



# SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

211 E. Minnesota St., PO Box 122, Spring Valley, IL 61362

815-664-4540 [www.springvalleyorthodox.com](http://www.springvalleyorthodox.com)

Established [office@springvalleyorthodox.com](mailto:office@springvalleyorthodox.com)

1918

Metropolitan SABA

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest Bishop ANTHONY

“Love, Pray, Repent”  
“One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic Church”

Welcome All!

## 3 December 2023, Tone 1, Eothinon 4

### The Holy Prophet Zephaniah

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.

- Zephaniah 3:17 -

**MATINS 8:45 AM • DIVINE LITURGY 10 AM • FELLOWSHIP 11:15 AM**

**PASTOR:** Father Mark Sahady

**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

#### Elected / Appointed Members

George Nimee, *Chair & Antiochian Men*

Melanie Thompson, *Treasurer*

Rdr Michael Baum, *Ecclesiarch*

Wayne Sanders, *Vice-Chair*

Nicholas Schaefer, *Secretary & Youth*

Sbdn David Anderson, *Sunday School*

#### Organization Representatives

Genie Sanders, *Chanters/Choir*

Nicholas Medawar, *Order of St Ignatius*

Robert Abraham, *Facilities*

Ruth Baum, *Antiochian Women*

Maxwell Colby, *Young Adults*

#### Our Parish Mission

Called by Christ to provide hope to the world, we serve people seeking truth with a loving community and the worship of the original Christian church.

#### Our Parish Vision

St George strives to be a growing community of believers of all ages, sharing frequent worship services, Christian education, a culture of giving and stewardship, and support to our neighbors.

## BULLETIN PART ONE – ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFO

**WORSHIP** On Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVy\\_\\_6R3xbIrx-UI8H63AUA](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 – ADVENT BEGAN ON 15 NOVEMBER

#### December 2, Saturday, 9 am – Noon BAKE SALE

5:30 pm Vespers

December 3, Sunday, 8:45 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy, 11:15 am Fellowship

December 6, Wednesday, 7 pm Greece Travelogue Slides

December 8, Friday, 6:30 pm Advent Compline

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December 9, Saturday, 5:30 pm Vespers

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

December 12, Tuesday, 2 pm Senior Share (Social, Education, Table Games)

December 13, Wednesday, 7 pm Greece Travelogue Slides

December 15, Friday, 6:30 pm Advent Compline

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December 16, Saturday, 5:30 pm Vespers

December 17, Sunday, 8:45 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy, 11:15 am Fellowship

December 19, Tuesday, 6:30 pm Vespers for Saint Ignatius

December 20, Wednesday, 7 pm Greece Travelogue Slides

December 22, Friday, 9 am Royal Hours, 6:30 pm Vespers with Canon

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December 23, Saturday, 5:30 pm Vespers

December 24, Sunday, 8:45 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy, 11:15 am Fellowship

Noon Vespers, 5 pm Matins, 6 pm Divine Liturgy

December 25, Christmas Monday, 11:30 am Vespers

December 27-30, Youth/Family Trip to Michigan Monasteries/Churches

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### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 4 – Kh Katherine Buss

Dec. 10 – Ann (Bachio) Townsend, Cathy Cox

Dec. 11 – Janna Greanias

Dec. 12 – Mark Wiltse, Jay Kalman

Dec. 16 – Keeley Thompson, Nolan Kaleel

Dec. 18 – James Harvey

Dec. 21 – Angelena Leonard Panizzi

Dec. 23 – Stephanie Kinard

Dec. 24 – Kim Leonard

Dec. 26 – Grant Anthony Leonard

Dec. 27 – Gabriel Leonard

Dec. 28 – Richard Malooley

Dec. 28 – Melissa Rose-Marina Malooley

Dec. 30 – Monique Harvey

### CHURCH FINANCES

#### October 2023 Income-Expense

Total October Income: \$6,906.98

Total October Expenses: \$8,825.52

Net Income October: \$-1,918.54

#### January-October 2023 Totals

Total Year Income: \$ 74,696.09

Total Year Expense: \$77,346.81

Total Year Net Income: \$-2,650.72

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### BULLETIN PART TWO – WORSHIP

