

# THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Jan/Feb. 2011 • Vol. 15, No. 3

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

## Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott

(Reprint from Vol 1, No. 3, January, 1997)



The first major Feast of the Holy Orthodox Church after the New Year is the Feast of Theophany on January 6. In it the Church commemorates the Theophany or the Epiphany of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. In essence the word "theophany" means a divine manifestation or revelation.

As the man, Jesus of Nazareth, drew near to be baptized by John in the Jordan River, those present saw just that, only a man. At His descent into the waters, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove appeared along with the voice of the Father saying, "This is my beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased!"

Jesus, the man, is thus "manifested" or "revealed" to be Jesus, the Son of God. In this manifestation the whole of creation rejoices. For in this union of the Creator-God with human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ is the restoration of God to His fallen creation.

Jesus did not need to be baptized because of any sin or imperfection. Nothing happened to Him as He descended into the water. But, by His action Jesus, the Son of God, shows that He desires to enter into every aspect of human existence, even humbly submitting to baptism for remission of sins, although having none Himself!

Indeed, there is no change in Jesus, but there is still a change. The change is in the water into which He descends and by extension to all of creation. It is for this reason that the Church invokes the descent of the Holy Spirit to bless water and make it "holy" on this Feast Day. Water is necessary for "physical" life. Without it, we physically die. "Holy"

water is necessary for our true "spiritual" life, the life that provides for our ultimate vitality.

During this Theophany season, as this "Holy" water of life is brought into your household, may it be for the total renewal of your family's life in Christ and by extension the renewal of life in our parish.

## A Pre-Lenten Retreat

The Fellowship of St. John the Divine is sponsoring a Pre-Lenten Retreat on Saturday, February 26. We have invited the Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Anthony Michaels, pastor of St. John Chrysostom Orthodox Church, Fort Wayne, IN, to be our featured speaker.

The retreat is an excellent means of preparing our hearts and minds to begin Great Lent. Mark your calendars now to take the day off to attend. Details will be publicized in the near future. ✝



The average human heart  
beats 100,000 times a day.

Make those beats count.



Happy  
New Year!



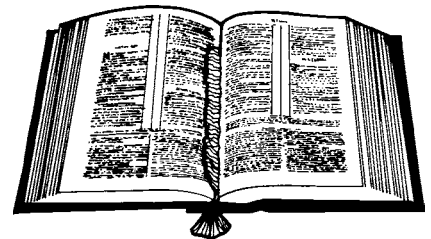
## Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting and elections will be held on Sunday, January 9, at 1:30 PM, in the conference center. Please remember the following:

- All 2010 pledge commitments must be paid in full to be eligible to vote. In addition, all other pledge commitments (domes, building, chancery, etc.) must be fulfilled by their respective deadlines to be eligible to vote. Requests for dispensation must be made to Fr. Olof Scott.

- All eligible voting members must have participated in the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion during 2010.

- All parish organizations are to have written reports on their 2010 activities and finances to the church office for printing and collation no later than Wednesday, January 5, typed and ready to print. ✝



**RADIO PROGRAM**

**"Come Receive  
the Light"**

Don't forget that our church sponsors the national Orthodox Christian Network's radio program, "Come Receive the Light" every Sunday morning at 8:00 A.M. on WCHS, 580 AM on your dial. Get out of bed early every Sunday morning and tune in to experience our Orthodox heritage and spirituality. ✝



## The Messiah

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

In this season of the Epiphany or Theophany of Jesus Christ, it is important to look at this as a renewal of ourselves and those around us in understanding our faith. The season of the Nativity is celebrated to help us understand that God himself took on flesh, the Second Person of the Trinity, not changing the Trinity at all. The Second Person of the Trinity, the Son, became man to begin his ministry of redeeming us. John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets. He lived in the wilderness of Judea and was believed by some to be Elijah. The Jews believed that Elijah would return before the Messiah. John wore garments of camel hair and a leather belt, as did Elijah as described in the Old Testament book of 2 Kings 1:8. However, John warned of the Day of Judgment which precedes the coming of the kingdom. He preached to repent and turn away from evil. John of course was baptizing Jews and telling of the coming of the Messiah. John was in awe when Jesus submitted to baptism by him. This is the manifestation of God and the beginning of his public ministry and also the revelation of the Trinity. If we remember, Jesus, the Son, baptized and then the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove comes down upon Him and then God says this is my beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased. Here we see the three Persons of the Trinity, the one God. The actual translation is God saying that this is the Son of My love. If we understand in the beginning the Trinity is pure love.



