

:: Seeking Life, Mercy, and Healing ::

A Common Statement by Orthodox and Catholic Bishops on the 43rd Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

On January 22, Catholic and Orthodox Christians will once again stand in solidarity on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade. As our communities firmly believe in the sanctity of life, the faithful—along with many people of other traditions and good will—lament the legal circumstances that facilitate abortion and the cultural phenomena that present abortion as the only choice for expectant mothers experiencing difficult conditions. We recognize that the choice to abort an unborn child ultimately reflects the broken condition of humanity.

We remind the world of our common teaching that life begins at the earliest moments of conception and that life, at all stages of its development, is sacred. We denounce the termination of a life as a response to unwanted pregnancies or as a method of overcoming social and economic challenges. We embrace the mothers and the couples who, in spite of difficulties, choose to bring their pregnancy to term. At the same time, however, we invite those who may have undergone or facilitated an abortion to turn to Christ with contrite hearts, seeking to overcome their grief through His forgiveness, mercy and healing.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America

Chairman, Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of the USA

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurz

Archbishop of Louisville

President, U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops

Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh

Chairman, Committee for Church and Society, Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of the USA

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan

Archbishop of New York

Chairman, Committee of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Do you have an announcement for our bulletin? Please call or email Fr. Andrew no later than Friday each week for anything to be included in Sunday's bulletin.



**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, January 24, 2016

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

Epistle Reader: Matthew McNatt

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Leo and Christina Kapetaneas

Next Sunday's Coffee Hour: POTLUCK and Annual Meeting

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 1): The stone being sealed by the Jews, and Thy pure body being guarded by the soldiers, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world! Wherefore, the Heavenly powers acclaimed Thee, O Giver of Life, crying: 'Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy kingdom! Glory to Thy gracious providence, O Thou only Lover of mankind!'

Troparion for St. Xenia (Tone 8): In thee, O wandering stranger, Christ the Lord hath given us an ardent intercessor for our kind. For having received in thy life sufferings and grief and served God and men with love, thou didst acquire great boldness. Wherefore, we fervently hasten to thee in temptations and grief, crying out from the depths of our hearts: Put not our hope to shame, O Blessed Xenia.

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 Presentation (Tone 1): Thou, O Christ God, who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

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

THE EPISTLE

For the Thirty-first Sunday after Pentecost

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee have I cried, O Lord, my God.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (1:15-17)

My Child Timothy, faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. But for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first, Jesus Christ might show forth all long-suffering for a pattern to those who should thereafter believe in Him for life eternal. Now unto the King eternal, incorruptible, invisible, to the only wise God, be honor and glory unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (18:35-43)

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

"THE TRULY INTELLIGENT MAN PURSUES ONE SOLE OBJECTIVE: TO OBEY AND CONFORM TO THE GOD OF ALL. WITH THIS SINGLE AIM IN VIEW, HE DISCIPLINES HIS SOUL, AND WHATEVER HE MAY ENCOUNTER IN THE COURSE OF HIS LIFE, HE GIVES THANKS TO GOD FOR THE COMPASS AND DEPTH OF HIS PROVIDENTIAL ORDERING OF ALL THINGS.

(ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT)

Birthdays this Week:

Christopher Leonard, January 24

Are we forgetting anyone? Please let Fr. Andrew know.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, see our website, www.stgeorgeorthodox.org.

This week's events and services:

- **Today:** Sunday school, downstairs immediately after Holy Communion.
- **Today:** A brief Parish Council meeting, upstairs during coffee hour.
- **Tuesday, Jan. 27: "Prayers for the Valley,"** a time of informal, ecumenical prayer for our Illinois Valley community, will take place at Grace United Methodist Church in LaSalle, 7pm.
- **Saturday, Jan. 30:** Vespers, 6:00 pm.
- **Next Sunday, Jan. 31: St. George Annual Meeting.** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. *Meeting will follow the Divine Liturgy.* Epistle Reader: Matt Rowan. Coffee Hour: POTLUCK (see note below).

Looking ahead:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 2: Feast of the Presentation of our Lord.** Divine Liturgy at 10am.
- **Monday, March 14:** First day of Great Lent.
- **Sunday, May 1:** Pascha Sunday.

Thank you for all of your donations to St. George Church in 2015! If you would like a statement of your giving for tax purposes or for your own personal records, please contact our treasurer Anysia Medawar. She will be happy to provide this information for you.

House blessings have begun! Please contact Fr. Andrew to set up a date and time to have your home and/or workplace blessed with the Theophany Holy Water. *Please know it is not necessary to invite Fr. Andrew's entire family, or to provide a meal. All you need to have ready is a place to pray in front of an icon, and a list of living and departed for Fr. Andrew to remember in prayer.* Talk to Father if you have any additional questions.

Our church's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 31. All current members of St. George Church should make every effort to attend! Coffee hour will be a potluck; each household should plan to bring a simple dish, pastry, fruit, etc.

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!