

Archdiocese Creative Festivals theme for 2016
"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

This year's theme was selected by His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph. The entire quotation is as follows:

But if it does not please you to serve the Lord, choose gods for yourselves today whom you will serve, whether the gods of your fathers that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, among whom you dwell in their land. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord because He is holy.

Comments from the Orthodox Study Bible regarding verses 14-15:

God always intended man to serve Him and to love Him freely; for accepting the salvation that is freely offered is the most natural thing for human beings, made in His image to do. Joshua, having long ago chosen holiness, now declares the same for his house.

Because we have free will, we have to make the choice whether or not to serve God. God does not force us to follow Him. However, if we truly love God, we will want to worship, obey, and serve Him.

There is much that can be said about this theme and how it impacts our daily lives. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple when He was 40 days old and dedicated Him to God. The Temple was the most important place in their lives. Can we say the same thing today? Is the Church the most important place in our lives or are we serving other "gods" that take precedence? What things are most important to us? Money? A quest for fame? Popularity? How do we spend our time- on our phones, the internet, social media, listening to music, watching sports, etc.? How much of our time is devoted to these other "gods" and how much time do we spend serving the one, true God?

The family of St. Basil the Great was selected as the logo for the Creative Festivals because the members of this family dedicated their lives to God and all became saints. The scroll St. Basil is holding says, "This is how you pray continually- not by offering prayer in words, but by joining yourself to God through your whole way of life, so that your life becomes one continuous and uninterrupted prayer."

Let us be inspired by the holy families of Jesus and St. Basil the Great to truly make our homes "little churches." In his book, *Making God Real in the Orthodox Home*, Fr. Anthony Coniaris states, "The Church can do nothing without the home. The most influential school in the world is not Oxford or Harvard or the Sorbonne or Yale or Cambridge. It is the home."

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, October 11, 2015

Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council
Matins: 9:00 AM :: Deacon's Typika: 10:00 AM

Epistle Reader: George Forsa

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: George and Lynette Forsa

Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Matthew and Nan McNatt

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 2):

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Troparion for the Holy Fathers (Tone 8):

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, 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.

Kontakion for Ordinary Sundays (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.

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

Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus (3:8-15)

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissension, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (8:5-15)

The Lord spoke this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As Jesus said this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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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:** 40-day memorial prayers for Stephen Kerasotes, father of Mark Kerasotes. May his memory be eternal!
- **Today:** Sunday school for kids, downstairs immediately after Holy Communion.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 14:** Evening Prayers and Bible study, 6pm. *Father Andrew will be available for Confession or Anointing.*
- **Next Sunday, Oct. 18:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Epistle Reader: David Anderson. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Matthew and Nan McNatt.

Today, we welcome Deacon Walid Abdul Karim from All Saints Antiochian Orthodox Church in Chicago, who will offer the Deacon's Typika service with Holy Communion. He joins us today with his wife Kimberly and their two children.

St. George Church of Indianapolis will host our diocese's **Clergy and Laity Fall Gathering** (formerly called Delegates' Meeting), October 16-18. Bishop Anthony would like to see strong participation from our churches. If anyone is interested, please contact Fr. Andrew.

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.