

# *St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley*

**Sunday, May 1, 2016**

## **Holy Pascha**

**The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**Paschal Vigil and Divine Liturgy, beginning 10:00 PM**



*Pastor:*

Father Andrew Kishler

*Parish Council officers:*

President, Mark Kerasotes

Vice President, Dee Khoury

Secretary, Lynette Forsa

Treasurer, Anysia Medawar

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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:** Mark Kerasotes

**Today's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour:** All-church Pascha potluck

**Next Sunday's Coffee Hour:** Memorial for Amelia Malooley

*Please see the separate handout for the text of the Procession and Matins service.*

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

**Entrance Hymn:** In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

**Troparion for Pascha (Tone 5):** Christ is risen from the dead, by death hath He trodden death! And upon those in the tombs hath He bestowed life!

**Hypakoe of Pascha (Tone 4):** They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them: 'Why seek ye Him as man with the dead, who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for He is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind!'

**Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8):** O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: 'Rejoice!' And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those who had fallen!

*The Hymn to the Theotokos:*

The angel spake to her that is full of grace, saying, 'O pure Virgin, rejoice; and I say also, Rejoice; for thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day!' Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord hath risen upon thee. Rejoice and exult now, O Zion, and thou, O pure one, Theotokos, rejoice at the Resurrection of thy Son!

## THE EPISTLE

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein! O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)**

In the first book, O Theophilos, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, having been seen by them for forty days, and speaking of the Kingdom of God. And having assembled together with them, He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which He said: "You heard from Me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or seasons, which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:1-17)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

# 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).*

*Blessings to all of you on this holy occasion of our Lord's resurrection from the dead! A special thank you to all who worked hard to make Holy Week and Easter a success for us again this year: our chanters, readers, altar servers, decorators, cooks, and anyone else who gave of their time and resources. Many thanks for your kind greetings and gifts to the church and to my own family during this time.*

*~Fr. Andrew*

Blessed feast of our Lord's Resurrection to all of you! Please join us downstairs afterwards as we break the fast with a bite to eat.

**Agape Vespers** will be served today (Sunday) at noon. All are welcome to come and sing some Easter hymns again, and Holy Communion will be available for those unable to receive the night before.

**Please join us this Wednesday for the Feast Day of St. George the Great Martyr**, our own church community's patronal feast day. **Divine Liturgy will be at 6pm** and other Orthodox clergy from the area will be present to worship with us.

Please join **George and Mona Kaleel** as they celebrate 60 years in business! An open house will take place this Saturday, May 7 starting at 2:00 at their store in Amboy, 226 E. Main St. All are welcome; food and drinks will be provided.

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.

*Do you have an announcement for the bulletin?*

*Please contact Fr. Andrew no later than Friday each week for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.*

# Sunday Volunteer Schedule

	Holy Bread/Coffee Hour	Epistle Reader
<b>Pascha Sunday, May 1</b>	<i>Pascha potluck downstairs</i>	Mark Kerasotes
<b>St. Thomas Sunday, May 8</b>	Memorial for Amelia Malooley	Kenneth Wiltse
<b>Sunday, May 15</b>	Matt and Nan McNatt	George Forsa
<b>Sunday, May 22</b>	George and Mona Kaleel	David Anderson
<b>Sunday, May 29</b>	Kishler, Buss, and Anderson	Matthew McNatt
<b>Sunday, June 5</b>	Mitch Kaleel and family	Matthew Rowan
<b>Sunday, June 12</b>	John/Melanie Thompson	Mike Kasap
<b>Sunday June 19</b>	Ron/Dottie Malooley	Mark Kerasotes



*“He has risen; He is not here.” (Mark 16:6)*

## :: The Pascha Homily of St. John Chrysostom ::



“If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

“And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

“Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. Let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior’s death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.”

*~courtesy of [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)*

**BIBLE READINGS FOR HOLY WEEK  
MAY 1 – MAY 8**



**Holy Pascha, May 1:**

Acts 1:1-8 / John 1:1-17 / John 20:19-25

**Bright Monday, May 2:**

Genesis 1:1-13 / Acts 12:1-11 / John 1:18-28

**Bright Tuesday, May 3:**

Isaiah 60:1-16 / 1 Peter 5:6-14 / Luke 24:12-35

**Bright Wednesday, May 4:**

Exodus 12:1-11 / Acts 2:22-38 / John 1:35-51

**Bright Thursday, May 5:**

Jonah 1 / Acts 2:38-43 / John 3:1-15

**Bright Friday, May 6:**

Jonah 2 / Acts 3:1-8 / John 2:12-22

**Bright Saturday, May 7:**

Jonah 3 / Acts 3:11-16 / John 3:22-33

**St. Thomas Sunday, May 8:**

Acts 5:12-20 / John 20:19-31

**"IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH THE FEAST OF EASTER IS OFFICIALLY CALLED PASCHA, THE WORD WHICH MEANS THE PASSOVER. IT IS THE NEW PASSOVER OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT FORETOLD BY THE PROPHETS OF OLD. IT IS THE ETERNAL PASSOVER FROM DEATH TO LIFE AND FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN. IT IS THE DAY OF THE LORD PROCLAIMED BY GOD'S HOLY PROPHETS, "THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE" FOR HIS JUDGMENT OVER ALL CREATION, THE DAY OF HIS FINAL AND EVERLASTING VICTORY. IT IS THE DAY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, THE DAY "WHICH HAS NO NIGHT" FOR "ITS LIGHT IS THE LAMB."**

**~ FR. THOMAS HOPKO**

## **:: Paschal Letter 2016 from His Grace Bishop Anthony ::**

Our Church has given us the sacred sacrament of Holy Baptism to guarantee our personal resurrection from the dead. St. Paul clearly taught this when he writes: We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in the newness of life. (Romans 6:4) Just as Jesus rose bodily from the dead and stayed with His Apostles for forty days to teach and deliver them the practices of our faith, we will rise bodily with the same recognizable features and personality traits which now and forever will identify, distinguish, and define us: only in a most purified and perfected way: I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 'For no eye has seen, nor ear heard, no heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.' (Romans 8:17; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Isaiah 64:4) Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (1 John 3:2-3)

We realize the Great Lent and Holy Week purifying discipline of prayer and fasting is to tame the flesh and give power to the soul in preparation to become the beautified body of the resurrection, all in anticipation of the glory to come when Christ returns at the end of time. But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (at the Second Coming), who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Philippians 3:20) We ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8:23)

The earliest Christian preaching proclaimed the renewal of bodily life in Christ's defeat of death. His Resurrection includes ours. St. Paul said Christ must suffer to clean us from the pollution of sin, as St. Cyprian of Carthage has said, that by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to the people and to the Gentiles. (Acts 26:23) For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. (Hebrews 2:10-11)

Jesus Christ in being the first to rise again, (the "first in all things" writes St. Basil the Great in the Anaphora of his Liturgy), blazed new trails for us, hiking out of the gorge of Hades, through the tunnel of the cave of his burial, into the sunny garden of His Resurrection appearance, leading us on that trail to eternal life. Let us follow this Pathfinder and this wilderness Guide into His glory! But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15, 18; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 1:5)

May you all have a blessed Paschal season!