

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Dec. Jan. Feb. 2016 • Vol. 20, No. 2

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

Pastor's Corner

Life is a Gift from God

By Rev. Fr. Christopher Eid



Years ago while at seminary and an intern at St John Riverside Hospital Hospice cancer unit, I came across pain and suffering face to face and very frequently. It was the loss of life that people faced that caused them to suffer the most. But, for those who we seminarians have visited speaking about God, they found hope in loss. They were able to see Christ's light waiting for them.

Life is a gift from God. Our children, family, friends, neighbors, and strangers are all gifts to be savored. Although some days may be full of hardship and sadness, each breath, heartbeat, and thought illustrates the beautiful gift of life. When a loved one is lost, try to avoid the feeling of being robbed or wronged. Keep the positive memories alive and thank God for the blessings in your past, present, and future. Revelation 22:17 – "Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life."

God has planned a path for you. You will travel the path on your own, with God to help if you choose to allow Him to be and to stay near. Don't compare your path with someone else. Other people's paths may cross or run nearby, but only you can take steps on your path. Only you can choose to see the beauty around your current location and enjoy your journey. There may be amazing drops to deep valleys, but keep looking forward and take it one step at a time. Psalm 23:4 – "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 16:11 – "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

You will experience many feelings in a way that you never have before. Sadness,

guilt, despair, anxiety, fear, hopelessness, longing, anger, and frustration will likely run through your mind. Your feelings need to be expressed, but always remember that they are "at this moment". This gives you hope and permission to have different feelings at a later time. Consider writing a letter to your loved one or keep a journal of your feelings. The "why" and "what-if" questions will be asked over and over in your mind. At some point, you will realize that you cannot understand the divine nature of birth or death. Embrace living without an answer by trusting and embracing the mysteries of God. Matthew 6:10 – "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

It is scary to think of a sick person crying, or for a suffering person with a lot of physical pain crying. Yet, we teach and we were taught to let the tears flow. It is human to cry. Crying helps you to heal. Cry with friends, family, and alone. Don't be surprised when the grief "freight train" runs over you. Just be in the moment, and it will pass. Struggle through your emotions and you will find relief as your reward. Although, we are all independent individuals, yet, it is of great importance to seek help and speak with, a friend, your relative and most importantly your priest.


Psalm 30:5 – "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."

Talk to people about your loss and pain. Don't hide or deny your feelings. Basically, do not suffocate your soul. Let people know that you need them and ask for help. Be patient with those that don't know what to say. Talk about your loved one, and share your precious memories. Always remember that you can always talk to God through prayer.

Matthew 12:34 – "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."


During your time of sorrow, bring your family together and not pull it apart. Realize that each person is different and will grieve in ways you may not understand. Be patient and find ways to support each other. Guilt and anger need to be expressed and released. Sadness and sorrow can be so heavy and paralyzing. You might struggle with this thought, but grief, guilt, and anguish can be a blessing if and when we allow God to be the center. Matthew 5:4 – "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Significant change usually does not occur without a significant catalyst. Although loss is not comfortable, it can provide an amazing marker in life for incredible transformation. Look for the lessons to be learned in your situation about yourself and in life. What can you do to overcome and survive? Vow to use your loss situation to generate the energy to become more. Seek to serve others and value the gift of life in a way that you never knew before. John 16:33 – "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

To be continued... 

RADIO PROGRAM

"Come Receive the Light"

Our parish continues to be a supporting partner of the popular Orthodox radio program, "Come Receive the Light," which airs on WCHS, 580 AM, Sundays at 8:00 A.M. There is no better way to grow in the knowledge of the Orthodox Faith, to be inspired and to prepare for the Divine Services than to tune in every Sunday morning. It costs you nothing and you gain something. 



A Year Of Accomplishments And Blessing

The St. George Foundation Board has been working diligently over the last two years in an effort to build the Foundation into an everlasting pillar of the St. George Cathedral. The Board has taken on several tasks to see that your Foundation is fulfilling the goals for our parishioners.

The Board has modified the Trust documents to have the Foundation compliant with the regulations that govern trusts. Memorial Trusts can now be established to remember loved ones eternally via a Memorial Fund within the St. George Foundation.

Information brochures have been developed for our parishioners to better understand the Foundation, its goals, purposes, and needs toward St. George Cathedral. The brochures will be distributed during the St. George Cathedral Annual Meeting in January, or are available at anytime at the St. George Cathedral's office.

