

Sunday, January 6, 2019
Orthros, 9:00 am • Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Waters, 10:00 am
Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ



Pastor:

Father Andrew Kishler

Parish council members:

Matthew Rowan, *chairman*
 Leo Kapetaneas, *vice chairman*
 Anysia Medawar, *treasurer*
 Jennifer Harshman, *secretary*

Christina Kapetaneas, *Ladies of St. George*
 Genie Sanders, *choir*
 Lynette Forsa
 Patrice Nimee
 David Anderson



Today's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: George and Lynette Forsa

Today's Epistle Reader: George Forsa

Next week's Holy Bread and Coffee Hour: Beverly Malooley

- *The Antiphons for Theophany:*

First Antiphon: By the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Second Antiphon: Save us, O Son of God, O Thou who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, as we sing unto Thee: Alleluia!

Third Antiphon: By Thy baptism, O Lord... (*see Troparion below*)

Entrance Hymn for Theophany: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord; God the Lord hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, O Thou who wast baptized by John in the Jordan, as we sing unto Thee: Alleluia!

- *Hymns of the day, following the Small Entrance:*

Troparion for Theophany (Tone 1): By Thy baptism, O Lord, in the River Jordan, worship to the Trinity hath made its appearance. For the voice of the Lord did come forth to Thee with the testimony, naming Thee beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove, confirming the truth of the word. Wherefore, O Thou who didst appear and lighted the world, O Christ, glory to Thee!

Kontakion for Theophany (Tone 4): Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and Thy light hath been shed upon us, we who praise Thee with knowledge, saying: 'Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light!'

- *In place of the 'Holy God,' we sing:*

Ye who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

THE EPISTLE

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus (2:11-15; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (3:13-17)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Hymn to the Theotokos (for the Liturgy of St. Basil): In thee rejoiceth all creation, O thou who art full of grace: the hierarchy of the angels, and all mankind, O consecrated temple and paradise endowed with speech; glory of virginity, of whom God, Who is our God before the ages, was incarnate and became a little child. For He made thy womb a throne, and thy belly did He make more spacious than the heavens. In thee doth all creation rejoice, O thou who art full of grace, and it glorifieth thee.

Communion Hymn: The grace of God our Savior hath appeared to all men. Alleluia!

- *The **Blessing of the Waters** will take place at the end of today's Divine Liturgy.*

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Today:

- **Children's Sunday school**, downstairs immediately after Holy Communion.
- **Blessing of the Waters**, at the end of the Divine Liturgy. *Theophany holy water will be available for you to take home today and over the next few weeks. If you have holy water bottles from previous years, please return and refill them. If you do not have one already, we have extras.*

This week:

- **Church office hours this week:** Tuesday, 9-12; Wednesday, 9-10:30; Thursday, 9-12.
- **Saturday, Jan. 12:** Blessing of the Illinois River in Peoria, 12pm. *This is an annual event hosted by All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Peoria. All are welcome!*
- There will be no Vespers at St. George this Saturday.
- **Next Sunday, Jan. 13:** Matins, 9am; Divine Liturgy, 10am.

From Fr. Andrew, Kh. Patty, and family: Blessed Theophany to all of you! We are blessed to be a part of the St. George community, and we thank you for your holiday cards, gifts, and generous hospitality. May God bless you!

House blessings begin this week. It is customary for the priest to visit each household in the church community at this time every year for a blessing with holy water. Please see Fr. Andrew to set up a date and time. (Also note that you are under no obligation to feed or pay your priest for this service.)

Our annual all-church meeting has been set by the parish council for **Sunday, Jan. 27**. Coffee hour that day will be a potluck meal, and all church members should make every effort to attend. We will vote to approve our 2019 budget, and 2019 parish council. If you would like to nominate anyone to serve on our parish council, please contact me or chairman Matt Rowan.

The 2019 Holy Bread and Coffee Hour list is posted downstairs. Please take a look at when your family appears on the list, and make any necessary corrections.

Live-streaming of our church services and events is available on our church's YouTube channel, "St George Orthodox Church." Many thanks to Mark Kerasotes for making this possible, and to Mark Kerasotes and Nicole Wiltse, who donated some equipment and services.

Holy Land pilgrimage: We have an opportunity to participate in an Orthodox-led trip to the Holy Land, May 6-18, 2019. Information is available downstairs; please see Mike and Ruth Baum for additional information or if you have any questions.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

| | Holy Bread/Coffee Hour | Epistle Reader |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| TODAY | George/Lynette Forsa | George Forsa |
| Sunday, Jan. 13 | Beverly Malooley | |
| Sunday, Jan. 20 | OPEN | Matt Rowan |
| Sunday, Jan. 27 | All-Church Meeting <i>*Potluck luncheon*</i> | Mike Kasap |
| Sunday, Feb. 3 | Paul Khoury memorial | |
| Sunday, Feb. 10 | Mike/Ruth Baum <i>*Open house at their new home*</i> | Mike Baum |
| Sunday, Feb. 17 | Ron/Dottie Malooley | Keeley Thompson |

Regarding HOLY BREAD, you are welcome to bake your own, or use the bread provided by the church (**a donation of \$10-\$20 is appreciated** to cover the cost of the bread). On your Sunday, please also provide to Father Andrew a list of names (living and departed) for prayers during the Liturgy.

