



Established 1918

St. George Orthodox Church

211 E. Minnesota St. P.O. Box 122

Spring Valley, IL 61362

(815)664-4540 springvalleyorthodox@gmail.com

*Metropolitan SABA, Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy, Archiepiscopal Vicar Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*

Fr. Jeremy Finzel, Pastor



Sunday, October 13, 2024 Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

Fourth Sunday of Luke - Tone 7/Eothion 5
8:45am - Matins, 10:00am - Divine Liturgy,
followed by
Fellowship and Adult Education

Coming Up at St. George:

Monday, October 14 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Liturgy for St. Paraskeva the New

Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30pm - Daily Vespers

Thursday, October 17 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Liturgy

Saturday, October 19 at 5:30pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, October 20 at 8:45am - Orthros, 10:00am - Divine Liturgy, followed by
Fellowship and Adult Education

Monday, October 21 from 9am-Noon - Ladies Baking

Tuesday October 22 from 9am-Noon - Ladies Baking
and from 1-3pm - Senior Share

Wednesday, October 23 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Liturgy for St. James, the Brother of
the Lord and at 6:30pm - Daily Vespers

Thursday, October 24 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Liturgy for the Holy Elders of Optina,
followed by a Blessing of the Waters

Saturday, October 26 at 8:00am - Orthros, 9:00am - Liturgy for St. Demetrius
and 5:30pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, October 27 at 8:45am - Orthros, 10:00am - Divine Liturgy, followed by
Fellowship and Adult Education

Office Hours This Week:

Monday from Noon-3pm

Services available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@St.GeorgeSpringValleyOrthodox>

Please follow along in the booklet for Divine Liturgy

- *The Glory hymns at the end of Matins:*

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

When the rank of the holy Fathers flocked from the ends of the inhabited world, they believed in one Substance and one Nature of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, delivering plainly to the Church the mystery of discoursing in theology. Wherefore, in that we laud them in faith, we beatify them, saying: What a divine army, ye God-inspired soldiers of the camp of the Lord, ye most brilliant luminaries in the supersensuous firmament, ye impregnable towers of the mystical Zion, ye scented flowers of paradise, the golden lights of the Word, the price and delight of the whole universe, intercede ceaselessly for our souls.

Both Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thou hast transcended all blessings, O Virgin Theotokos! For Hades hath been spoiled by Him who was incarnate of thee. Yea, Adam was recalled, the curse was abolished. Eve was delivered and death was caused to die, and we were made to live again. Wherefore, with praise we cry: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, who hast thus shown Thy pleasure. Glory to Thee!

- *The Liturgy continues with the Great Doxology, Page 2.*

- *The Troparion after the Great Doxology:*

Having risen again from the tomb, and having burst asunder the bonds of Hades, Thou didst unbind the condemnation of death, O Lord, redeeming all men from the snares of the enemy. And having revealed Thyself to Thine Apostles, Thou didst send them forth to proclaim Thee. And through them Thou hast granted Thy peace unto the universe, O Thou who alone art merciful!

- *The Liturgy continues with the Opening Prayers, Page 3.*

- *The Third Antiphon and the Little Entrance:*

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 7): Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the mourning of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim warning that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting the world Great Mercy.

- *The Entrance Hymn:*

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and God. Save us, O Son of God, who didst rise again from the dead, we who sing unto Thee: Alleluia!

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

Repeat the Troparion of the Resurrection (from above)

Apolytikion of The Holy Fathers (Tone 8): Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our Holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of St. Jacob of Hamatoura (Tone 3): Thou didst flourish like Lebanon's cedar, with no fear thou didst suffer martyrdom, thou becamest, O saint Jacob, a true victor. For thou didst conquer death with thy mortal flesh, when thou didst tame all the passions by humility. And while burning like incense as a true sacrifice, thou intercedest with Christ to grant us all the Great Mercy.

Troparion for St. George the Great-Martyr (Tone 4): Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and succour of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among martyrs, the victory-clad George: Intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Ordinary Kontakion (Tone 2): O undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us in time, who cry to Thee in faith, with assistance; for Thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those honor Thee.

- *The Trisagion Hymn:*

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal One: Have mercy on us! (*three times*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal One: Have mercy upon us!

Louder! Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal One: Have mercy upon us!

