



Established 1918

St. George Orthodox Church

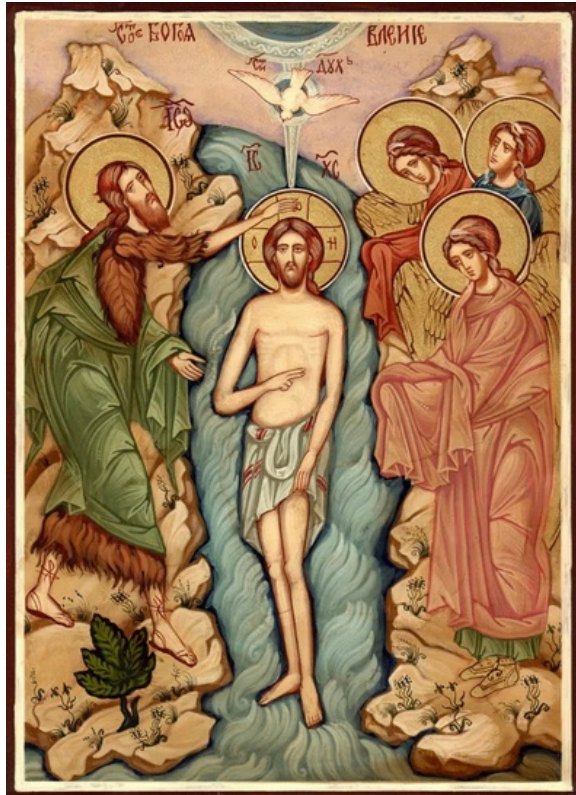
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*Metropolitan SABA, Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy, Archiepiscopal Vicar Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest*



Sunday, January 5, 2025 Sunday Before Theophany

Tone 3/Eothinon 6

8:45am - Matins, 10:00am - Divine Liturgy
and Indoor Blessing of the Waters
Followed by Fellowship

Fr. Jeremy Finzel, Pastor

Coming Up at St. George:

Tonight, January 5 at 6:30pm - Great Vespers for Theophany

Monday, January 6 at 8:00am - Festal Orthros, 9:00am - Festal Liturgy for Theophany,
Followed by Outdoor Blessing of the Waters at Barto Landing

Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30pm - Daily Vespers, 7:30pm - British Isle Presentation,
Including Refreshments

Thursday, January 9 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, January 11 at 5:30pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, January 12 at 8:45am - Orthros, 10:00am - Divine Liturgy,
Followed by Fellowship and Ladies of St. George Meeting

Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30pm - Daily Vespers, 7:30pm - British Isle Presentation,
Including Refreshments

Thursday, January 16 at 8:30am - Hours, 9:00am - Liturgy
and at 1:00pm - Senior Share

Saturday, January 18 at 5:30pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, January 19 at 8:45am - Orthros, 10:00am - Divine Liturgy,
Followed by Fellowship and Parish Council Meeting

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.

O John the Baptizer, who didst know Me, the Lamb, in the womb, serve Me in the river with the angels. Stretch forth thy hand and touch My pure head. And when thou seest the mountains tremble and the Jordan turn back, then shout with them, saying, O Thou Who wast incarnate of the Virgin for our salvation, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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:*

Today hath salvation come into the world. Let us sing praises unto Him who rose again from the grave, the Author of our life. For in that by death He hath destroyed death, He hath given us the victory and great mercy.

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

- *The First Antiphon:*

Through the prayers of the birth giver of God, On Savior, save us. (*Thrice*)

- *The Little Litany*

- *The Second Antiphon:*

Save us, O Son of God, Who didst rise again from the dead, we who sing unto Thee: Alleluia!
Save us, O Son of God, Who didst rise again from the dead, we who sing unto Thee: Alleluia!
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Save us, O Son of God, Who didst rise again from the dead, we who sing unto Thee: Alleluia!
Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Only-begotten Son and Word of God, who art immortal, and who didst deign for our salvation to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, and without change wast made man, and was also crucified, O Christ our God, and didst trample death by death, being yet one of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit: Save us!

- *The Little Litany*

- *The Third Antiphon and the Little Entrance:*

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3): Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the 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*)

Troparion of the Sunday Before Theophany (Tone 4): The River Jordan receded of old by the mantle of Elisha when Elijah ascended to heaven; and the water was separated to this side and that, the wet element turning into a dry path for him, being truly a symbol of Baptism, by which we cross the path of transient age. Christ appeared in the Jordan to sanctify its waters.

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 the Forefeast of Theophany (Tone 4): In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

- *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 Sunday Before the Theophany of Christ

Clergy: Let us attend!

Reader: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God.

Clergy: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (4:5-8).

Clergy: Let us attend!

Reader: My child Timothy, be watchful in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the season of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, and I have guarded the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will reward me at that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved His appearing.

Clergy: Peace be to thee who readest.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Chanter: God be gracious unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and have mercy on us.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel for the Sunday Before the Theophany of Christ

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:1-8).

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

- *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 Service continues with the Indoor Blessing of the Waters.*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January 9 – Efy Trilikis

January 10 – David Kaleel

January 11 – Mitch Kaleel, Judy Abraham, Bridget Spitz

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*

Information & Announcements

Outdoor Blessing of the Waters: Following liturgy tomorrow, January 6th, the Outdoor Blessing of the Waters will take place at Barto Boat Landing, just northwest of the IL Route 89 bridge south of Spring Valley.

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 Wednesday's Daily Vespers at 6:30 pm.

Birthday Party for Patrick Ryder: You're invited! Patrick's second birthday party will take place here on Thursday, January 16th from 6:30-8:30pm. Light snacks will be provided.

House Blessings: With the Feast of Holy Theophany, it is the season for house blessings! Fr. Jeremy is eager to visit you and bless your home with the purifying holy water that is blessed by God. Please see him about scheduling a visit over the next few weeks.