

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Jun/Jul/Aug 2013 • Vol. 17, No. 4

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV



Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott

(reprint Vol. 4, No. 6, July/Aug., 2000)

Vacation! Ah, what emotions that word evokes! A time to rest, to get away from it all, a break from the routine, an opportunity to be refreshed. Any one of these or all of the above will suffice!

This is the time of year that most of us take our vacations. Some of us have planned for months. Others of us like to do things on the spur of the moment. But whatever mode you operate in, the goal is usually as stated above—a time to do something different. Hopefully it is something that will allow us to be refreshed and renewed, so that we may return to our normal routine with a new sense of vigor.

What about God? Does He take a break of vacation? We know God established His creation and set it in motion. Scripture tells us that creation has the mechanisms within it such that it doesn't require micro-management by Him, but is self-perpetuating according to His plan.

And yet, God doesn't appear to get a break. Just think of all the prayers and requests He has to listen to and consider. And not only that, after sorting through all of them, how does He arrange them to accommodate all of those intercessory prayers in accordance with His Will?

Maybe the Father, Son and Holy Spirit take separate vacations. That way they could share the load and one would always be "on call." And, if the Trinity could take vacation where would they go?

Actually the question is moot and not theologically correct either, because God is uncontainable and exists equally in all places at all times. There is not a

space within His creation that He doesn't occupy. God can't get away from it all! He's always there!


By this time most of you are thinking that Fr. Olof has lost it and gone over the edge. Indeed, the immediate preceding thoughts are silly. The point, however, is God is always active with His creation! And for that very reason His creation should always be active with Him!

So, during these summer months, wherever you are or wherever you go, make sure that you are aware that God is there. Your prayer life, your scripture reading, your call through your baptism to be Christ-like does not go on vacation. It must remain active!

If you are in Charleston, please gather with your brothers and sisters in worship at the Divine Services. Don't take Sunday mornings off.

If you travel out of town, take time to discover if there's an Orthodox Church in the area. Use the Yellow Pages and the local newspapers. Ask the hotel personnel. I guarantee that, if you take time out to visit and worship at another Orthodox Church during vacation, you will meet interesting people and make new friends. Our office has a directory of all Orthodox Churches throughout the United States and Canada.


If there is no Orthodox Church in the area that you are visiting, take time on Sundays to gather your family together and read the morning prayers found in our prayer books.

Enjoy your vacation, but God is there. Remember, He's not on vacation! 

Parish Life Conference & Archdiocese Convention


The 2013 Eastern Dioceses Parish Life Conference will be held on July 4–7, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Breinigsville, PA, and hosted by St. Paul Orthodox Church in Emmaus, PA. Our former assistant priest, Fr. Andrew Damic, is pastor of the host parish.

The 51st Antiochian Archdiocese Convention will be held on July 21–28, in Houston, TX, at the Hilton Americas–Houston Hotel.

Information regarding registration, schedule, hotel, etc., can be found for the PLC at <http://saintpaulemmaus.org/plc2013/> and for the Archdiocese Convention at www.achouston2013.com 

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. 

Father's Day

God Bless all the Fathers this Father's Day - June 16, 2013

A Father is neither an anchor to hold us back
Nor a sail to take us there,
But always a guiding light
Whose Love shows us the way.



“The Lord shall guide thee continually...”

Isa. 58:11



Ritual

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

A ritual or rite is defined as the prescribed or established form of a religious or other ceremony; any formal act, institution, or procedure that is followed consistently. The understanding of ritual in the Christian faith has become misunderstood, as well as distorted at times. Many non-Orthodox Christian faiths and unfortunately, some Orthodox Christians believe ritual was instituted by man, not God. In several of the prophetic books of the Old Testament, it is explained that God dislikes the external observances of religious practices without true faith, repentance, moral responsibility, and the gift of the heart. This is a major topic in the Book of Isaiah.

In both the Old and New Testaments, ritual, ceremonial events are present. The offering of animal and vegetable sacrifices among the early patriarchs, through the elaborate ceremonies of the Mosaic tabernacle and Solomon temple, on throughout the New Testament. The Holy Bible prescribes the use of ritual as an integral part of worship. The Christ who declared that the Father's true worshipers would worship in spirit and in truth is the same Christ who commanded His disciples to "baptize" new believers; to "anoint" when they are sick; and to "do" the Eucharist.