God did not create man because God needed to be loved, it was the other way around. Because God the Trinity is pure love, He created man and all the creatures of the universe. This is why we see so many different creatures in nature because of God's love. He created all that could be because of Love. God did not need to be loved by His creation because the Trinity is Love; but what God creates he loves and therefore, when creation fell away from Him through sin and temptation, through his love the Trinity did everything in its power to bring creation back. We find this in the prayer of the anaphora that describes God doing everything to bring us back from the fall.

Jesus identified himself with our sinful condition and the fall of the world. It must be understood that Jesus is not sinful, but he remained perfect in a sinful world. Christ redeemed mankind and the world from evil. His baptism is a sign of redemption. We must remember Christ was not baptized for His sake but for ours. Just as Jesus was baptized, so Israel was baptized in the Red Sea; Jesus fasted for 40 days and was tempted by the devil; the Israelites of the Old Testament were in the desert for 40 years and were tempted by the devil and fell to his temptation through doubt and disobedience. The new Israel in Jesus Christ brings to us an Israel of faith and obedience; whereas the Old Testament Israel is an Israel of doubt and disobedience. Satan tempted Christ three times while in the desert in order to exploit the Lord. He wanted Jesus to doubt and renounce His Divine Sonship. As we saw with Adam and Eve, they were tempted and placed their physical needs above the spiritual. After Jesus was hungry the devil tempted him with the need for bread, but Jesus was not tempted; and then Satan said, if you are the Son of God.... call upon the Angels (as in Psalm 91). Again Jesus would not be tempted. The third time the devil, imitating God, claiming he was going to give wealth to Jesus, wealth that was not Satan's to give. Satan attempted to get Jesus to call the Angels down which would have given Satan power over Jesus and Jesus or course did not do this. Yet after this God the Father sent angels to minister to Jesus. The importance of this is that God sent the Angels without Jesus asking. He sent angels to minister to the Son because of Love, just as God cares for us through Love. St. John Chrysostom writes, "we must overcome the devil, not by miracles, but the forbearance and

long-suffering and do nothing for display and vainglory.

The great rejoicing and celebration that occurs during the Nativity and Baptism of Jesus Christ is due to His bringing light to the world. After the fall of Adam and Eve, God's creation fell into darkness because it became sinful. With the birth of Jesus Christ, Jesus brought us the Light for He is the Light of the world. The first line of the Great Doxology that we chant at the end of Matins and just before the beginning of the Divine Liturgy: "Glory to Thee who has shown us the Light; Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill among men." This is the phrase we sing throughout the Christmas season Glory to God in the highest and peace, goodwill among men. So at this time of rejoicing and thanksgiving for the coming of the Messiah, let us reach out to others to come and experience the joy of the coming of the Lord.

In the adult class we will be learning about the Angels. What type of creatures are the Angels. Learn about our guardian angels and about the role of the Angels throughout history. Non-Orthodox are understanding more and more the role of angels in Christianity. This new discovery is an old tradition of the Orthodox Church. So come on Sunday mornings and learn about the angels of God, the heavenly hosts.

## Give Me A Kind Heart



Give me a kind heart that will endure,  
One that's strong and secure  
To help someone along the way,  
May this be my goal every day.

Let me lend a helping hand  
To someone whose life has not gone as  
planned,  
Reaching out to one in need,  
May this be my daily good deed,

To provide a guiding light  
For someone lost in the dark of night.  
Let me take time to care  
For someone experiencing despair.

Whatever I do, everywhere I go,  
Your Will, Dear Lord Let me know.

*Eve Kiley, author, Words to Live  
By (taken from Family Circle June 10,  
2001)*



### THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

St. George Orthodox Cathedral  
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Archdiocese of North America  
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and for parishoners of St. George Orthodox  
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reserve the right to edit copy for space. Contact  
your church organization reporter for news or  
send your comments to The Grapevine, c/o St.  
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<http://www.stgeorgecharleston.org/>

The St. George Grapevine is published every  
two months and is mailed during the first week  
of the month.



# Getting to Know the Order of St. Ignatius

St. Ignatius was one of the first Bishops of the See of Antioch, the spiritual source of our Archdiocese. He was a witness for Christ by his life and deeds and serves as a model for all members of the Order.

