



SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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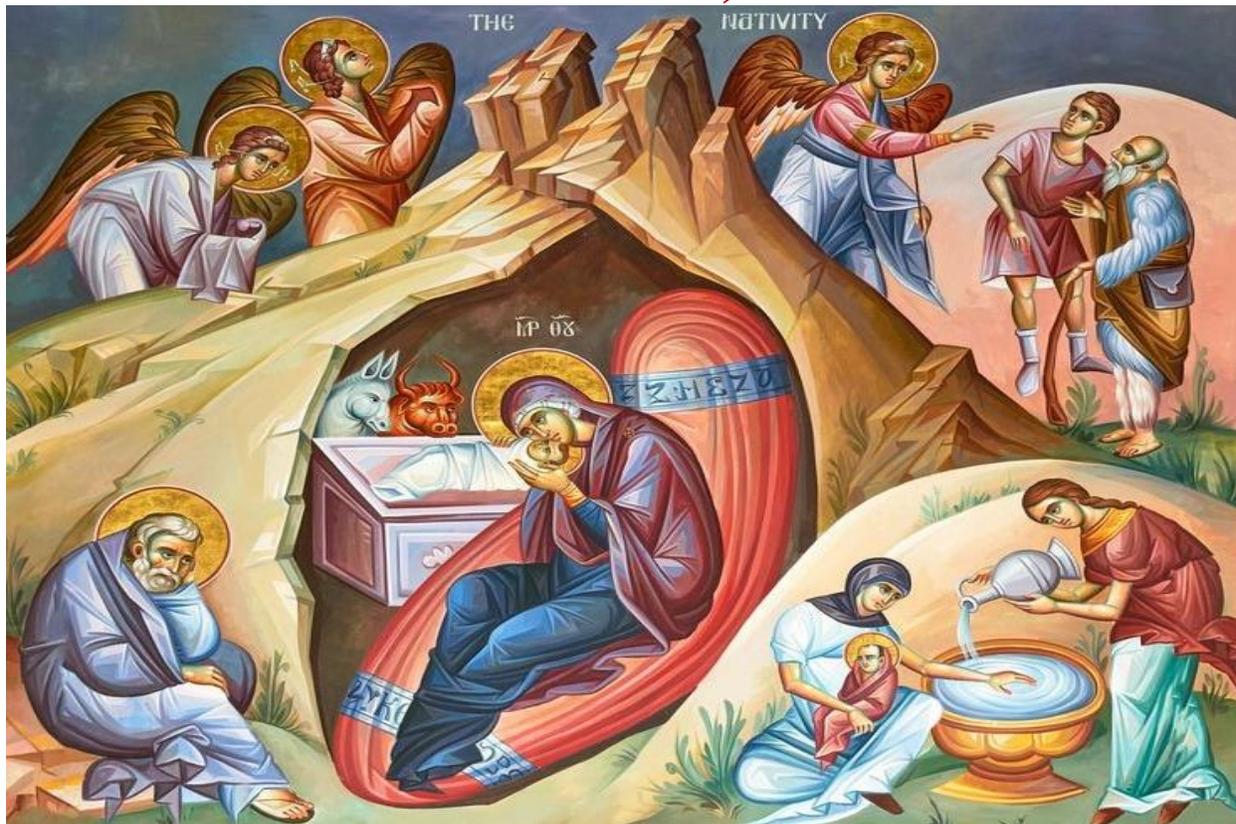
Metropolitan SABA

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest Bishop ANTHONY

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

25 December 2023, Christmas



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

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

December 23, Saturday, **5:30 pm Vespers**

December 24, Sunday, **8:45 am Matins, 10 am Typica Service and Fellowship,
5 pm Matins, 6 pm Divine Liturgy for Christmas**

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December 30, Saturday, **5:30 pm Vespers**

December 31, Sunday, **8:45 am Matins, 10 am Typica Service and Fellowship
7 pm Divine Liturgy of St Basil and Fellowship**

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New Year of 2024

January 6, Saturday, **5:30 pm Vespers**

January 7, Sunday, **8:45 am Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy, Bless Water,
11:30 am Fellowship, Noon A-Women Meeting**

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 24 – Kim Leonard

Dec. 28 – Richard Malooley

Dec. 26 – Grant Anthony Leonard

Dec. 28 – Melissa Rose-Marina Malooley

Dec. 27 – Gabriel Leonard

Dec. 30 – Monique Harvey

CHURCH FINANCES

November 2023 Income-Expense

Total November Income: \$5,511.00

Total November Expenses: \$8,704.07

Net Income November: \$-3,193.07

January-November 2023 Totals

Total Year Income: \$ 80,207.09

Total Year Expense: \$86,050.88

Total Year Net Income: \$-5,843.79

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BULLETIN PART TWO – WORSHIP ON SUNDAY NIGHT FOR CHRISTMAS

- 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”

- 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.

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 Nativity):

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.

- 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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Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

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BULLETIN PART THREE – MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFO

Offering Schedule

Holy Bread & Food

Epistle Reader

****Everyone, Please, clean up after yourselves both the table and floor areas****

Sunday, December 24 Morning	Ruth Baum and Jeannie Leonard	Kim Leonard
Sunday, December 31	Morning Potluck	Rdr Mike Baum
Sunday, December 31	Night Potluck	Rdr Mike Baum
Sunday, January 7	?	?

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Thank you for your Donations to Hall Township Food Pantry – Total given was \$240.

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The Annual Parish Assembly is 28 January. Council nominees are Michael Baum and Mark Kerasotes.

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What does it mean to wait ‘in earnest’? The author of 2 Peter ch 3 writes: “Do not ignore the fact, beloved, that with the Lord, one day is like a thousand years...” This passage reminds us God’s timing and the human conception of time are not always aligned. From this reading, might we also remember the importance of living in the in-between. We are to set aside questions about the future and instead to lead lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and helping to prepare the way of the Lord.

**His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan SABA**



**Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of
All North America**

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

Nativity, December 25, 2023

Reverend Hierarchs, Priests and Deacons, Esteemed members of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees, Beloved Sons and Daughters of our Antiochian Archdiocese of North America,

On this blessed occasion, I recall the familiar phrase we hear in the Advent prayers:

“Christ is born, glorify Him!”

It is the Church’s call to us since the beginning of the Nativity Fast. We remember it to keep the question alive: How do we glorify Christ? Present in our minds, the answer remains clear: we glorify Him through our actions, our lives, and our conduct. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). Remember, the answer depends on each person’s readiness and response to this divine calling. Many believe that Christ calls us to be good and nothing more. However, our Orthodox Christian faith teaches us that Christ came for us, and became man, not merely to make us good but to adorn our nature with His divinity. Good deeds are necessary, not as an end in themselves, but as the path to conform to Christ, striving for divine perfection.

Christian theology has succinctly summarized the theology of the Incarnation since the second century with the phrase: “God became man so that man might become God.” Our Lord took unto himself what was not His original nature to clearly show us that it is possible for us to forsake our sinful nature. He opened the heavens and descended to us, teaching us to open the gates of our hearts and forgiveness of sins, offering mercy to our brethren through the likeness of His love toward us.

My prayer for you in these blessed days is that may you always be prepared to receive the birth of Christ within you, to be a warm manger for Him, and to be blessed by His constant presence within you. May He increasingly mold you into His likeness day by day.

May God bless your days and your lives, and may everyone taste the peace of His Nativity. Wishing you a blessed festal season and a new year filled with His blessings, I remain,

Yours in the Incarnate Christ,

+SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America