In Genesis we read about God explaining marriage in Chapter 2:24: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his

mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh." In Chapter 4 of Genesis, Cain offers the "fruit of the ground" and Abel offers "the firstlings of his flock..." which were the first sacrifices. In Exodus Chapter 25 it describes the tabernacle and the mercy seat of the ark where God "...will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee...which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."

In the New Testament we have Baptism with St. John the Baptist. Jesus participates in the Temple worship and in the synagogues. The implementation of the Lord's Prayer and of course the Last Supper which gives us the Eucharist and how we are to partake of it and celebrate it. So for anyone to say ritual is unnecessary and not from the Bible, then one needs to read the Bible again. The Orthodox Church is rich in ritual because our Lord gave it to us.

However, this ritual is not to be abused as we have seen at times throughout history and even present day. The observance of ritual without true dedication

to God is sinful and disrespectful to God. Ritual is a matter of the heart and is not celebrated in absentia. A family offers bread for the health and memory of loved ones, yet does not attend the Liturgy. The clergy is asked to pray for a sick family member but the family is absent from the prayers or Liturgy.

Read Psalm 49 (50). It begins, The Mighty One God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth...I am God, your God. I do not reprove you for your sacrifices...I will accept no bull from your house... for every beast of the field is mine. Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving...and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. But to the wicked...What right have you to recite my statutes, or take My covenant on your lips? For you hate discipline, and you cast My words behind you. Mark this then, you who forget God, lest I rend, and there be none to deliver! He who brings thanksgiving as his sacrifice honors Me; to him who orders his way aright I will show the salvation of God." 



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

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

Music!



Welcome Back Labor Day Weekend! Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 2013



Hafli

St. George Cathedral • Charleston, WV

Banquet!

Early Bird Ticket Deadline:

Aug. 9, 2013

Book \$75 Adult • \$50 Child (4-10)

After Aug. 9: \$80 Adult • \$55 child

Food!

Church

**Sat. Hafli entertainment: Live Arabic Music by
Zack Baalbaki of Detroit, Michigan**

Dancing

Fun!

**200 Raffle Tickets to be sold = prizes totaling \$5,000.
Not in book of tickets \$50.00 each.**

Reduced room rates available at Embassy Suites until Aug. 9, 2013.

Use the SGO code when making a reservation

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Lest We Forget! A Remembrance

**Archpriest Raphael K. Husson
Khoureeye Josephine H. Husson**

The servant of God, Kolel (Khalil) Husson was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on January 23, 1894 to Makol Husson and Nemori Seepber of Greater Syria (now Mt. Lebanon). His father was a peddler as were many of the early immigrants to America.

The handmaid of God, Josephine Haddad was also born in Worcester on June 29, 1904. She and Kolel were married on October 23, 1922 at St. George Orthodox Church in Worcester, by Kolel's uncle, Archpriest Michael Husson, then pastor of that church and

now of blessed memory. Kolel and Josephine immediately began their family, namely, Ernest (+ August 2, 2010), Robert who died suddenly at the age of 6 months, Joan, Louis, Charles, Raymond, Edward and Richard. Kolel and his blessed wife were very much attracted to the Holy Orthodox Church. While living in Worcester he began chanting in the church and learned scripture, theology and Byzantine music from his uncle priest.

On February 3, 1926, Kolel was ordained to the holy diaconate and priesthood by His Eminence, Archbishop VICTOR (Abo-Assaley), of thrice-blessed memory, and he took the name RAPHAEL, after the first hierarch of the Syrian Mission of the Russian Orthodox Archdiocese in North America. Archbishop VICTOR was named the first hierarch of the Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of New York and All North America, under the ancient Patriarchate of Antioch in Damascus, Syria. Thus the newly-ordained priest, Father Raphael Husson, became the first Arab/American Orthodox priest consecrated in North America. All the other Orthodox clergy serving the archdiocese were born in Greater Syria, not North America. This is documented in the Toledo Archdiocese archives and now the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. This is the only Arab American museum in the United States and Canada.

