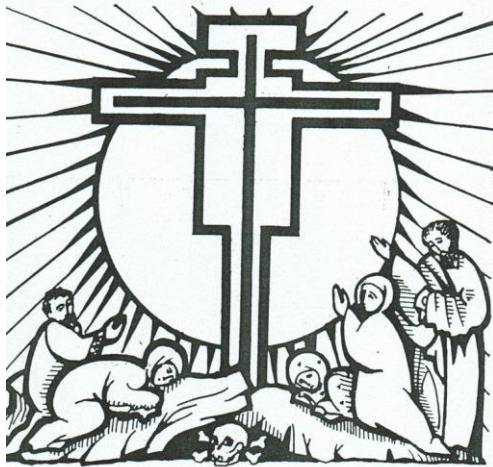


# St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley

Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler  
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*Veneration of the Holy Cross*



**Sunday, April 3, 2016**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

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

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)

**Today's Epistle Reader:** David Anderson  
**Today's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour:** Richard and Bette Malooley  
**Next Sunday's Coffee Hour:** The Medawar and Sanders families

*Hymns of the Day, immediately after the Small Entrance:*

**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 become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the great mercy.

**Troparion of the Holy Cross (Tone 1):** O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

**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 Annunciation (Tone 8):** To thee, the Champion Leader, I thy servant ascribe thank-offerings of victory! For thou hast delivered me from terrors, O Theotokos. But as thou hast that power which is invincible, from all dangers set me free, that I may cry out unto thee: 'Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!'

*In place of the **Trisagion Hymn:***

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection! (*Three times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. And we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection!

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection!

*In place of the **Hymn to the Theotokos** (*sung in Arabic*):*

All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child, our God before the ages. He made thy body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in thee, O Full of Grace. Glory to thee!

## **THE EPISTLE**

### **For the Third Sunday of Great Lent**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.  
To Thee, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.

#### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (4:14-5:6)**

Brethren, since we have a great High Priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our infirmities, but one who has been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness to throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest, being taken from among the people, is appointed on behalf of the people in things pertaining to God, that he may offer up both gifts and sacrifices for sins; who can have compassion on the ignorant and on those who are erring, since he himself also is encompassed with infirmity. Because of this he is bound, as for the people so also for himself, to offer up for sins. And no one takes the honor upon himself, but as being called by God, as was Aaron.

So Christ also did not glorify Himself to become a High Priest, but it was by the One saying to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee." As He says also in another place, "Thou art a Priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **For the Third Sunday of Great Lent**

#### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1)**

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

This week's events and services:

- **Today:** Procession and veneration of the Holy Cross, at the end of the Liturgy. *Sunday school children will go downstairs briefly at the usual time, and then come back up for the procession.*
- **Monday, April 4:** Great Compline, 6pm. *The church will be open by 5:30 for private prayer and meditation. The Sacrament of Confession will be available before and after.*
- **Wednesday, April 6:** Fourth Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm. *The church will be open at 5:30 and Confession will be available before and after.*
- **Friday, April 8:** Fourth Akathist to the Theotokos, 6pm. *The church will be open at 5:30 and Confession will be available before and after.*
- **Saturday, April 9:** Vespers, 6pm. *The church will be open at 5:30 and Confession will be available before and after.*
- **Next Sunday, April 10: St. John of the Ladder.** Matins, 9am and Divine Liturgy, 10am. Epistle Reader: Matthew Rowan; Holy Bread/Coffee Hour: Medawar and Sanders.

Other upcoming events:

**Baptism of Joseph Andrew Kishler** on Saturday, April 23, at 10am. *Holy Communion for St. Lazarus Saturday will follow, with a simple breakfast downstairs. All are invited, but please let Fr. Andrew or Kb. Patty know if you are coming so we can prepare enough food.*

Our **Holy Week service schedule** was mailed out at the end of last week. We begin Holy Week with Lazarus Saturday on April 23, through Holy Pascha on Sunday, May 1. Additional copies are available downstairs.

This year's **Parish Life Conference** will be June 22-26 in Livonia, Michigan. Please consider attending this excellent event on behalf of our church!

