



Established 1918

St. George Orthodox Church

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

Spring Valley, IL 61362

(815)664-4540 springvalleyorthodox@gmail.com

www.springvalleyorthodox.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, December 15, 2024 Hieromartyr Eleutherios of Illyria and the Forefathers of Christ

Tone 8/Eothinon 3

8:45am - Matins, 10:00am - Divine Liturgy

Followed by Fellowship and
Parish Council Meeting

Coming Up at St. George:

Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00am - Hours, 6:30am - Liturgy for Daniel the Prophet
and Three Holy Youths

Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30pm - Daily Vespers

Thursday, December 19 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Liturgy

Saturday, December 21 at 5:30pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, December 22 at 8:45am - Orthros, 10:00am - Divine Liturgy,
Followed by Fellowship, Adult Education and Sunday School

Tuesday, December 24

9:00am - Royal Hours for Nativity

4:00pm - Nativity Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Wednesday, December 25

8:00am - Nativity Festal Orthros

9:00am - Nativity Festal Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Thursday, December 26 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Liturgy for Synaxis of the Theotokos

Friday, December 27 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Liturgy for St Stephen

Saturday, December 28 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Liturgy
and at 5:30pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, December 29 at 8:45am - Orthros, 10:00am - Divine Liturgy,
Followed by Fellowship, Adult Education and Sunday School

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.

Come, let us all celebrate the anniversary of their memory, the anniversary of the fathers before the law - Abraham and those with him. Let us honor meekly the tribe of Judah, and praise the youths who were in Babylon, who put down the flames of the furnace; for they foreshadowed the Trinity, and with them Daniel. And holding steadfastly the foresayings of the Prophet, let us shout with a loud voice with Isaiah, saying, Behold the Virgin shall conceive in the womb and give birth to a son, Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

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 service 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 First Antiphon:*

Through the prayers of the birth giver of God, O Savior, save us.

- *The Second Antiphon:*

Save us, O Son of God, Who didst rise again from the dead; we who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.

- *The Third Antiphon and the Little Entrance:*

Resurrectional Apolytikion (Tone 8): O compassionate One, Thou didst descend from the heights; Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou mightest deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

- *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 Apolytikion of the Resurrection (from above)

Apolytikion for the Forefathers (Tone 2): Thou hast justified by faith the ancient Forefathers, and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and it was she who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

Apolytikion for St. Eleutherios of Illyria (Tone 5): Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; hence never cease to intercede for those honoring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherios.

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.

Kontakion of Preparation of Christ's Nativity (Tone 3): Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word before the ages. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds Him who shall appear by His own will as a new babe, being God before the ages.

- *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 St. Eleutherios

Clergy: Let us attend!

Reader: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saint. What shall we render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto us?

Clergy: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (1:8-18).

Clergy: Let us attend!

Reader: Timothy, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, Who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know Whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit Who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus.

Clergy: Peace be to thee who readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Chanter: Moses and Aaron among His priests, and Samuel among them that call upon His name. They called upon the Lord, and He harkened unto them.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel for the Holy Forefathers

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (14:16-24).

The Lord spoke this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

- *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.*

Information & Announcements

The Nativity Fast: We are in the midst of the Nativity Fast until the Feast of Nativity on December 25th. The Archdiocese guidelines are posted downstairs, but please consult with Fr. Jeremy if you have questions about the fast. Please be mindful of the fasting guidelines when bringing food to coffee hour. For more information, please see the archdiocese website here: <https://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=The%20Nativity%20Fast>

Christmas Road Game: There is a Christmas Road board game available for sale for \$25 each from the church, which Metropolitan +Saba has encouraged us to consider. Please see Fr. Jeremy or Kh. Jordan with any questions!

Collection for Hall Township Food Pantry: Throughout the Nativity fast, we are collecting alms, financial donations, for the food pantry here in Spring Valley. You can place your contribution in the alms box at the back of the church.

You're invited! To kickoff the new year, our Senior Share group is hosting a Children's Concert featuring the Finzel family on Thursday, January 2nd at 1:00pm. All are welcome and refreshments will be served!

British Isle Presentations: Mike Baum has put together slideshows of his and Ruth's recent pilgrimages to England and Ireland. There's an amazing amount of ancient Christian heritage, sites, and stories, and they brought back a lot of pictures! Starting January 8th and running through the 29th, presentations and refreshments will start at 7:30 pm, right after Daily Vespers at 6:30 pm.

Parish Council Representatives

Elected & Appointed Members

Wayne Sanders, *Chair*
 Mark Kerasotes, *Vice-Chair & Order of St. Ignatius*
 Melanie Thompson, *Treasurer*
 Rdr. Michael Baum, *Secretary & Ecclesiarch*
 Sbdn. David Anderson, *Sunday School*

Organization Representatives

Genie Sanders, *Chanters/Choir*
 Allyson Scandale, *Antiochian Women*
 Maxwell Colby, *Young Adults*
 Robert Abraham, *Facilities*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 16 – Keeley Thompson, Nolan Kaleel
 December 18 – James Harvey
 December 21 – Angelena Leonard Panizzi

Church Financials

	November 2024	2024 YTD	2023 YTD Comparison
Income	\$4,758.73	\$73,248.07	\$80,207.09
Expenses	8,039.93	70,227.05	86,050.88
Net Income (or loss)	-3,281.20	3,021.02	-5,843.79

On this day we celebrate the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of our Lord Jesus.

*Receive joy, O Forefathers which lived aforetime,
 As now ye behold at hand Christ the Messiah.*

Be glad, O Abraham, for thou art shown to be the forefather of Christ.



We remember all the holy Patriarchs of the Old Testament who prefigured or foretold Christ: Adam the first Father, Enoch, Melchizedek, Abraham, the friend of God, Isaac, the fruit of the Promise, Jacob and the twelve patriarchs. We then commemorate those who lived under the Law: Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Samuel, David, and the Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel; the twelve minor prophets; Elijah, Elisha, Zachariah, and John the Baptist; and finally the Virgin Mary, the intermediary between mankind and her divine Son. Indeed, the Lord Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to redeem humanity which bemoaned the weight of evil since Adam; to realize the promise made to Abraham; to change the Law of Fear into the Law of Love; and to give Resurrection and Life to mankind. This feast prepares us for the Nativity of Jesus Christ, placing before us the anticipation and hope for His coming among us.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

~ The Synaxarion on the Holy Forefathers