Jesus sanctioned financial giving when he honored the poor widow who gave her last two coins. The Order only asks that we give from our surplus.

The money goes to departments in the Archdiocese such as missions and evangelism, youth ministry, campus ministry, Christian education, as well as camping scholarships, college conference scholarships, the Antiochian Village, Teen SOYO Special Olympics, married seminarian assistance, and clergy retirement. Outside the Archdiocese, the Order continues to Project Mexico, International Orthodox Christian charities, Orthodox Christian Fellowship and other worthy needs around the world.

So next time you see a member wearing the cross with the red ribbon, it does not mean they are "showing off". The cross and ribbon serves as our witness to Christ and a reminder of Him who accepted the cross for our salvation. The crimson of the ribbon recalls the blood which the martyr Ignatius shed for Christ. The cross and ribbon remind us that Sacrificial giving is our obligation as an Antiochian Orthodox Christian. N

*Next Issue: How to join and why.*



# Are You An Active Member

Are you an active member,  
the kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just contented  
that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings  
and mingle with the flock,  
Or do you stay at home  
and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part  
to help the work along,  
Or are you merely satisfied  
to simply just belong?

Do you ever work on committees  
to see what makes them tick,  
Or leave the work to just a few  
and talk about a clique?

So come to all the meetings  
and help with hand and heart,  
Don't just be a member  
but take an active part.

Won't you think this over  
YOU know right from wrong,  
Arc YOU an active member  
or do you just belong?

*Unknown*



*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

*2nd Corinthians 9:7*

**Deadline for next issue:**

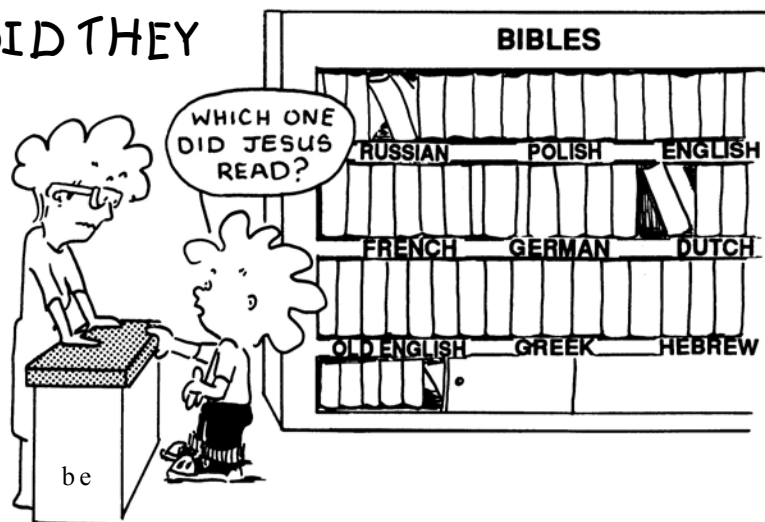
**Feb. 15, 2011.**

*Place articles in box outside Church office or email ritakee@aol.com*

## Kid's Corner - Q & A

**Q: WHAT LANGUAGE DID THEY SPEAK IN BIBLE DAYS?**

**A:** At one time, everyone in the world spoke the same language. But they became proud and thought they were as good as God. When they tried to build a tower to heaven (the Tower of Babel), God gave them all different languages. That caused them to become confused, so they quit the project and scattered all over the earth. Ever since then, in Bible times just as today, each different group of people has spoken a different language. The most common languages the people of the Bible spoke were Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. In heaven, there will be people "from every nation" (Revelation 5:9).



**KEY VERSES:** "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "For these men are all from Galilee. But we hear them speaking the languages of the lands where we were born!" (Acts 2:7-8)

**RELATED VERSES:** Genesis 11:1-9; 2 Kings 18:26-28; Ezra 4:7; Isaiah 19:18; 36:11-13; Daniel 2:4; John 19:17-20; Acts 2:6-11; 6:1; 9:29; 21:37-40; 22:2; 26:14; Revelation 9:11