The Epistle for the Holy Fathers

Clergy: Let us attend!

Reader: Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done to us.

Clergy: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Titus (3:8-15).

Clergy: Let us attend!

Reader: Titus, my son, faithful is the saying, and concerning these things I desire you to affirm confidently, that those who have believed in God may be thoughtful of how to preside in honorable occupations. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, and genealogies, and contentions, and controversies about the Law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man who is a heretic after the first and second admonition reject, knowing that such a one is subverted, and sins, being self-condemned. When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicós, give diligence to come to me to Nicopolis; for I have determined to winter there. Set forward Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that they may be lacking in nothing. And let our people also learn how to preside in honorable occupations, so as to help in cases of urgent need, that they should not be unfruitful. All who are with me salute you. Salute those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Clergy: Peace be to thee who readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Chanter: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High! To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night!

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Luke

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (8:5-15).

The Lord spoke this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell

among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold.” And when His Disciples asked Him what this parable meant, Jesus said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.” As Jesus said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

- *The Liturgy continues with the Homily, Page 12.*

The Litany of the Catechumens:

Priest: Pray to the Lord, ye catechumens.

People: Lord, have mercy. (*repeat after each petition*)

Let us, the faithful, pray for the catechumens, that the Lord will have mercy on them.

That He will teach them the word of truth.

That He will reveal to them the gospel of righteousness.

That He will unite them in His holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

Save them; have mercy on them; help them; and keep them, O God, by Thy grace.

Priest: Bow your heads unto the Lord, ye catechumens.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: (*Quietly*) O Lord our God, who dwellest on high and regardest the humble, who hast sent forth as the salvation of the race of men thine only-begotten Son and God, our Lord Jesus Christ; Look down upon thy servants the catechumens, who have bowed their necks before Thee; make them worthy in due season of the laver of regeneration, the forgiveness of sins and the robe of incorruption. Unite them to Thy holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and number them with Thine elect flock. (*Louder*) That with us they may glorify Thine all-honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: As many as are catechumens, depart. Depart, catechumens. As many as are catechumens, depart. Let none of the catechumens remain.

The First Litany of the Faithful:

Priest: As many as are of the faithful, again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Very slowly while the Priest prays quietly.*)

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Wisdom!

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Second Litany of the Faithful:

Priest: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*Very slowly while the Priest prays quietly.*)

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Wisdom!

Priest: That guarded always by Thy might we may ascribe glory unto Thee to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

- *The Cherubic Hymn:*

Let us who represent the Cherubim mystically, as we sing with them the thrice-holy hymn to the life-giving Trinity, the thrice-holy chant intoning. All cares terrestrial, now lay aside. We raise on high the King of All.

- *The Liturgy continues with the Great Entrance, Page 12.*

- *The Communion Hymn:*

The just shall be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia.

- *The Liturgy continues, Page 26.*

Information & Announcements

Rip's Fundraiser: Our share of ticket sales was \$474, that includes a few donations, plus \$398 from desserts sold for a total of \$872. Thank you for your continued support of St. George! And a huge thank you to Angelena Panizzi and Rip's Tavern for another successful fundraiser!

Family Fall Gathering: Fr. Jeremy will be joining others from the diocese and Fr. Jeremy Davis for the Clergy Retreat at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids during the Midwest Diocese Annual Family Fall Gathering from Thursday, October 17 through Saturday, October 19. For more information about the event: <https://stnicholasgr.com/fall-gathering/>

All Saints Celebration: Fr. Andrew Kishler has invited us to the annual All Saints Celebration in Chicago on Thursday, October 31 from 6-9pm. For more information, please see Fr. Jeremy or Kh. Jordan.

Annual Bake Sale: It's that time again! The Ladies are gearing up to start baking for our annual bake sale on December 7th. This is a huge endeavor every year and we need all the help we can get. We need volunteers to help with baking, which we will start on Monday, October 21st, and we will gladly accept any financial donations to help offset the cost of ingredients and supplies. Please see Ruth or Allyson for more information.

