

“Love, Pray, Repent” / Welcome All!
 “One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church”

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

211 E. Minnesota St., Spring Valley, IL 61362

815-664-4540 www.springvalleyorthodox.com

office@springvalleyorthodox.com

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Patriarch John X of Antioch

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

Bishop ANTHONY

SUNDAY, 25 DECEMBER 2022

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST



MATINS/ORTHROS, 8:45 AM • DIVINE LITURGY, 10:00 AM

PASTOR: Father Mark Sahady

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Elected / Appointed Members

Melanie Thompson, *Chair*
 Wayne Sanders, *Vice-Chair*
 Ronald Malooley, *Treasurer*
 Nicholas Schaefer, *Secretary*
 George Nimee, *Antiochian Men*
 Rdr Michael Baum, *Ecclesiarch*

Organization Representatives

Genie Sanders, *Chanters/Choir*
 Dee Khoury, *Antiochian Women*
 Sbdn David Anderson, *Sunday School*
 Robert Abraham, *Facilities*
 Nicholas Medawar, *Order of St Ignatius*
 No Teen Rep Presently, *SOYO*

BULLETIN PART ONE – ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFO

Contact Fr Mark at 815-664-4540. Council Minutes Binder with Financials is in Hall

WORSHIP On Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVy__6R3xbIrx-UI8H63AUA

STUDIES & MEETINGS (when noted) On Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5822049765>

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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Christmas Weekend Worship Schedule 2022

December 23, Friday, **9-11 am Royal Hours, 7 pm Vespers**

December 24, Saturday, **9 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy,
5:30 pm Vespers & Holy Supper**

December 25, Christmas Sunday, **8:45 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy**

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December 31, Saturday, **5:30 pm Vespers, 6:30 pm Potluck Fellowship**

January 1, Sunday, **8:45 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy, 11:15 am Fellowship**

January 5, Thursday, **9-11 am Royal Hours, 5 pm Vespers Liturgy & Blessing Water**

January 6, Theophany Friday, **9 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy**

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January 7, Saturday, **5:30 pm Vespers**

January 8, Sunday, **8:45 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy, 11:15 am Fellowship**

11:45 Antiochian Women Meeting

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 21 – Angelena Leonard Panizzi

Dec. 27 – Gabriel Leonard

Dec. 23 – Stephanie Kinard

Dec. 28 – Richard Malooley

Dec. 24 – Kim Leonard

Dec. 28 – Melissa Rose-Marina Malooley

Dec. 26 – Grant Anthony Leonard

Dec. 30 – Monique Harvey

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CHURCH FINANCES

November 2022 Income-Expense

Total November Income: \$5,035.02

Total November Expenses: \$8,009.31

Net November Income: \$-2,974.29

2021 November Net Income: \$13,752.24

January-November 2022 Totals

Total Year Income: \$ 64,032.30

Total Year Expense: \$79,057.69

Total Year Net Income: \$-15,025.39

2021 Nov Net Year Income: \$6,324.26

Remember: you can donate directly by going to www.springvalleyorthodox.com
and clicking the Donate Button at the bottom of the page with PayPal or Credit Card or
contact Fr Mark for Bank Information for Direct Deposit by Transfer from your bank.

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Offering Schedule	Holy Bread & Food Fellowship	Epistle Reader
Sunday, December 25	Wayne & Genie Sanders / No Meal	Dr Tony Bashir
Sunday, January 1	?	?
Sunday, January 8	?	?
Sunday, January 15	Allyson Scandale	?
Sunday, January 22	The Baums in Memory of Fr Patrick Kinder & Fr Michael Vanderhoef	Rdr Michael Baum
Sunday, January 29	Potluck for General Assembly	Rdr Michael Baum

BULLETIN PART TWO – WORSHIP

- The “Glory” hymn at the end of Matins:

THE DOXASTICA OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST:

(In Tone Six) *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

When it was time for Thy coming upon earth, the world was enrolled to be taxed for the first time; then wast Thou minded to enroll the names of them that believed in Thy Birth. For this cause was such a decree pronounced by Caesar, since Thy timeless and everlasting Kingdom was inaugurated. Wherefore we also, in the stead of tribute money, Offer the wealth of our Orthodox theology unto Thee, the God and Savior of our souls.