COFFEE HOUR may be as simple or elaborate as you want. While CLEAN UP is primarily the responsibility of those who provide coffee hour, all of us should help by bussing our own tables and cleaning up as we are able.

** SHADED DATES indicate fasting. No meat should be served on these dates.*



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please let Father know if we are missing anyone!

Jan. 9 – Efy Trilikis

Jan. 10 – Mitch Kaleel

Jan. 10 – David Kaleel

Jan. 11 – Judy Abraham

Jan. 14 – Angelo Fousekas

Jan. 16 – Nicholas Leonard

Jan. 22 – Alan Harshman

Jan. 23 – Sally Favia

Jan. 24 – Christopher Leonard

Jan. 31 – Wayne Sanders

Church Finances*

November 2018

Operating income: \$6,067.00

Operating expenses: \$8,327.93

Cash flow: -\$2,260.93

January 1 to November 30, 2018

Operating income: \$61,434.33

Operating expenses: \$70,048.27

Cash Flow: -\$8,613.94

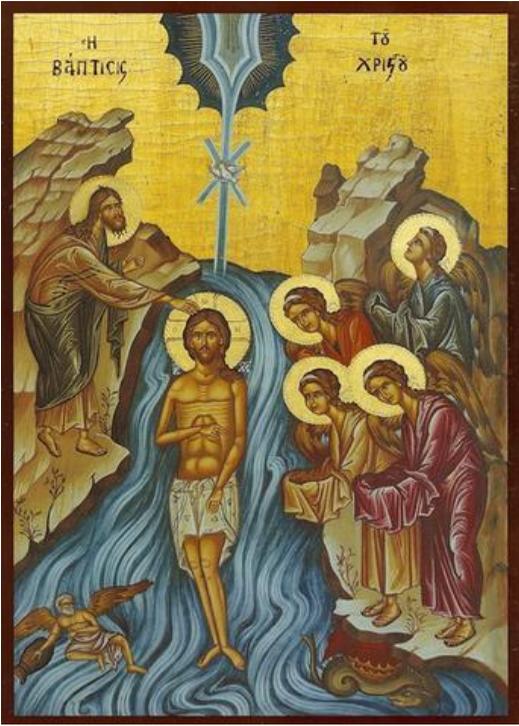
Please note that “operating income” includes only tithes and regular donations, and does not include proceeds raised at the 100th anniversary banquet or income from memorial donations. The parish council voted last month to put these funds in a separate account called the Legacy Fund. We cannot survive without the regular, faithful giving of our members, so please remember our duty to support the work of our church!

“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

~ 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

:: The Baptism of Jesus ::

A Theophany meditation by Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon



The supposed problem is this: Jesus came voluntarily to be baptized by John, even though John's was a baptism of repentance (Acts 19:4). Why would Jesus do this? After all, the entire witness of the New Testament declares that He was the "lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19), "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners" (Hebrews 7:26), "the Holy One and the Just" (Acts 3:14), who "knew no sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Moreover, Jesus was conscious of being sinless, for He challenged His enemies, "Which of you convicts Me of sin?" (John 8:46) Why, then, did the unoffending Jesus seek a baptism of repentance?

The answer to this question has to do with the very motive of the Incarnation. God's Son, in the assumption of our humanity, took upon Himself a radical solidarity with fallen mankind. Even before His saving Passion, in which "He poured out His soul unto death," we already find Him "numbered

with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). The voice from heaven signified God's acceptance of that redemptive resolve.

And this, I believe, is why Jesus approached John, seeking his baptism in order "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). It was not as a private citizen, so to speak, that Jesus came to the waters of the Jordan, but in order to present Himself to the Father as the representative of the human race in this great symbolic act of repentance. Jesus thereby expressed His resolve "to be made like His brethren" (Hebrews 2:17).

Jesus declared in the baptism of repentance His determination that no distance should separate Him from us.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JANUARY 6-12, 2019

Sunday, Jan. 6 – Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 / Matthew 3:13-17

Isaiah 35:1-10 / Isaiah 55:1-13 / Isaiah 12:3-6

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 / Mark 1:9-11

Monday, Jan. 7 – St. John the Baptist

Acts 19:1-8 / John 1:29-34

Tuesday, Jan. 8 – Ven. Domnica of Constantinople

Romans 6:3-11 / John 3:22-33

Wednesday, Jan. 9 – Martyr Polyeuctus of Armenia

2 Timothy 2:1-10 / Mark 1:9-15

Thursday, Jan. 10 – St. Gregory of Nyssa

Ephesians 4:7-13 / Luke 3:19-22

Friday, Jan. 11 – Righteous Father Theodosius the Cenobiarch

Hebrews 13:7-16 / Luke 4:1-15

Saturday, Jan. 12 – Tatiana the Martyr of Rome

Ephesians 6:10-17 / Matthew 4:1-11

Live-streaming of church services is available on our website, www.springvalleyorthodox.com.

Follow “St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley” on Facebook for daily Bible readings and lives of the saints.

Please be aware that photographs and videos from our church appear on our website and Facebook page. Please feel free to let us know if you would prefer not to have your pictures online.

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