

Thank you to all who filled out and returned your building surveys! If you did not receive one, please let Fr. Andrew know. 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. 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. **Above all, PRAY for St. George Church, that the loving will of our good and holy God would be done!**

November Financials

Income: \$ 7,332.00
Expenses: \$ 8,755.31

Bank Balance: \$10,873.52 as of Nov. 30, 2015

Any questions? Please see our treasurer, Anyisia Medawar for more information. Remember, donations to St. George Church are tax-deductible. Please consider an additional end-of-year gift so that our services and ministries may continue in the years to come!

:: The Synaxarion Reading for Genealogy Sunday ::

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, our holy and God-bearing Fathers have enjoined us to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.



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, December 20, 2015

'Genealogy Sunday': The Sunday before the Nativity of Christ
Matins: 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM

Epistle Reader: Matthew Rowan

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Sadie Malooley and family

Christmas Eve Holy Bread: Wayne and Genie Sanders

Next Sunday's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: OPEN

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4): Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Troparion for the Forefeast of the Nativity (Tone 4): Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of Life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Troparion for the Holy Prophet Daniel (Tone 2): Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

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 Preparation for Christ's Nativity (Tone 3): Today the Virgin cometh to the cave where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word who is before all the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded: Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds, who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God who is before all the ages.

Epistle and Gospel Readings

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

For Thou art justified in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, Who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ were fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus.

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, downstairs immediately after Holy Communion.
- **Also today:** Parish Council meeting, upstairs during coffee hour.
- **Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve.** Royal Hours, 10:00 am / Christmas Matins, 6:00 pm, followed by Divine Liturgy at 7:00 pm. Epistle Reader: Mike Kasap / Holy Bread: Wayne and Genie Sanders.
- **Saturday, Dec. 26:** Vespers, 6:00 pm.
- **Next Sunday, Dec. 27: St. Stephen the First Martyr.** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Epistle Reader: Mark Kerasotes. Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: OPEN.

Today is the sixth (and final) Sunday of Advent in the Orthodox Church. We observe the 40 days before Christmas as a special time of fasting, extra prayer and generosity. **All are especially encouraged to make a confession at this time. I will be at the church most of the day this Wednesday, so please call or send a message if you would like to make an appointment.**

The 2016 Holy Bread and Coffee Hour schedule is now posted on the ladies' bulletin board downstairs. Please look over your assigned dates, and let Fr. Andrew know if any changes need to be made. Many thanks for all of your service!