We are also pleased to announce that **His Grace Bishop Anthony** plans to visit us in Spring Valley, the weekend of October 15 and 16. More information will follow as we draw closer to that date.

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*Do you have an announcement for the bulletin? Please contact Fr. Andrew no later than Friday each week for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.*



Birthdays and Anniversaries ~ May God  
grant you many years!

*(Please let Father know if we are missing anyone!)*

Nan McNatt, March 26

Opal McNatt, March 27

Christopher Baran, March 30

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From "The Cross in our Life,"  
by His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph:

"By His divinity He made the cross the sign of the new life. Our cross is through baptism and repentance. For this reason we become communicants of His cross by our baptism, life, struggle and suffering for the sake of Jesus.

"We cross ourselves all the time – before kissing an icon, when we pray, before we eat, to express the daily experience of the cross. It is the power of God! The cross to the unbelievers is foolishness, but to us believers it is the power of God. Every action of Christ, including all His working of miracles, was truly great and wonderful. But of all things the most wonderful is His honorable cross. For by nothing else, except by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, death has been brought low, death has been despoiled and resurrection bestowed.

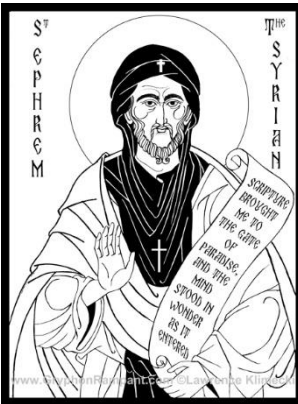
"The power given us by the death of Christ, that is to say the cross has clothed us with the wisdom and power of God. This we have been given as a sign on our forehead, just as Israel was given circumcision. For by it, we faithful are set apart from the skeptics and we are recognized apart from unbelievers.

"So that honorable and most truly venerable cross, upon which Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, is itself to be adored because it has been sanctified by contact with His sacred body and blood."

From chapter 4 of *Great Lent*,  
by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann:

The third Sunday of Lent is called "*The Veneration of the Cross.*" At the Vigil of that day, after the Great Doxology, the Cross is brought in a solemn procession to the center of the church and remains there for the entire week-- with a special rite of veneration following each service. It is noteworthy that the theme of the Cross which dominates the hymnology of that Sunday is developed in terms not of suffering but of victory and joy. ...

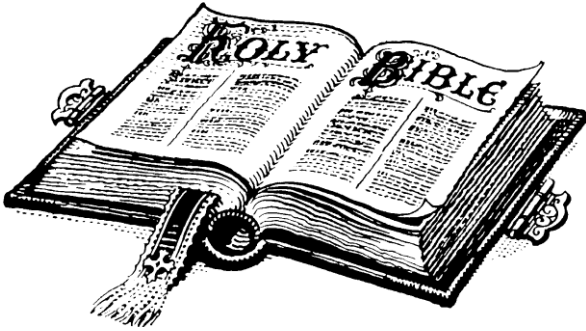
The meaning of all this is clear. We are in *Mid-Lent*. On the one hand, the physical and spiritual effort, if it is serious and consistent, begins to be felt, its burden becomes more burdensome, our fatigue more evident. We need help and encouragement. On the other hand, having endured this fatigue, having climbed the mountain up to this point, we begin to see the end of our pilgrimage, and the rays of Easter grow in their intensity. Lent is our self-crucifixion, our experience, limited as it is, of Christ's commandment heard in the Gospel lesson of that Sunday: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). But we cannot take up our cross and follow Christ unless we have *His* Cross which He took up in order to save us. It is His Cross, not ours, that saves us. It is His Cross that gives not only meaning but also power to others.