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

#### THE FOURTH EOTHINON DOXASTICON IN TONE FOUR:

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

Verily, the women came at early dawn to Thy tomb, O Christ, but they found not Thy body, precious to them. And as they were perplexed, behold there stood among them those who were in shining clothes who said to them: Why seek ye the living among the dead? He hath risen as He foretold. Why have ye forgotten His words? And when they were assured by their saying, they preached to the Disciples the things seen. But their glad tidings were received with ridicule; for they were still without understanding. But Peter hastened to behold, and glorified Thy wonders in himself.

*Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased, glory to Thee.

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**GREAT DOXOLOGY & TROPARION "Today is Salvation..."**  
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- **The Hymns of the Day during the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom:**

**THE GREAT LITANY & THE FIRST ANTIPHON:**

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

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**THE LITTLE LITANY & THE SECOND ANTIPHON:**

**Refrain:** Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee.

**Alleluia.** (*Thrice*) *Vs.* Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

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**THE LITTLE LITANY & THE THIRD ANTIPHON:  
RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE**

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

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**THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY SUNDAY:**

**Clergy:** Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.

Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

**Choir:** Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead;  
who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

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

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE**

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

**APOLYTIKION OF SAINT GEORGE IN TONE FOUR**

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of the captives, a help and succour of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for the kings, O great among martyrs, thou victory-clad George: Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

# KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE:

Byzantine Chant Tone 3

Adapted by Rassem El Massih

Special Melody: *On this day the Virgin*

On this day the Vir - gin com - eth to the cave to give  
birth to God the Word in - ef - fa - bly,  
Who was be - fore all thē ag - es. Dance for joy,  
O earth, on hear - ing the glad-some tid - ings;  
with thē An - gels and the shep-herds now glo - ri - fy Him  
Who is will - ing to be gazed on as a young  
Child Who be - fore thē ag - es is God.

## LITANY & TRISAGION HYMN

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

### THE EPISTLE (For the Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost)

**Clergy:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

**Clergy:** Wisdom!

**Reader:** The Reading from the Epistle of Saint Paul to the Ephesians (5:8-19)

**Clergy:** Let us attend!

**Reader:** Brethren, walk as children of light—for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true—and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes

visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.” Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

**Clergy:** Peace be to thee, who readest.

**Reader:** And to thy spirit.

**Reader:** God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me. He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

**All:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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**THE GOSPEL (For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)**

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. (18:35-43)**

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” And he cried, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me receive my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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• After “One is Holy, One is Lord...” & “I Believe O Lord and I Confess...” Sing:

**THE ORDINARY KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN):**

Praise the Lord from the Heavens. Praise Him in the Highest. Alleluia.

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**Commemoration:** The Holy Prophet Zephaniah; Martyrs Agapios, Seleukos and Mamas; Venerable Theodoulos, Eparch of Constantinople; and Venerable Theodoulos of Cyprus.

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**BULLETIN PART THREE – MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFO**

Offering Schedule	Holy Bread & Food	Epistle Reader
<b>**Everyone, Please, clean up after yourselves both the table and floor areas**</b>		
Sunday, December 3	Kim, Jeannie, Gabe Leonard, Angelena Panizzi A Memorial for Ed & Sadie Malooley	Gabe Leonard
Sunday, December 10	?	?
Sunday, December 17	?	?
Sunday, December 24	?	?
Sunday, December 31	Daniel & Tara Rakes and Family	?

