

:: Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Asia ::

Adapted from www.oca.org

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian and their mother St Theodota were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, St Theodota preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Sts Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When St Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. St Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where St Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).

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, November 1, 2015

Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Asia

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

Epistle Reader: Matt Rowan

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Matt and Olly Rowan

Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Anderson, Buss, and Kishler

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5):

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion for Sts. Cosmas and Damian (Tone 8):

O ye unmercenary, wonderworking saints, Cosmas and Damian: visit our sicknesses. Freely ye received, freely give unto us.

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

In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous.

I beheld the Lord ever before me.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians (12:27-13:8)

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (16:19-31)

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

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:** Sunday school for kids, downstairs immediately after Holy Communion.
- **Wednesday, Nov. 4:** Akathist of Thanksgiving, 6pm.
- **Saturday, Nov. 7:** Paraklesis service at St. Mary Orthodox Church in Palos Heights, in front of the miraculous Iveron Icon of the Theotokos, 9:30am. *(See note below.)*
- **Next Sunday, Nov. 8: The Feast of the Holy Archangels.** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Epistle Reader: Mike Kasap. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Anderson/Buss/Kishler

This Saturday, Nov. 7, our sister church of St. Mary in Palos Heights is pleased to host a visit from the miraculous Iveron icon of the Theotokos from Hawaii. This icon is currently still streaming with a miraculous, fragrant oil! The prayer service begins at 9:30 in Palos Heights. Please see Fr. Andrew if you are interesting in carpooling.

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.

Attendance and Finances

October 18

Attendance: 43 Donations: \$610*

October 25

Attendance: 51 Donations: \$1,023*

**Donation totals include the Special Olympics and Seminary fund.*