Church Finances

	September 2024	2024 YTD	2023 YTD
Income	\$4,254.00	\$61,262.34	\$67,789.11
Expenses	6,487.02	51,822.74	68,521.19
Net Income (Loss)	(\$2,233.02)	\$9,439.60	(\$732.18)

Parish Council Members
Elected & Appointed Members

Wayne Sanders, *Chair*
Melanie Thompson, *Treasurer*
Sbdn. David Anderson, *Sunday School*

Mark Kerasotes, *Vice-Chair & Order of St. Ignatius*
Rdr. Michael Baum, *Secretary & Ecclesiarch*

Organization Representatives

Genie Sanders, *Chanters/Choir*
Maxwell Colby, *Young Adults*

Allyson Scandale, *Antiochian Women*
Robert Abraham, *Facilities*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

October 4 – Sonya Finzel

October 16 – Jennifer Harlay

October 15 – Jessica Malooley

October 18 – Daya Desai

The Mother of All Vices, Part One (Pride and Arrogance)

By His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)



Some people believe that pride lies only in condescension toward others, in vanity and self-aggrandizement. In fact, these are merely superficial aspects of pride, which Christian spiritual literature considers the mother of all evils and vices.

The main pitfall of pride is that it blindfolds the individual from viewing reality, so the person no longer sees anyone but himself or herself, blinded by self-aggrandizement, excess and overconfidence.

This leads individuals to validate everything for themselves, justify every personal action, consider themselves perfect and find no need for others. On the other hand, they would see nothing in others besides their faults and shortcomings, and would oppose them whenever they become prominent or their opinions become popular.

An arrogant person is a rotten pomegranate on the inside even if it looks good on the outside.

Jealousy unnerves arrogant people because they do not want anyone to possess better qualities. Their envy may lead them to harm those who provoke their jealousy; it may even lead to murder. There are many reasons that lead humans to backbite, slander and distort people's reputations, yet what many of us may not realize is that concealed pride is what triggers all these vices.

Pride, according to the teaching of Saint John of the Ladder, generates anger, reproach, rudeness, rage, shouting, blasphemy, hypocrisy, hatred, envy, self-will, resistance and rebellion.

Our contemporary Saint Sophrony Zakharov (+1993) enumerates the combined aspects of pride in detail and in psychological terms. He says: "Pride is the root of sin. All the manifestations through which evil can appear collectively exist in pride: pretense, vainglory, love of power, carelessness, cruelty, indifference to the suffering of one's neighbor, daydreaming, wild imagination, the demonic expression of the eye, the demonic character of every appearance,

anxiety, despair, hatred, contempt, envy, and the inferiority complex. For many, the latter is the gateway to physical lust, tormenting inner turmoil, stubbornness, fear of death – or on the contrary, the longing to end life by suicide – and finally complete derangement of the mind, which is not uncommon... These are the signs of demonic spirituality. However, many people do not realize these detrimental processes of pride because they act discreetly and pass silently. That's when the enemy attacks to destroy the soul.”

The Church Fathers attribute pride to man's fall from paradise. Adam and Eve's pride led them to try reaching for divinity by using the image of God – in which He created them – to achieve His likeness. However, they tried to achieve this without God, but rather, with the help of Satan. This remains man's main sin even today. People do not want God by their side because God's presence requires them to become humble. People reject this at its core, because they understand their existence through self-affirmation only.

In fact, humans have a strong inclination towards excessive self-satisfaction and self-confidence. This is what we call in our spiritual literature the disease of arrogance, which is the root of pride. It is what Saint John of the Ladder calls “the precursor of pride.”

By arrogance, we do not only mean admiring and worshiping oneself, but also seeking praise from others. An arrogant person strives to be viewed perfectly by others – regardless of the reality of the inner self – and aspires to display virtues, talents, and abilities. And all that, not to serve others but rather to gain their appreciation, praise and elevated status in their eyes.

His Eminence, the Most Reverend Saba Isper is the Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. His Beatitude Patriarch John X of Antioch and All the East and the Holy Synod of Antioch elected His Eminence to lead the Archdiocese during its extraordinary session on Feb. 23, 2023, in Balamand, Lebanon.

His Eminence will lead and oversee the Archdiocese's parishes, missions, departments, institutions and organizations in the United States and Canada from the headquarters in Englewood, New Jersey. The auxiliary bishops aid him in his administration across the continent. For more information on His Eminence and his teachings, please visit <https://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=MetSaba>

