

His Beatitude John X Addresses the Archdiocesan Convention

From the Word Magazine, Sept. 2015 (Part I)

It is with deep joy and pride that I address the Convention of our Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese in North America and Canada. This Convention, given prominence by Metropolitan PHILIP of thrice-blessed memory, is carried on with distinction by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH. We are fortunate to have His Eminence lead this congregation at this important phase in the history of our Church. **This congregation assumes the distinctive role of living in a superpower of great influence in the world. This position carries with it a special responsibility, at a very special time.**

I address you at a critical moment in the history of our Church. For the past four years, the Arab East, al-Mashriq al-Arabi, has been in the midst of a political earthquake of historic proportions. Not since medieval times have such destruction, killing, persecution, and dislocation been witnessed by our society. A wave of religious extremism has taken over the region, reversed civic democratic trends, shattered established society, and reconfigured national frontiers in total disregard of established legal and constitutional systems.

While the conflict is inflicting terror on all, a major victim of this conflict is the Christian community in Syria and Iraq and, in a special category, in Lebanon as well. There were 1.5 million Christians in Iraq early in this century. Only a few of them remain, internally displaced, seeking shelter for themselves and their families. In Syria, there were over 2 million Christians before the crisis in 2011. Hundreds of thousands have fled, and many are internally displaced. Hundreds of thousands of our Orthodox flock are scattered in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Others are scrambling at embassies for exit. Hundreds of our people were killed. Dozens of our churches were looted and destroyed. Thousands upon thousands of our icons and manuscripts are burnt, or are being sold in the open market. Our region is in trouble, and on the verge of despair, but we as Orthodox Christians are not in despair. In spite of our suffering, we are determined to stay on our land; we are vigilant; we know our way in the future. We have a great role to play in healing wounds and rebuilding institutions.

We have metropolitans and priests who had been kidnapped for more than two years now, and a suspicious and shameful international silence. They are the Metropolitans of Aleppo, YOUHANNA Ibrahim and PAUL Yazji. We have priests, monks, nuns, people and martyrs – their only crime being that they bear the name of “Christian.” *(To be continued next week)*

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

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Sunday, September 20, 2015

Sunday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

Epistle Reader: Mike Kasap

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: George and Patrice Nimee

Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: 40-day memorial for Janet Malooley

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 7):

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 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

Epistle and Gospel Readings

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works. In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians (2:16-20)

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the Law died to the Law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

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ST. PAUL "TEACHES THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL JUSTLY OWES AS A GREAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO CHRIST, AS IF HE HAD COME FOR HIS SAKE ALONE, FOR HE WOULD NOT HAVE GRUDGED THIS HIS CONDESCENSION THOUGH BUT FOR ONE, SO THAT THE MEASURE OF HIS LOVE TO EACH IS AS GREAT AS TO THE WHOLE WORLD."

~ *St. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, HOMILY ON GALATIANS 2*

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:

- **Today after Liturgy:** September parish council meeting, upstairs in the church
- **Wednesday, Sept. 23:** Evening Prayers and Bible study, 6pm. *Father Andrew will also be available for Confession or Anointing.*
- No Saturday vespers this week.
- **Next Sunday, Sept. 27:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Holy Bread and Coffee Hour will be offered by the Malooley family for Janet Malooley's 40-day memorial.

Congratulations to Daniel Klein and Kelsey Thompson, who will be married this coming Saturday. May God bless their new life together and grant them many years of happiness!

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 Anysia Medamar, treasurer