

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, [www.stgeorgeorthodox.org](http://www.stgeorgeorthodox.org).

### Upcoming Events and Services:

- **This Thursday, Dec. 31: Feast of the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus Christ.** Vespereal Divine Liturgy, 6:00 PM. *This is also the day the Church commemorates not only the New Year, but also St. Basil the Great and St. Seraphim of Sarov. This would have been the nameday of our first priest Fr. Seraphim Nassar of blessed memory.*
- **Saturday, Jan. 2:** Vespers, 6:00 PM.
- **Sunday, Jan. 3: Sunday before Theophany.** Matins, 9:00 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM.

### Looking Ahead...

- **Wednesday, Jan. 6: Holy Theophany, the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ.** Vespereal Divine Liturgy, 6:00 PM, followed by the annual Blessing of the Holy Water.
- **House blessings begin** after the Theophany service!
- **Sunday, Jan. 31:** St. George Annual All-Church meeting, after Divine Liturgy. *All members of St. George Church should make every effort to attend this important yearly meeting!*

### From Fr. Andrew and Khouria Patty

Christ is born! Glorify Him! As we gather to worship the Holy Baby in the manger, my family would like to thank you for all of your cards and generous gifts this Christmas season. We are blessed to be part of such a warm, loving church community and we pray for many more Christmases to come!

**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!

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](http://www.antiochian.org)

## St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley

Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler  
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**Sunday, December 27, 2015**

**Sunday after the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Matins (Morning Prayer), 9:00 AM :: Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM**

**Epistle Reader:** Mark Kerasotes

**Holy Bread and Coffee Hour:** OPEN

**Next Sunday's Holy Bread/Coffee Hour (Jan. 3):** George and Lynette Forsa

**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 the Nativity (Tone 4):** Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Troparion for the Sunday after Christmas (Tone 2):** Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the grandparent of God, the amazing wonders; for thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; for with the shepherds thou didst give glory, with the Magi thou didst worship, and by the angel it was revealed to thee. Wherefore, plead thou with Christ God to save our souls.

**Troparion for St. Stephen (Tone 4):** The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, first of the martyred Saints! Thou didst see Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would 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 for the Nativity (Tone 3):** Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

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### THE EPISTLE

His voice has gone out into all the earth. The heavens declare the glory of God.

#### **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (6:8-7:5, 47-60)**

In those days, Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses delivered to us." And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. The high priest said, "Is this so?"

And Stephen said: "Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, 'Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.' Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is My throne, and earth My footstool. What house will you build for Me', says the Lord, 'or what is the place of My rest? Did not My hand make all these things?' You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, Whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it." Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they grinded their teeth against him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped

their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

### THE GOSPEL

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (2:13-23)**

When the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region, who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." And he rose and took the Child and His mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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**"THE LORD WAS BORN IN A CAVE TO SHOW THAT THE WHOLE WORLD IS ONE DARK CAVE, WHICH HE ALONE CAN ILLUMINE. THE LORD WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM – AND BETHLEHEM MEANS 'THE HOUSE OF BREAD' TO SHOW THAT HE IS THE ONLY BREAD OF LIFE WORTHY OF TRUE MEN."  
(ST. NICHOLAI OF ZICA)**

**"WHAT SHALL I SAY! AND HOW SHALL I DESCRIBE THIS BIRTH TO YOU? FOR THIS WONDER FILLS ME WITH ASTONISHMENT. THE ANCIENT OF DAYS HAS BECOME AN INFANT. HE WHO SITS UPON THE SUBLIME AND HEAVENLY THRONE, NOW LIES IN A MANGER. AND HE WHO CANNOT BE TOUCHED, WHO IS SIMPLE, WITHOUT COMPLEXITY, AND INCORPOREAL, NOW LIES SUBJECT TO THE HANDS OF MEN. HE WHO HAS BROKEN THE BONDS OF SINNERS, IS NOW BOUND BY AN INFANTS BANDS. BUT HE HAS DECREED THAT IGNOMINY SHALL BECOME HONOR, INFAMY BE CLOTHED WITH GLORY, AND TOTAL HUMILIATION THE MEASURE OF HIS GOODNESS."  
(ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM)**