Annual statements of Memorial Funds have been developed to inform donors of the performance and distributions of each individual fund. We have gone back to include historical data from the inception of the Memorial Fund.

The Board recently completed a "Due-Diligence" review of the current Co-Trustee, BB&T Bank. Furthermore, proposals from four other financial institutions were requested. After extensive reviews and interviews, the St. George

Foundation voted to remain with BB&T as the Co-Trustee for the St. George Foundation investments.

Most importantly, the Foundation has been blessed by the generous memories of donors who have remembered the St. George Foundation through their charitable contributions. We greatly appreciate all of the donors' generosity and support in building an everlasting legacy for our Cathedral.

All of us are proud to represent the parishioners of the St. George Cathedral. We look forward to working for the eternal foundation of your cathedral now and for many generations to come.

St. George Foundation Board Members




Leap Year - True or False?

1. The leap year was created under Julius Caesar in 46 B.C.
2. By the 1500, the old calendar was so far out of sync with the sun that the Pope ordered a correction so church holidays could be observed at the proper time.
3. The new Gregorian calendar immediately became the Western standard.
4. Feb. 29 was once popularly known as Sadie Hawkins Day.

Answers: 1. True. Although other ancient calendars added days, weeks and months, Caesar's namesake Julian calendar was the first to use the one-day-every-four-years system.


2. True. The new calendar created under Gregory XIII dropped 10 days in October 1582 and established the leap year in its present form by excepting most century years.

3. False. Most Protestant nations balked at a Roman Catholic calendar. Britain and its colonies, including the future United States, did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752.

4. False. It was known as "Bachelors Day," when women could acceptably propose to men. Sadie Hawkins Day, a creation of "Li'l Abner" cartoonist Al Capp, is unrelated to Leap Day. 

Note from the Editor:

I would like to apologize for not sending out the newsletter on time for December, January and February, but I needed some time off due to the untimely death of my mother, God rest her soul. I decided to send out a middle of January/ February newsletter now, and we will resume our regular schedule with the March-May issue.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email or just reading it on the church's website, please notify the office at 304-346-0106, and we will remove your name from the newsletter mailing list. 


Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

Happy new year, Ladies. We will resume meetings for 2016 on Monday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 PM. after Divine Liturgy.

The new year brings us a new group of officers to lead us through the year but they need all of you, the ladies of St. George, to participate and implement our goals for this year.

Our officers are : President, Diana Shdeed; Vice-President, Sharon Zegeer; Recording Secretary, Beverly Howard; Treasurer, Jackie Birurakis; Corresponding Secretary, Pat Elias; Chaplain, Kh. Eva Scott; and Parliamentarian, Maryann Skaff.


By the way, ladies, this is leap year, so all the single ladies are allowed to ask that special guy to marry them, if your heart so desires!


In the meantime, please join us the first Monday of each month for our meetings and to offer your ideas and assistance to make this year a fruitful one. 

Senior Fellowship

Our last get-together in November was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Depending on old man winter's plan to let us or not let us have a winter get-together, you will have to watch the bulletin for details. If weather permits, we may try to meet in February.

So stay warm and we will try to get together soon. 



**THE ST. GEORGE
Grapevine**

St. George Orthodox Cathedral
P.O. Box 2044
Charleston, WV 25327
304-346-0106

A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Pastor: Fr. Christopher Eid
Editor: Maryann Skaff
Design: Rita Damous Kee

Produced by The Fellowship of St. John the Divine, to promote activities and events about and for parishioners of St. George Orthodox Cathedral. We only list events as they are reported to us by organization reporters. We 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. George Orthodox Cathedral, Attn. Editor or email ritakee@aol.com.

<http://www.stgeorgecharleston.org/>
The St. George Grapevine is published every three months and is mailed during the first week of the month.



Congregation Meeting

It is that time again for our annual congregation meeting to be held on Sunday, Feb. 7, immediately after Divine Liturgy. Please make sure your pledge commitments are up to date and all organizations have their annual reports turned in to the office as soon as possible.

We hope all parishioners will attend the meeting to hear what the organizations have accomplished in the past year and then all pledged parishioners will vote for new parish council and foundation members and officers of the parish council. Mark your calendar and join us on Feb. 7.

“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

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

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.”