Archbishop VICTOR assigned Father Raphael and Khoureeye Josephine



*Archpriest Raphael K. Husson
Khoureeye Josephine H. Husson*

to serve the community of St. George in Lowell, Massachusetts, which they did honorably from his ordination in 1926 to 1929. But the Archbishop had other plans for this priest and his family. In December 1929, Father Raphael, Khoureeye Josephine and all the children were sent to minister to St. George Orthodox Church in Charleston, West Virginia. While the pastor of this community, he oversaw the building of the present church from 1930-1932, adding to its magnificent beauty with a large iconostasis, holy icons written by Greek Or-

thodox iconographer Afentakis, biblical stained glass windows, a large baptismal font still in use today, beautiful chandeliers throughout the church, and a large social hall - all in downtown Charleston. The parish grew from several hundred families to many hundreds more under his pastorate. He ministered not only to Orthodox Christians of all ethnic backgrounds in Charleston but throughout Southern West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky, until such time as Orthodox churches were established in other communities as Beckley and Huntington. While pastor of the church, he established with the help of very dedicated laymen and women, The Ladies Aid Society, The Ladies Guild, the Syrian Orthodox Youth Organization (SOYO), the Church School for children of the parish and a most magnificent Liturgical Choir. His blessed Khoureeye Josephine was a founder of the Ladies Aid Society and served as its president for almost ten years. One of their most meaningful services to the church was the decorating of the Holy Bier for Great and Holy Friday before Pascha. The women of the Society imitated the Hamelat El Teeb who came to the tomb of Christ to anoint His Sacred Body. Society members also helped prepare the meal of mercy for families of the parish grieving the death of loved ones. Khoureeye Josephine was always the first to lead the way. And the children of this priestly family also contributed their stewardship to the community by teaching church school, singing

in the choir, serving in the altar and on the parish council. They all set the example and all the good parishioners followed for the benefit of the church.

On September 19, 1934, Archbishop VICTOR fell asleep in the Lord. He was succeeded as the Primate of the Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of New York and All North America by His Eminence, Metropolitan ANTONY (Bashir) on April 19, 1936. Unfortunately, a schism began in the Church in North America with the consecration of Archimandrite Samuel David to the episcopacy by Russian hierarchs on the very same day in Toledo, Ohio. Archbishop SAMUEL named his following as the Archdiocese of Toledo, Ohio and Dependencies. St. George Orthodox Church in Charleston, along with approximately ten other parishes joined the Toledo Archdiocese, as did Father Raphael. St. George Church of Charleston and its pastor and membership remained in the Toledo Archdiocese from April 19, 1936 until New York and Toledo were united on June 24, 1975, by Metropolitan PHILIP (Saliba) and Archbishop MICHAEL (Shaheen).

However what is important to remember is that Father Raphael served St. George Church in Charleston for 38 remarkable years and with great distinction. We remember the blessings of those years, not the unfortunate church politics. Father Raphael Husson collaborated with Archimandrite Hanania Kassab of Toledo in printing *The Handbook of Divine Services in English with Arabic phonetics*, still in use today. For his longevity as pastor of Charleston's church and his interaction with other people of faith, he was granted an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Morris Harvey College (now the University of Charleston), in May, 1962. In addition, he was named Vicar General of the Toledo Archdiocese shortly before his retirement.

His blessed wife, Khoureeye Josephine Haddad Husson, fell asleep in the Lord on December 25, 1974 and Archpriest Raphael K. Husson fell asleep in the Lord on May 4, 1978 after a long and difficult illness. Their place of interment is at the Cunningham Memorial Park in St. Albans, West Virginia. Let us remember them for their good deeds and their long and fruitful ministry among us. ALLAH YERHIAMUN!

Editor's Note: This article was written by Father George S. Corey at the request of Louis Husson and Archpriest Olof Scott, Dean of St. George Cathedral, Charleston.





Happy 150 years, West Virginia!

President Abraham Lincoln signed a paper on April 20, 1863, to make West Virginia a state. Sixty days later on June 20, 1863, West Virginia was officially proclaimed the 35th state in the union.

Thursday, June 10, - Sunday June 23, 2013 - a sesquicentennial celebration, with fireworks each night, will be held throughout Charleston and around the state.

Join in the celebration of West Virginia's 150th birthday!

Test your knowledge about Wild, Wonderful, West Virginia!

1. On March 8, 1963, state legislature passed a resolution adopting old gold and blue as the Mountain state's official state colors. True or False?

2. French immigrant Joseph H. Diss Debar designed the state seal 150 years ago. True or False?

3. First site of the state Capitol was in Charleston. _____

4. The first radio station in West Virginia went on the air on Oct. 15, 1923. Was it WSAZ or WCHS?

5. First TV station in West Virginia went on air on Oct. 14, 1949. Was it WCHS or WSAZ?

6. The first rural free mail delivery started in Charles Town. True or False?

7. West Virginia was first state to have a sales tax. True or False?

8. Which block in Charleston is considered longest block in World?

9. Which college University was first established under name of "Agricultural College of West Virginia." _____

10 Which city is geographic center of West Virginia? _____

11. In 1891, 1st college football game played. Name city _____ and teams _____.

12. Two of oldest Christian landmarks in U.S. west of Alleghenies are Rehoboth Methodist Church in _____ County (1786-build) and Old Stone Presbyterian Church in City of _____ built in 1796.