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2024 Calendars are now available at Church - Thank you to Barto Funeral Home  
 Thank you to everyone who donated the 95 lbs of food for Illinois Valley Food Pantry  
 Use Alms Box for Monetary Donations for Hall Township Food Pantry now – 17 Dec

It's time to **consider your commitment to Christ** and decide with prayer your financial pledge to His Church in Spring Valley. 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 down your Pledge for the Year of 2024 to Saint George Orthodox Church** and mail it to: Fr Mark Sahady, PO Box 122, Spring Valley, IL 61362, or email him at [office@springvalleyorthodox.com](mailto:office@springvalleyorthodox.com) or give it to him personally by 16 December, so this Parish can budget and plan for the new year of 2024.

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For **Parish Council Elections** at the **Annual Parish Assembly on 28 January**, two candidates are needed. The Election Committee has nominated George Nimee and Michael Baum as the 2024 candidates. Give possible names to Fr Mark by 16 December.

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## *2023 Advent Travelogue*

### **Greece**

### **Classical & Christian**

### **Wednesday evenings**

**December 6 - 20, 7 - 8 pm**



From the ancient Olympics and the Oracle at Delphi to Alexander the Great and the travels of the Apostle Paul, Greece provides stories and pictures of incredible beauty and significance for all the ages and today. Prepare for Christmas with slides and images from a recent tour of Greece. Experience a virtual visit to the land where the Christian church took root, flourished, and spread across the world!

**December**

### **Preparing for the Coming of Christ**

**6**

The great monuments of Ancient Greece – where the Olympic Games began, the tomb of Alexander the Great's father, and the Parthenon – and how they helped lay the foundations of the Christian church.

**December**

### **The Travels of Paul the Apostle**

**13**

The first books of the New Testament were written to churches in Greece; we'll see the actual locations of Corinthians, Thessalonians, Philippians, and Ephesians.

**December**

### **Images of Holiness**

**20**

Five days before Christmas, we'll visit some of the most historic churches in Greece with amazing iconography, and marvel at their beauty and sanctity.

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**Giving Tuesday Week, Now - 6 December** – Donate at <https://gofund.me/b736630d>

**Our Goal is \$3,000. So far, the Campaign has raised \$1,180. Share the above link.**



Support the renewal of Saint George Orthodox Church as we enter the 106th year of ministry with Sunday School, Workshops, Bible Studies, Community Support, Spiritual Counseling, Life-giving Worship and Fervent Prayer.

**3 December 2023**

**6**

**Sunday Bulletin**

**Zephaniah, (Sophonias)** remembered today, flourished in the 7th century BC. An Israelite prophet, the author of one of the shorter Old Testament prophetic books, who proclaimed the approaching divine judgment. The prophet's activity occurred during the early part of Josiah's reign. He criticized the worship of certain gods in Jerusalem (Baal, Milcom) before Josiah's reform, which took place about 621 BC. Zephaniah is the son of Cushi, and great-great grandson of King Hezekiah, ninth in the literary order of the Twelve Minor Prophets. He prophesied in the days of Josiah, ruler of the Kingdom of Judah (640–609 BC), and was contemporary with Jeremiah, with whom he had much in common. The scene of his activity was the city of Jerusalem, which he knows well. Like the writings of many of the prophets, the book of Zephaniah follows a pattern of judgment on all people for their sin followed by the restoration of God's chosen people. Zephaniah's primary target for God's message of judgment, the nation of Judah, had fallen into grievous sin under the reign of their king, Manasseh. Zephaniah's prophecy shouted out for godliness and purity in a nation sinful to its core. The people of Judah had long since turned their backs on God, not only in their personal lives but also in their worship. This reflected the depth of their sin and the deep need for God's people to be purged on their path to restoration. As a young man, the prophet-to-be would have been surrounded by the trappings of idolatry, child sacrifice, and unjust killings—strong influences on a young mind (2 Kings 21:16; 2 Chronicles 33:1–10). But Zephaniah grew into a man of God, able to stand before the people and proclaim God's message of judgment and hope to a people that had gone astray. This book mentions “the Day of the Lord” more than does any other book in the Old Testament, clarifying the picture of Judah's fall to Babylon and the eventual judgment and restoration of all humanity in the future. Zephaniah saw in “the Day of the Lord” the destruction of his country, his neighbors, and eventually the whole earth (Zephaniah 1:2, 4; 2:10). Zephaniah wrote that the Day of the Lord was near (1:14), that it would be a time of wrath (1:15), that it would come as judgment on sin (1:17), and that ultimately it would result in the blessing of God's presence among His people (3:17).