II Corinthians 9:6-8 ✠

Do You Just Belong

(Author Unknown)

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 leave the work to just a few
Then talk about the clique?
More workers would improve our group
Results would show up quick!

There's quite a program schedule
That you will hear about.
We will appreciate it
If you'll come and help us out.

So come to meetings often
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member
Dig in and do your part.. ✠

The Duties of Church Members to the Church

1. Find something to do for the Church
2. Attend Church
3. Support your church financially
4. Grow in grace and Christian knowledge
5. Draw others to the Church
6. Promote a spirit of love within the Church
7. Stand by the Pastor of the Church
8. Be loyal to the Church
9. Give evidence of the power of Christ by a Christian life

Source: A booklet-Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of NY and all North America-copyright 1957

Some things never change...Have you??? ✠

Word Search Disasters In The Bible

R	S	I	K	T	H	S	C	O	R	P	I	O	N	S
A	D	T	S	I	R	H	C	I	T	N	A	V	F	U
W	A	M	A	E	V	R	S	R	O	M	U	T	R	S
V	R	U	N	N	I	U	B	O	I	L	S	B	O	O
F	K	R	F	Y	G	L	V	E	Y	I	S	O	G	R
A	N	R	L	D	R	C	F	K	T	A	H	S	S	E
M	E	A	O	T	E	E	G	A	I	H	I	D	E	S
I	S	I	O	Z	D	R	T	U	V	Q	P	O	R	S
N	S	N	D	D	N	S	U	Q	I	E	W	R	P	T
E	Y	N	O	S	U	I	E	H	T	U	R	E	E	S
L	F	O	I	Q	H	E	C	T	P	G	E	M	N	U
X	L	I	B	A	T	G	I	R	A	A	C	E	T	C
B	S	C	R	W	L	E	M	A	C	L	K	S	S	O
M	T	S	A	E	B	B	G	E	T	P	W	J	W	L
G	N	I	N	T	H	G	I	L	H	T	A	E	D	U

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| ANTICHRIST | HAIL |
| BEAST | LIGHTNING |
| BLAINS | LOCUSTS |
| BLOOD | MICE |
| BOILS | MURRAIN |
| CAPTIVITY | PLAGUE |
| DARKNESS | SCORPIONS |
| DEATH | SERPENTS |
| EARTHQUAKE | SHIPWRECK |
| EMERODS | SIEGE |
| FAMINE | SORES |
| FIRE | THUNDER |
| FLIES | TUMORS |
| FLOOD | ULCERS |
| FROGS | WAR |
| GNATS | |



Church School News

By Layla Michael

Christ is born!! Glorify him!! May God bless each and every one of you in the new year. Can you believe another year has come and gone? Do you ever sit back and think to yourself what did you accomplish, did you meet any of your goals (if any were set last year), did you make lifetime memories with family and friends, did you take risks that you are normally afraid to do etc.? I sit back and ask myself these questions and I am embarrassed to say, I could have accomplished much more than what I did. I feel like I could have done a lot better, with myself, my family, friends and most important my church. Please ask yourselves these same questions, look back at your past years and learn from the history of your life. Only God knows how much longer we have here on earth, but we all know that with prayer, communion, repentance, confession, and following the Ten Commandments we are able to live forever in the kingdom of



God. Let us ALL try to make 2016 the best year yet. Church School attendance always goes down after Christmas, it doesn't have to be that way, it could increase, and with God's grace it will.

This month we will be focusing on the creative arts festival. We will be holding two art workshops after liturgy and lunch will be provided, dates to be announced. I am reaching out to all of the parents to support and encourage your children to come to Church School, and to take part in the creative arts festival. For more information go to <http://www.antiochian.org/festivals/cf>

Deadline for the next Grapevine issue

March, April May, 2016, is Feb. 15, 2016.

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

Teen SOYO

By Scott Ridsen,
Teen SOYO Advisor



To end 2015, Teen SOYO held a bake sale, raising money to "adopt" a family for Christmas. The following week, we joined in fellowship to shop for this family in hopes of making their holiday season merry and bright. After the Sunday School Christmas Play, we were joined by jolly old St. Nick, and offered parishioners the chance to take photographs with him. Our Christmas Party afforded us yet another chance to help others, as every teen in attendance donated a toy to a child in need.

