

:: Pastoral Message for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ ::

Metropolitan JOSEPH

Feb. 2, 2016

“Say, O Simeon, Whom carriest thou in the Temple in thine arms with rejoicing? Towards Whom dost thou cry, shouting, Now I have been let to depart; for I have beheld my Savior. This is He born of the Virgin. This is the Word, God of God, Who wast incarnate for our sakes, and saved man. Him let us worship.”

(From the Stichera of Great Vespers for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord)

We greet you with love and joy on this Holy Feast of the Presentation of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ into the Temple. The verse from the Great Vespers of the holy feast which is quoted above transmits to us the essence of this holy feast. The law is fulfilled by the presentation of our Lord into the Temple at 40 days after His birth. The pious Simeon, who has waited patiently for the revelation which has been promised to him by God, expresses his joy in no uncertain terms. He is awestruck by the thought that he now bears in his arms the Creator of the universe, and he expresses his readiness to depart this life having been blessed by this experience.

This holy feast is also called the Meeting of the Lord in order to emphasize that the righteous Simeon now meets his Creator face to face, and holds Him in his arms. That which has been promised by God to Simeon is now fulfilled. As the righteous Simeon now meets his Lord in the Temple, let us also meet the Lord in our lives so that we can bear witness and exclaim that we too may “depart in peace” having directly encountered our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Praying that this Holy Feast will bring you joy and spiritual fulfillment, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

+Joseph
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

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, February 7, 2016

Sunday after the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

Epistle Reader: Mike Kasap

Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Dee Khoury (Memorial for Paul Khoury)

Next Sunday's Coffee Hour: Matthew and Nan McNatt

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3): Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion for the Presentation of Christ (Tone 1): Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, who granteth us Resurrection.

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 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Lord will give strength unto His people. Bring unto the Lord, ye sons of God;
Bring unto the Lord glory and honor!

The Reading is from Saint Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians (6:1-10)

Brethren, since we are fellow workers, we entreat you also not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At an acceptable season I hearkened unto thee, and in a day of salvation I helped thee"; behold, now is the acceptable season; behold, now is the day of salvation! We give no occasion of stumbling in anything, that the ministry is not blamed, but in everything commending ourselves, as ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distress, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in vigils, in fasts, in purity, in knowledge, in longsuffering, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in love unfeigned, in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

THE GOSPEL

For the Sixteenth Sunday of Matthew

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (25:14-30)

The Lord spoke this parable: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying: "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying: "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying: "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not

sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." As Jesus said these things He cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Birthdays this Week:

Nick Medawar, Feb. 12

John Bachio and Mike Bachio, Feb. 13

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:** Children's Sunday school downstairs, immediately after Holy Communion.
- **Saturday, Feb. 13:** Vespers, 6:00 pm.
- **Next Sunday, Feb. 14:** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Epistle Reader: Mark Kerasotes. Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: McNatt.
- **Sunday, Feb. 21:** Lenten Triodion begins; Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican.

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.

Thank you to all who attended last week's Annual Meeting! If you were not able to make it, extra copies of the agenda and financial documents are available downstairs or upon request.

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.