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The **Daily Cycle of Worship** includes Vespers, Compline, Nocturnes, Matins, & Hours.

**VESPERS:** The first service of the day begins with the setting of the sun at Vespers. The Vespers service begins with Psalm 104:19-20 worshipping God as Creator: “He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knows its going down. You make darkness, and it is night”. And then Psalm 141 leads us to ask Christ to “Hear our prayer” as we offer “the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.” In the Church at this time of day, as the sun sets, we traditionally give thanks for all the blessings our Lord has granted us this day.

**COMPLINE:** Prayers for “after dinner” or “as we go to sleep.” This prayer is to be read after Vespers and after the evening meal. Compline is made up of Psalms and prayers. Psalm 4 “In Peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.” Here, we reflect on the difficulties of the day and examine how we handled them and ask forgiveness for our shortcomings as well as our negligence of things we did not do that we should have done.

**NOCTURNS:** This Midnight service includes psalms, and the regular prayers of Thrice-Holy, The Lord's Prayer, especially Psalm 119 "At midnight I will rise and praise you." It's mostly known as the "Rush" service that's done just before the Pascha Matins.

**MATINS (ORTHROS):** Based on Psalm 63, "O God, You are my God, early will I seek You!" At dawn we rise at sunrise and experiencing the goodness of God and praise Him, give thanks, make petitions, and seek His blessing for the activities of the coming day. The Great Doxology to God comes at the end of Matins and the bells ring, calling and announcing to everyone that the Divine Liturgy is about to begin.

**HOURS:** In addition, there are the services of the Hours. First, Third, Sixth and Ninth hours usually fall into the daily schedule of 6 and 9 in the morning, noon, and 3 in the afternoon. The Hours correspond with the events of the Lord's passion and the third hour (9 a.m.), corresponds with the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. These are times to stop and pray throughout the day to stay focused and recharge, mostly the Psalms are read during the Hours. On days when there is no Liturgy, the Beatitudes and the Creed are also read after the ninth hour (3 pm). **At First Hour**, read Psalm 5, "To You I pray, O Lord; in the morning You hear my voice!" and ask God to guard us from everything that could harm us in either body or soul. As our senses are being awakened we ask for spiritual awakening through Jesus Christ who is the "true light who comes into the world." **At the Third Hour** read Psalm 51 "Take not Your Holy Spirit from me." and this is the hour when the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles on Pentecost. We give thanks to God for this gift and ask to grow the fruits and graces of the Spirit. We also commemorate the condemnation of Christ by Pilate. And Read Psalm 25, and say the prayer "O Lord, You sent down Your Most Holy Sprit upon Your Apostles at the Third Hour. Take Him not from us, O Good One, but renew Him in us who pray to You." **At Sixth Hour** read Luke 23:33, 44 "There they crucified Him... It was now about the sixth hour" It is when Pilate released Him to the Jews and they condemned Him and He was nailed to the Cross. We rejoice in the infinite life of God and show our gratitude, for through this event He wrought our salvation. And Read Psalm 54. **At the ninth hour**... Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last." Mark 15: 34, 37. This is the time that Jesus died on the Cross. It is when he promised His kingdom to the repentant thief. And Read Psalm 84.

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**The Ladies of Saint George Orthodox Church present their**

## **Bake Sale**

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**9 am – Noon**



**Baklawa, Date Fingers, Maamoul, Ghribee, Meat Pies, Spinach Pies, Cheese Bread, Zaatar Bread, And more...**