Entering into 2016, we are now busier than ever. The annual Pancake Breakfast was a great success, giving us the chance to celebrate time together



while serving the church. Next up is the Winter Bake Sale, offering tasty treats to the parish. Once again in February, we will prepare our annual Soup and Sandwich Luncheon for the Parish Assembly Meeting.

Our Lock-In will occur later in the month, as we unite to honor the

four pillars of Teen SOYO – worship, witness, service and fellowship. Soon after, the Teens vs. Adults Basketball Challenge and Luncheon returns.

Teen SOYO constantly strives to secure the future of the church, today. With these events and many more to follow, we humbly ask for your continued support and participation. We hope you have a beautiful and blessed new year! ✝



Kids Q & A

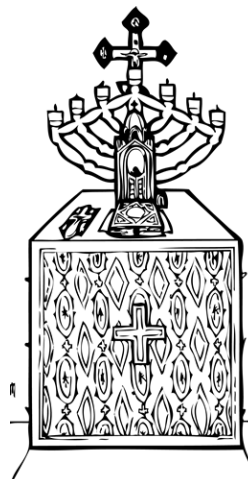
Q: What Is The Candelabrum?

A: The altar of every Eastern Orthodox Church contains a seven candle candelabrum where candles are kept burning during daytime worship as well as for evening services to symbolize that the Lord illuminates the world with His spiritual light.

Seven is an important number in church symbolism and the use of the seven candle candelabrum indicates the seven sacraments, the seven great Orthodox holidays connected with Christ, the seven Ecumenical councils, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven corporal works of mercy, the seven days of the creation of the world and the seven cardinal sins.

In the Eastern Orthodox Church, lighting is increased during the solemn holiday services and decreased when the services are penitential. The symbolic illumination in the church requires oil and wax. Oil, derived from the fruit of the olive tree, indicates that God gives His grace to men and that men in turn must stand ready to offer deeds of love and mercy in sacrifice.

Pure wax, collected from the fragrant blossoms by the bees, when used in candle illumination, indicates that the prayers of mankind, when offered from a pure heart, are accepted by God. ✝



By Mail or Online

If you prefer to view the Grapevine on the website instead of receiving a mailed copy, please contact the church office to be removed from the Grapevine mailing list. The Grapevine is available on the cathedral web site <http://stgeorgecharleston.org/grapevine.html> ✝





Weekly Schedule

Check the weekly bulletin for updates, changes or cancellations.

Monday - Friday: 12:30 P.M. Sixth Hour

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Daily Vespers /Family Night

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. Vespers/ confession

Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal:

Sunday: 9:15 a.m. Matins; 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy; After Communion - Church School; 6:30 p.m. Bible Study

Special Events



JANUARY

5: 10:00 am – Royal Hours;
6:30 pm – Evening Liturgy for Theophany with Great Blessing of Water

12: 7:30 pm – Parish Council Meeting
19: 6:30 pm – Foundation Board Meeting

23: 9:30 am – Manna Meal Preparation

26: 8:00 pm – FSJD Meeting

30: 10:00 am – Divine Liturgy for the Three Holy Hierarchs

January 2016

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						

February 2016

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					

March 2016

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			



FEBRUARY

1: 6:30 pm – Evening Liturgy for the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple;

after Divine Liturgy 7:30 PM– Ladies Guild Meeting

7: 12:00 pm – St. George Cathedral Annual Meeting

9: 7:30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

16: 6:30 pm – Foundation Board Meeting

23: 8:00 pm – FSJD Meeting

27: 9:30 am – Manna Meal Preparation



MARCH

1: 7:30 pm – Parish Council Meeting

7: 7:00 pm – Ladies Guild Meeting

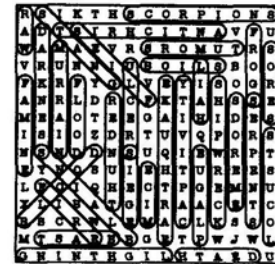
15: 6:30pm – Foundation Board Meeting

22: 8:00 pm – FSJD Meeting

24: 6:30 pm – Evening Liturgy for Annunciation

26: 9:30 am – Manna Meal Preparation

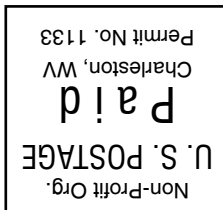
Answers to Word Search



“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Matthew 18:20

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



St. George Orthodox Cathedral
P.O. Box 2044
Charleston, WV 25327
Grapevine
THE ST. GEORGE

