where it was manufactured and the visitors told him in Japan. As he was looking at it, suddenly he was filled with joy and started kissing the radio saying:

“Glory to God! ... I am very pleased that the Japanese Christians put the sign of the Holy Cross on the products they manufacture.”

The old father had noticed the positive and negative pole (+,-) of the batteries and thought it was the sign of the Cross. His mind produced a simplistic and positive thought for the radio the visitors brought him. Considering he was an ascetic, he could have developed negative thoughts and get angry at them for bringing him such an unsuitable present.

Any announcements for the Sunday bulletin? Please submit by Friday each week to Fr. Andrew. If you do not receive the bulletin by email and would like to, let Father know.



**St. George Orthodox Church
of Spring Valley**

Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler
211 E. Minnesota St., Spring Valley, IL 61362
www.stgeorgeorthodox.org
815-664-4540 (church office)
773-575-3272 (cell)
frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org

Sunday, August 30, 2015

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

Epistle Reader: David Anderson

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Mary Majerus

Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Miller and Kerasotes

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. John the Baptist (Tone 2):

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God who appeared in the flesh, who takest away the sin of the world, and granteth us 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.

Kontakion for the Nativity of the Mother of God (Tone 4):

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

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

Epistle and Gospel Readings

O Lord, how marvelous are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (16:13-24)

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, and be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (21:33-42)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

"TO BE NEGATIVE AND CRITICAL IS NO GOOD, WHETHER IT COMES FROM THE CLERGY OR THE PEOPLE. LET US BE AT PEACE AT ALL TIMES, IN WHATEVER WE DO AND SAY. THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BECOME A HOLY PLACE WHERE GOD IS." -- HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN JOSEPH

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:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 2:** Prayers for the Indiction (Church New Year), 6pm
- **Saturday, Sept. 5:** Vespers, 6pm
- **Next Sunday, Sept. 6:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: Miller and Kerasotes; Epistle Reader: Matthew McNatt
- **Wednesday, Sept. 9: Nativity of the Mother of God.** Divine Liturgy at 6pm

We offer our sincerest condolences today to the Malooley family, at the passing of our dear Janet Malooley. Janet was a long-time resident of Spring Valley and member of St. George Church, well known and very well respected in the community.

Pan-Orthodox Youth Gathering for high school and college students: Tuesday, Sept. 15, the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops will meet in Chicago, and would like to meet with the youth of our area that evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with all of our American Orthodox bishops at the same time! The youth event begins at 6pm at the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago (5701 N. Redwood Dr.). Please let Fr. Andrew know if you are interested.

Coffee Hour clean-up: Please note that coffee hour clean-up each Sunday in general should be overseen by the family offering it. However, all of us are encouraged to do our part to bus our own tables and help as we are able. What we should not have is the same few ladies cleaning up every week. Thank you!

Building project: The parish council is beginning discussions on the possibility of expanding our current building to accommodate our growing families and increasing attendance. We are excited about the development, but of course we can only accomplish this with the blessing of our bishop, and the approval and full support of our entire membership. More information will be made available in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to talk with Father Andrew or with our building exploratory committee, Mark Kerasotes, Mike Kasap, and Matt Rowan.

Sunday school for children and teens will resume mid-September. We will keep you posted!