13. Irish and German Catholics came to Wet Virginia in late 1800's, followed by Greek, Syrians and Russian Orthodox Christians in late 19th and early 20th centuries. What year was St. George parish established? _____

14. Of the 36 marble producers that have existed in North America, 24 have been in West Virginia. True or False?.



Formula for a Strong Nation

I know three things must always be
To keep a nation strong and free.
One is a hearthstone bright and dear,
With busy, happy loved ones near.

One is a ready heart and hand
To love, and serve, and keep the land.
One is a worn and beaten way
To where the people go to pray.

So long as these are kept alive,
Nation and people will survive.
God, keep them always, everywhere
The home, the heart, the place of prayer.

—Author unknown

Deadline for next issue

Sep/Oct/Nov 2013:

Aug. 15, 2013. Place articles
in box outside Church office or
email ritakee@aol.com

Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: Did Children in Bible Times Color?

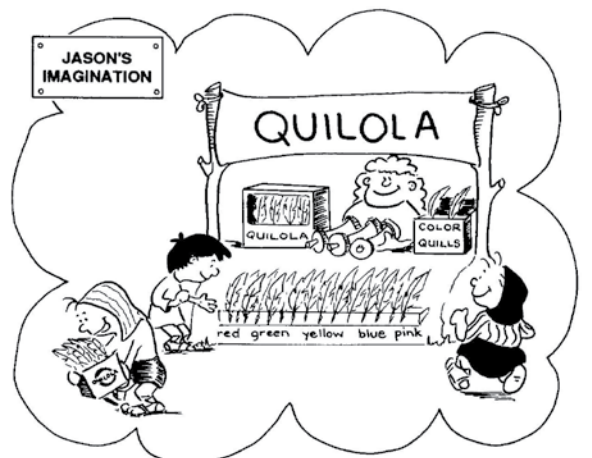
A: Children in Bible times didn't color with crayons like the ones we have today, but they did draw pictures. They also played games. Archaeologists (people who study ancient cities and cultures) have found some of the games. Children back then dressed differently from the way we do, their houses and schools were made differently, and they had different kinds of games. But they were just like kids today in many ways. They liked to have fun. They had family chores to do. When they were bad, their parents disciplined them. They studied. They had times of happiness and sadness. They were real kids.

KEY VERSE: *And the streets will be filled with boys and girls at play.*
(Zechariah 8:5)

RELATED VERSES: *Matthew 11:16; Ephesians 6:1-4*

RELATED QUESTIONS: *What was life like for a child back then?*

Were there schools for Bible children to go to? Did Jesus go to school? Did they have sinners at school when Jesus was a boy? Did people in Bible times play games?



From 102 Questions Children
Ask about the Bible.



Church School News



By Layla Michael

Christ has Risen!! Truly he has Risen!! It's hard to believe that another Church School year has gone by so quickly! I would like to thank everyone who has been so generous with their time, materials and necessary resources to the Church School. Our success would not be possible if it weren't for the parents who continually bring their children to Church School and the teachers being there every Sunday to instill in our youth the lesson of Jesus Christ and the importance of church in ones life. The end of the year celebration will be held together with the annual church picnic on June 9, 2013 at Shawnee Park. We have arranged fun activities for the children and hope to see you all there as we celebrate the end of another successful year! In addition, mark your calendars for our kick-off luncheon on August 25, 2013 for all Church School families and new students to register for the upcoming year. The 2013-2014 Church School year will begin on September 8, 2013 at 9:45 A.M.

Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

In the "good old summertime" we take a break from meetings and will start back on August 5 at 7 p.m.

Our annual dinner is October 13. Volunteers are always welcomed to help with set-up., food prep, working day of dinner and clean-up. Please see Mary Dooley or Joy Browne to offer your services, and we can use all teens, men and women of St. George.

Have a super summer and don't forget the sunscreen!

See you in August! ✝

St. George Foundation News

by Dr. Edward Howard, President

Relax and Meditate

Here comes summer...it's right around the corner and will be here before we know it...One of our favorite times of the year when things slow down a bit and our schedules become a little less hectic. But for many, however, summer may be as busy as the rest of the year especially for those with kids whose schedules take over our own, planning family reunions and vacations, sports of all kinds, and well, you know the rest!! Before we can take the time to call our own where we can breath, just breath and relax, the cycle starts all over again.

