

Statement from the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America on the Reception of Refugees in the United States in Light of Recent Terrorist Actions around the World

November 20, 2015

“Since the tragic terrorist actions in Paris, Beirut, Mali and elsewhere in the past two weeks, there have been polarized reactions to the reception of refugees, mainly of Syrian nationality, worldwide: an understandable reaction of concern on the one hand, but a sad overreaction of fear on the other. We are all concerned first and foremost for the safety of the citizens of the United States which must be continually addressed and assessed. At the same time, the humanitarian disaster caused by the war in Syria to which the U.S. government has contributed by calling for the removal of the established Syrian leadership – as it did in Egypt, Iraq and Libya – requires a moral response from the people and government of our great country. Misguided U.S. foreign policy helped create the so-called "Arab Spring" which has been a "tornado" that has destroyed Arab countries, leaving power vacuums that have fostered the soaring, vicious activity of terrorist groups including ISIS, al-Nusra, and others in the Middle East and around the world. All of this has resulted in an unprecedented number of deaths of innocent people and lack of basic services like healthcare and sanitation, healthy food and drinking water, safe and dignified housing, and so forth.

“We must us not be guided by fear or bigotry, but rather let us work to heal the wounds of the injured, clothing the naked and feeding the poor as our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ has taught us (Matthew 25:35-36).”

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”

(Matthew 25:35, 40)

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, November 22, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent

After-Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos

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

Epistle Reader: Kenneth Wiltse

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Mark Kerasotes

Next Week's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: George and Lynette Forsa

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 8): O compassionate one, Thou didst descend from the heights; Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion for the Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone 4): Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

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 Entrance of the Theotokos (Tone 4): The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

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

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
God is known in Judah; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (4:1-7)

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (12:16-21)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

:: Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's Thanksgiving Sermon ::

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit. Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom. Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church. Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit. Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the "one thing needed;" Your eternal Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to Worship You. ... Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything. Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles. Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.

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:** November parish council meeting, upstairs during coffee hour.
- **Today:** Sunday school, downstairs immediately after Holy Communion
- **Saturday, Nov. 28:** Vespers, 6pm. *Confession, anointing, and any special priestly prayers available before and after.*
- **Next Sunday, Nov. 29: Third Sunday of Advent.** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Epistle Reader: George Forsa. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: George and Lynette Forsa.

Our Orthodox Advent season began last Sunday. This marks 40 days before Christmas, a special time of fasting, extra prayer and generosity. Please make time each day for the Lord, and join us for any special weekday prayer services. Feel free to talk to Father Andrew if you have any specific questions about fasting or the traditional disciplines of the season.

Join Fr. Andrew and other area clergy for **Prayers for the Valley: An Ecumenical Service of Prayer and Healing.** This is our response to the epidemic in our area of drug and alcohol abuse, depression, and suicide. We believe people of faith have something significant to offer, and that we should never discount the power of prayer. The service will take place **Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 PM, at the IVCC Cultural Center.**

Update on our Building project: This past week, a letter and an email went out to all members of St. George Church. If you did not receive it, please let Fr. Andrew know. We believe it is now time to hear from all of you! The letter contains a short survey, and it is very important that you respond to this, so we know how much support we can expect from all. Look for the survey this week, and as always, 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.

October 2015 Income and Expenses:

Operating Income:	\$2898.00
Operating Expenses:	\$5393.68
Ending Balance:	\$12296.83

If you have any questions about our church's finances, please talk to our treasurer, Anysia Medawar.