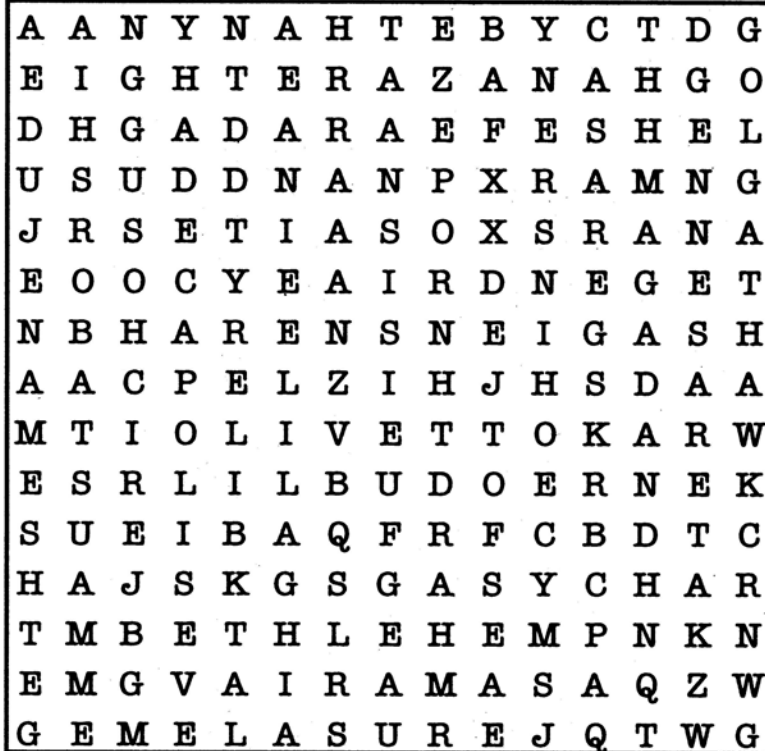
**RELATED QUESTIONS:** What was the first language people had before God changed all of the languages? How come the people in the Bible have such weird names?





## Word Search

### Areas of Jesus' Ministry



BETHANY	JERUSALEM
BETHLEHEM	JORDAN
BETHSAIDA	JUDEA
CANA	KHERSA
DECAPOLIS	MAGADAN
EMMAUS	NAIN
GADARA	NAZARETH
GALILEE	OLIVET
GENNESARET	SAMARIA
GERASA	SIDON
GETHSEMANE	SYCHAR
GOLGATHA	TABOR
JERICHO	TYRE

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## Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

It's the dawn of a new year and the Antiochian Women of St. George are eager to begin 2011 with their first meeting on Monday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 PM. We will not meet in January so the new officers can discuss plans for the ladies for 2011.

Our new officers for 2011 are  
 President: Anne Marie Haddy;  
 Vice-President: Natalie Tappe  
 Corresponding Secretary: Gladys S. Howard

Recording Secretary: Belle Haddad

Treasure: Monica Cassis

Chaplain: Lila Damous

Parliamentarian: Maryann Skaff

Every lady of St. George (18 or over) is a member of the Guild. There are no more dues! We welcome all ladies to attend the meetings, the first Monday of each month to volunteer their ideas and suggestions for the new year. In addition to our standing projects of Holy Thursday Breakfast, St. George Day, Basketball Luncheon, and the annual dinner, we want new ideas for socials and other activities!

Come one, come all to the next meeting on Feb. 7 at 7:30 PM Have a blessed 2011!



## Senior Fellowship

It's 2011 and Old Man Winter has arrived. We plan to have a dinner/program in February with dinner beginning at 5 p.m. just this one time. Dr. Bruce Cassis will talk about his trip to Lebanon including a wedding he attended and working in a dental clinic. "Pictures are worth a 1,000 words," so come and enjoy his pictorial trip to Lebanon.

If Old Man Winter shows up that night with his winter wonderland, we will postpone the get-together to the following week.

So stay warm, Seniors, and watch the bulletin for details!



*Q. How many people touched Baby Jesus?*

*A. 3 - Virginia Mary, Anna, St. Simon*



## Did You Know?

*The Saint George Foundation was formed in 2001 with the purpose of providing funds for programs designated by the Saint George Parish Council.*

*Remember the Saint George Foundation in your estate planning.*



## St. George Cathedral Foundation News

by Dr. Edward Howard, President  
St. George Foundation

This is that special time of the year as we reflect on those months gone and those that we look forward to with a renewed interest in our church and its parishioners. It is also the season for many who consider the acts of charitable giving. It is our hope that the St. George Church Foundation will be in the thoughts of those who are blessed to give thus enriching the spiritual foundation of our present and our future. The St. George Church Foundation would like to extend sincere thanks to the Estate of Phillip and Kista Ammar and the Estate of Clifford and Ruth Haddad for their contribution to the St. George Church Foundation, and as always, please let any member of the foundation board know if you have any questions regarding the foundation, its mission and purpose.