(In Tone Two) *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Today, Christ is born of the Virgin in Bethlehem. Today the Beginningless beginneth, and the Word is made flesh. The powers of the Heavens rejoice, and the earth together with men is glad. The Magi offer their gifts, the shepherds proclaim the marvel, and we ceaselessly cry out: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

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THE GREAT DOXOLOGY AND TROPARION “Thy Nativity, O Christ”

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- The Hymns of the Day during the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great:

THE GREAT LITANY & THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Verse: I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders. In the council of the upright, and in the congregation, great are the works of the Lord.

Refrain: **Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.**

Verse: They are sought out in all the things that He hath willed. Confession and majesty are His work, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (*Refrain*)

Verse: Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

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THE LITTLE LITANY AND THE SECOND ANTIPHON:

Verse: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth. The generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Refrain: **Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee.**

Alleluia.

Verse: Glory and riches shall be in his house, and His righteousness abideth unto ages of ages. (*Refrain*)

Verse: There hath risen up in darkness a light for the upright; he is merciful and compassionate and righteous. (*Refrain*)

Verse: Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

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THE LITTLE LITANY AND THE THIRD ANTIPHON:

Verse: The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY SUNDAY:

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

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- *After the Little Entrance (Eisodos), sing these Apolytikia in the following order.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He Who existed * before the ages as God.

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THE LITANY AND THE ANTE-TRISAGION HYMN (*Instead of "Holy God"*)

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (3x) *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.* Have put on Christ. Alleluia. Dynamis!

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

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- **The Scripture of the day, following the Trisagion Hymn:**

THE EPISTLE (For the Nativity):

Clergy: Let us attend!

Reader: Let all the earth worship Thee and sing to Thee. Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

Clergy: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Galatians. (4:4-7)

Clergy: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Clergy: Peace be to thee, who readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Chanter: The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL (For the Sunday before the Nativity: “The Genealogy”):

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.’” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.” When they had heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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• Instead of “It is truly meet...” Sing:

ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION

All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

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• After “And of All Mankind” Sing the Megalynarion of the Nativity:

MEGALYNARION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts. I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

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• After “One is Holy, One is Lord...” & “I Believe O Lord and I Confess...” Sing:
KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THE NATIVITY IN TONE EIGHT:

The Lord hath sent redemption to His people. Alleluia.

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• After Communion, instead of “We have seen the true light”, sing the Festal Apolytikion: “Thy Nativity, O Christ.”

COMMEMORATION: He Who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation.

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BULLETIN PART THREE – MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFO
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The Annual Parish Assembly is on Sunday, 29 January 2023 at 11.45 am.

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2023 Calendars are now available at Church - Thank you to Barto Funeral Home
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Our A-Men's (10 = 1K) Fundraiser runs until Dec 26. Contact George Nimee

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A-Men's Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Tuesday, Jan 31st, at Angelo's Restaurant
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**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

The Right Reverend
Bishop ANTHONY



Diocese of Toledo and
The Midwest

Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

December 25, 2022

To the beloved Clergy and faithful of our Diocese Family,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

المسيحُ وُلِدَ! فَمَجِّدُوهُ!

Christ is born glorify Him. Christ is come from heaven receive Him. Christ is on earth be ye lifted up. Sing to the Lord all the earth and praise Him with joy, all people. For He has been glorified. (From the First Nativity Canon, Ode 1)

As you rejoice with your family, friends, and brothers and sisters throughout the world, know that He is born so we can receive Him. He is born on earth, to bring us back to heaven, to paradise, to the garden of Eden, to live with Him and to eat with Him at the heavenly banquet.

He is the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, because our Lord is born to die. In His death, he destroys death and He saves us from death. Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is born so our sins can be forgiven.

As He humbly becomes a babe, let us humbly receive Him today and every day! Receive Him so His love, peace, and joy may abide in your hearts forever and ever, alleluia, alleluia!

May He who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation bless you always.

+ Bishop Anthony

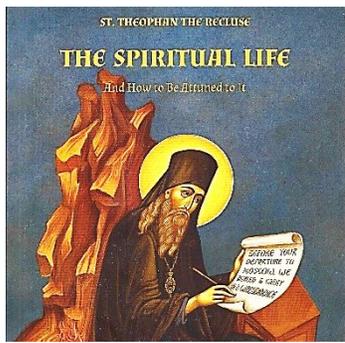
+Bishop ANTHONY

Bishop of Toledo

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

Midwest Diocesan Chancery 5549 Ginger Tree Toledo, OH 43623



Book Study starting Thursday, 19 January 2023 at 2 pm:

The Spiritual Life and How to Be Attuned to It,

by Saint Theophan The Recluse,

Translated by Alexandra Dockham, 4th Edition,

Published by The Holy Monastery of Saint Paisius in Safford, AR.

www.stpaisiusmonastery.org

Study Weekly together at the Parish Rectory and [On Zoom.](#)

Saint Theophan the Recluse carved out a genuine understanding of spirituality for the average person to be attuned here upon earth to live eternally with God in Paradise. This book was the result of a correspondence with a young lady. St. Theophan strove to make sure that this young soul would not only be familiar with the principles of spiritual life, but be able to keenly hear the right "tone" of spiritual life. This tuning of the soul is necessary to be in harmony with the voice of God's Providence echoing in the instrument of the heart. In that light, this book is a primer to enter the spiritual life.

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Your 2023 Pledge to Saint George

It is time for members to consider their commitment to planned regular financial stewardship for the new year, 2023. This advance commitment serves two purposes:

- One, it makes the budgeting work of your Parish Council a lot easier – it's almost impossible to plan without some visibility of what our parish income is likely to be.
- Two, on a personal level, this is an opportunity for each of us to prayerfully consider what God has done for us and respond with what we can do to grow His church.

What each member can commit comes down to personal thought and prayer. The Biblical standard for giving is the tithe – one tenth of income. Use that as a starting point. If you don't think you can give that much at first, consider what you can commit to giving. Or maybe you're blessed to be able to give more. Great! Whatever your thoughts about amounts, take them to God in prayer before you decide.

Then write below your 2023 Pledge to Saint George Orthodox Church

Name

I pledge to give the following amount for the Year of 2023:

\$ _____

I will give this amount as a:

Single payment annually

\$ _____ monthly payment (pledged amount divided by 12)

\$ _____ weekly payment (pledged amount divided by 52)

I understand that this pledge will be kept confidential.

Signature

Return this form by mail to: Fr Mark Sahady, 4 Westminster Dr, Spring Valley, IL 61362, or email him at office@springvalleyorthodox.com or give it to him personally.

Emmanuel: God with Us

Matthew's gospel begins with a genealogy showing that Jesus Christ is the "Son of David, the Son of Abraham" (Matt. 1:1). Matthew intends to show how Jesus fulfills the promises of God. And the first of these promises is tied to the virgin birth, the naming of Jesus and his role in saving "His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Matthew shows us that this child is the fulfillment of a prophecy spoken long ago. "So, all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'" (Matt. 1:22-23). The feast of Christmas proclaims something that is inconceivable to the human mind: that the Creator of the universe came to dwell among us. He came to be united with the human race, to taste our struggles and to share our pain, in order to lift us up into a new reality. Almighty God became one of us in order "to deify us" to share in His Life. Jesus did not come as an angel or a prophet who simply spoke the word of God. God became one of us, "and lived among us." He entered into humanity with a real birth from the Virgin Mary in order to remain eternally "one of us" - like us humans in every way except for sin. Jesus Christ became an integral and eternal part of our human family. Too many people think of Jesus as a person of the past and not as Emmanuel, the living Christ who remains with us even in the present. Many people believe more in an absent God than in the eternally present Lord. On Christmas, the Church firmly proclaims that Christ remains perpetually with us. This living feeling of His presence and the organic union with Him is made sure through the celebration of our Baptism and culminates in our participation in the Divine Eucharist - Communion. The Church reminds us of the promise of our Lord after His Passion and Resurrection "And I will be with you all the days of your life." Christ is not with us only during our hours of prayer and peace, but even more so in our turbulent days of doubt and weakness, in our hours of fear or uncertainty. The awareness of our Lord Jesus Christ's presence should strengthen and inspire us at all times. The feast of Christmas invites us to strengthen this experience of God's continuous presence in our lives. Holding fast to this spirit of Christmas will help us become bearers of God's love, peace, justice, reconciliation and hope to the world at large. The central characteristic should remain, above all else, a vibrant sense of God's presence in our own lives, and the necessity to share His presence with all those with whom we come in contact. In a world where violence, injustice, suffering and poverty plague humanity and fill our hearts with anxiety and turbulence, the Christmas feast comes again to spark anew the light of faith and hope within our souls. The eternal message of our Christian faith is that the Infinite God of the universe, who is without beginning or end, came and took on our human nature in order to guide us on a path that leads us to our highest possible development in life - our deification by grace - union with God - into a new life of divine love and salvation. **Christ is Born! Glorify Him!**