

**Pastoral Message for the Elevation of the Precious and Life Giving Cross**

Metropolitan JOSEPH

September 14, 2015

*"As the Cross is lifted up, it urgeth all of creation to praise the immaculate Passion of the One Who was lifted up thereon. For by means of the Cross, He slew him that slew us; and He made the dead to live again, making them beautiful, granting them the Heavens as dwelling-place, because He is compassionate, in the unsurpassed and unspeakable excess of His goodness. With joy, then, let us all exalt His Name, while magnifying His infinite condescension toward our race."*

*(From The Vesperal Stichera for the Elevation of the Cross)*

We greet you with love and joy on this Feast of the Elevation of the Precious and Life Giving Cross. The Sticheron from the Vespers of the feast which is quoted above transmits to us the essence of this feast. The lifting up of the Cross upon which our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ was crucified draws us near to His passion, and reminds us that He has defeated Satan and all his power once and for all. By His Passion He brought life to those who were in the tombs, restoring them to the beauty with which they had when God created them and opening up the heavens as their dwelling place. Lastly, He did this not only for those who were in the tombs, but for all of us who place our hope in Him.

Such an act can only come from a compassionate and loving God, which is our God. We glorify the Precious and Life Giving Cross, and through it we praise the Lord for the mercy, love and compassion which He pours out upon His people. As the Cross is lifted, so may our spirits be lifted to a new life in Christ!

Yours in Christ,

+Joseph

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

*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](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org)

815-664-4540 (church office)

773-575-3272 (cell)

[frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org](mailto:frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org)

**Sunday, September 13, 2015**

**Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross**

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

**Epistle Reader:** Matthew Rowan

**Holy Bread/Coffee Hour:** Kerry and Leona Kelly

**Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour:** George and Patrice Nimee

**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6):**

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Troparion of the Holy Cross (Tone 1):**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

**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 Holy Cross (Tone 4):**

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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)

## Epistle and Gospel Readings

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

### The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

### The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

**"WHAT IS PERFECTION IN LOVE? LOVE YOUR ENEMIES IN SUCH A WAY THAT YOU WOULD DESIRE TO MAKE THEM YOUR BROTHERS ... FOR SO DID HE LOVE, WHO HANGING ON THE CROSS, SAID 'FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.'" (LUKE 23:34)**  
— ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, *SERMONS ON I JOHN*

## 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:

- **Today at the end of the Liturgy:** Procession of the Holy Cross
- **Tomorrow, Sept. 14:** Strict day of fasting, in honor of the Holy Cross
- **Wednesday, Sept. 16:** Evening Prayers and Bible study, 6pm. *Father Andrew will also be available for Confession or Anointing.*
- **Saturday, Sept. 19:** Vespers, 6pm. *Sacraments of Confession and Anointing available.*
- **Next Sunday, Sept. 20:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: George and Patrice Nimee; Epistle Reader: Mike Kasap
- **Next Sunday after Liturgy:** September Parish Council meeting

**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. 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.

**Church attendance and timeliness.** Keeping in mind the future of our community and our common spiritual life, let us all work to be more faithful with our church attendance. Sunday worship, with the hearing of the Word of God and receiving His holy body and blood is the most important thing we can possibly do all week! Make Sunday worship *the number one priority* each week for yourself and your family. And let us show the Lord we love Him and honor Him by coming to church and coming *on time* for our 10:00 Divine Liturgy!

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### St. George Church Finances

July 2015 income: \$1,917.00	August 2015 income: \$5,432.00
July 2015 expenses: \$5389.68	August 2015 expenses: \$5,163.99

*Questions about our finances may be directed to Anyisia Medawar, treasurer*