The St. George Church Foundation Board wishes each of you a season filled with the many blessings of good health, peace and joy. ✠

## Church School News



By Lilah Michael

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday season celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. I would like to thank all of the teachers and ministry team for helping our Christmas Program become one to remember! The Church School children still have a lot to work for this year, we have a prize for attendance. So don't let the break from Church School linger, make sure to bring your children and come and learn with all of us every Sunday at 9:45 am. Some of the upcoming events to look forward to include our annual Creative Arts workshops that will be held in February with dates to be announced soon. The theme for this year is "Be Mindful O Lord of the Priesthood, the Diaconate and Every Priestly Rank - Anaphora of Saint Basil." Parents please start thinking and talking about this theme with your children so that our children can become more aware of what this means to them, and what is happening around them everyday. We are truly blessed to be a Cathedral, make sure our children realize what resources we have here to help them with this theme. I would like to see greater participation this year in the festival. There are four

categories that our children may choose from, I would like for each child to enter at least one category of Creative Art, Writing, Photography, and Poetry. I would prefer each child to participate in EACH category for a total of 4 entries per child. We have not in the past few years had a good number of participants to represent our Cathedral. We are the largest church population of our Diocese and on top of that we are the Cathedral. Therefore, I challenge all of us, including myself, to have a better showing this year. There should be NO reason to not have entries from our children, we have workshops and time during Church School to help us on our way. Please help your children this year more than ever so that we can have a great showing at this year's conference.

Please check your email for updated information including times and dates for upcoming events. I will also update you all through email concerning any cancellations of Church School due to the weather. This winter has started quickly and we want to make sure that everyone knows up to date information. Please let me know if you are not receiving our emails or if you have not been placed on our list. You can reach me anytime on email at Stgeorgekids@yahoo.com. God Bless you all during the New Year of 2011, and I look forward to seeing all of you for the remainder of our Church School year. ✠



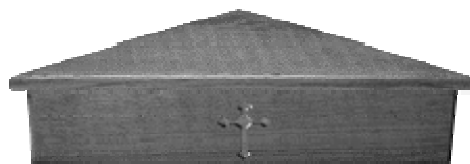
## The Message of Money

Dug from the mountainside,  
Washed in the glen.  
Servant am I  
Or master of men.

Steal me, I curse you;  
Earn me, I bless you.  
Grasp me and hoard me,  
A fiend shall possess you.

Lie for me, die for me,  
Covet or take me— Angel or devil,  
I am what you make me.

—Author unknown



### Prayer Corner Shelf

*A Prayer Corner - an ancient Orthodox Tradition as the family's place of worship in the home.*

Orders are being taken for Prayer Corner Shelves (with engraved Orthodox Cross)! Available as a corner shelf, or as a straight shelf. Available in light wood stain, or dark wood stain. Please come to the St George Bookstore to see the samples, and place orders. Other items available include: Hanging Vigil Lamps and Brackets, Table Vigil Lamps, Incense Burners, Incense & Charcoal, Icons, Candles, Daily Devotional Calendars and Prayer Ropes.



CALENDAR

JAN 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

FEB 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



- 1: Happy New Year!
- 5: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 6: Theophany Matins, 6:00 PM; Theophany Liturgy, 7:00 PM
- 9: Annual Parish Meeting, 1:30 PM
- 10: Fr. Olof-CCT Annual Mtg., Birmingham, AL
- 14: Fr. Olof returns
- 20: Communion for Shut-ins
- 29: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM

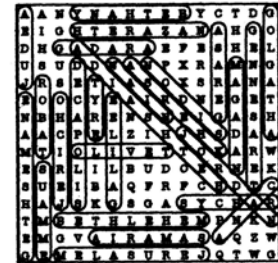


- 1: Evening Liturgy-Presentation, 6:30 PM
- 2: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 7: Fr. Olof & Kh. Eva-Vacation, return 2/19; Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 17: Communion for Shut-ins
- 19: Fr. Olof & Kh. Eva return
- 26: All Souls Liturgy, 8:00 AM; Pre-Lenten Retreat, 10:00 AM

Need a  
good book  
to read  
this year?  
Check out  
the Church  
Library  
and Bookstore.



Answers to Puzzle



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