**"RETURN MY SOUL TO THE SWEET GARDEN OF PARADISE, AND MAY IT ABIDE IN LIGHT THAT, SURROUNDED BY THE DELIGHTS OF PARADISE, I TOO MAY SAY WITH ALL THE SAINTS: GLORY TO THE IMMORTAL FATHER; HONOR TO HIM WHO PRESENTS HEAVENLY GIFTS TO THIS WORTHLESS ONE, THAT HE MAY BRING A TITHE OF GLORY TO THE KING OF ALL!"**

**(ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN)**

## Saints and Bible Readings April 4 – 9



**Monday, April 4:** St. George the Righteous of Maleon  
Isaiah 14:24-32 / Genesis 8:21-9:7 /  
Proverbs 11:19-12:6

**Tuesday, April 5:** Monk-Martyr Claudius and companions  
Isaiah 25:1-9 / Genesis 9:8-17 / Proverbs 12:8-22

**Wednesday, April 6:** Patriarch Eutychius of Constantinople  
Isaiah 26:21-27:9 / Genesis 9:18-10:1 / Proverbs 12:23-13:9

**Thursday, April 7:** Patriarch Tikhon of Moscow  
Isaiah 28:14-22 / Genesis 10:32-11:9 / Proverbs 13:19-14:6

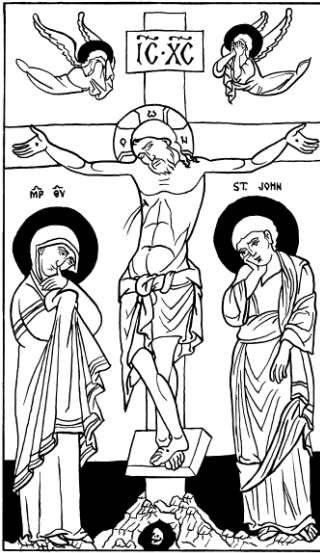
**Friday, April 8:** Pope Celestine of Rome  
Isaiah 29:13-23 / Genesis 12:1-7 / Proverbs 14:15-26

**Saturday, April 9:** Holy Martyr Euphychius of Caesarea  
Hebrews 6:9-12 / Mark 7:31-37

### **St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of America (April 7)**

Born in 1865 in the region of Pskov, our Father among the Saints Tikhon was tonsured a monk in 1891 and ordained to the priesthood in the same year. In 1897 he was consecrated Bishop of Lublin, and a year later appointed Bishop of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, with his see extending to all of North America from 1900 onwards. He did much to unite the Orthodox Christians of a great many ethnic backgrounds in North America, so that there was indeed one flock under one shepherd. In 1907 he was made Archbishop of Yaroslavl and Rostov, and in 1913, Archbishop of Lithuania.

In 1917, when he was Metropolitan of Moscow, he was elected to be the first Patriarch of Russia in over 200 years, in times that could not have been more difficult. After the Revolution of 1917, the persecution of the Russian Church by the atheist government grew more bold and more fierce with every year. By nature a meek and peace-loving man, Tikhon sought to determine, while giving only to God that which is God's, what could be given to Caesar to preserve peace and avoid the shedding of blood. At his departure on the feast of the Annunciation in 1925, Saint Tikhon made the sign of the Cross thrice, pronouncing the words, "Glory to Thee, O God!" Because of the many unspeakable sufferings he endures as Patriarch, he is honoured as a Confessor. *(From [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org))*



# HOLY WEEK 2016

## ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY

### **PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND – APRIL 23 AND 24**

- Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy, Saturday at 10am
- Palm Sunday Matins, Divine Liturgy, and Procession, Sunday at 9am

### **HOLY MONDAY AND HOLY TUESDAY – APRIL 25 AND 26**

- Bridegroom Matins, Monday and Tuesday at 6pm

### **HOLY WEDNESDAY – APRIL 27**

- Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6pm

### **HOLY THURSDAY – APRIL 28**

- Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper, 10am
- Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels, 6pm

### **GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 29**

- Royal Hours, 10am
- Vespers, 6pm. *At this service, the ladies present will be invited to come forward and remove the icon of Christ from the Cross.*
- Lamentations at the Tomb, 7pm. *During this service, the men present will be invited to come forward and take turns carrying the tomb of Christ.*

### **HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 30**

- “Sabbath of Light” Divine Liturgy, 10am
- Paschal Vigil and Divine Liturgy, 10pm

### **PASCHA SUNDAY – MAY 1**

- Agape Vespers, 12:00 noon. *Holy Communion will be available for those who may have missed it the night before.*