There is a place where we can call our own...a place to relax, meditate, and pray and come closer to the One who gives us our strength to endure our busy lives. That place is our sanctuary where every Sunday at Divine Liturgy we are one on one with ourselves and our Lord.

And it is this reason that the St. George Foundation helps to carry the financial responsibility to insure that this sanctuary remains open to all of us for our mental and spiritual well-being now and for many years to come. Yes, it is our church where we can worship, meditate, pray and be one with the Lord. Your St. George Foundation will make sure of that!! ✝

Senior Fellowship

Chirst is Risen!

We hope all you seniors can beat the heat and dodge the raindrops this summer. We will try to plan a get-together at least once during the summer. Please watch the bulletin for details.

See you soon! ✝

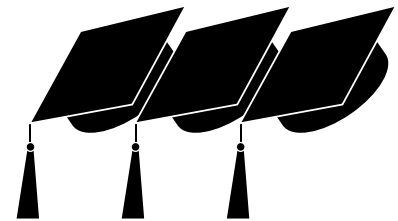
How to get to Heaven

A man may go to heaven...

- Without Health,
 - Without Wealth,
 - Without Fame,
 - Without a Great Name,
 - Without Learning,
 - Without Big Earnings,
 - Without Culture,
 - Without Beauty,
 - Without Friends,
 - Without Ten Thousand Other Things...
- But he can never go to heaven without CHRIST!

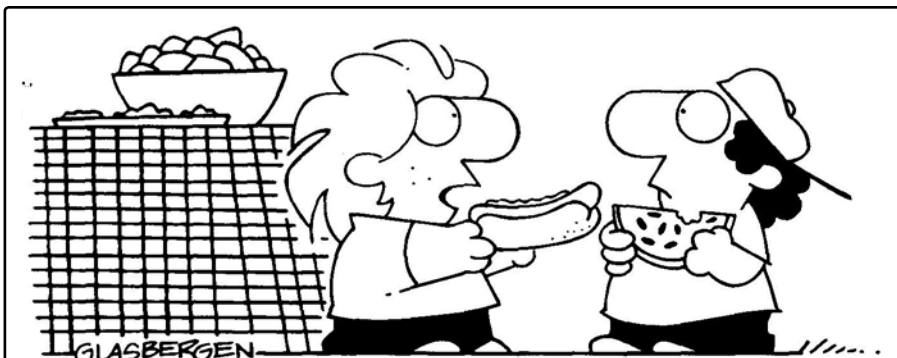


Congratulations To All Graduates



It is for us to pray not for tasks equal to our powers, but for powers equal to our tasks, to go forward with a great desire forever beating at the door of our hearts as we travel towards our distant goal.

Helen Keller



"Remember, this is a church picnic—so always say 'amen' after you burp!"



CALENDAR



June:
 2: Symphony
 Sunday Food Booth
 4: Appalachian

- Power Park Day
- 5/6: Altar Boy Trip
- 8: GSG Social, 7:30 PM
- 9: Start summer hours; Parish Picnic-Shawnee Park
- 12: Evening Liturgy-Ascension, 6:30 PM; Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 15: Baptism, 11:00 AM
- 20: Communion for Shut-ins
- 22: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM
- 23: Pentecost Services
- 29: Liturgy-Sts. Peter & Paul, 10:00 AM
- 29: Wedding Rehearsal, evening
- 30: Wedding, time 3:30 PM

June 2013

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						

July 2013

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			

August 2013

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						



July:
 3-7: Parish Life Conf.
 10: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 18: Communion for Shut-ins

- 22-28: Archdiocese Convention
- 27: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM
- 29-31: Fr. Olof-Vacation

*Answers to Puzzle:
 1-T; 2-T; 3-F; 4-WSAZ; 5-WSAZ; 6-T (Oct. 6, 1876 then spread over U.S.); 7-T (July 1, 1921); 8-1500 Block of Virginia St.; 9-WVU (Feb. 7, 1867; 10-Flatwoods in Braxton County; 11-Morgantown, WVU vs. Washington and Jefferson College of Washington, PA. Score WVU 0, Wash. & Jeff 72; 12-Monroe County, Lewisburg; 13 1892 on Kanawha St.; 14 T (11 in Ritchie County))*



August:
 1: Dormition Fast begins
 1-3: Fr. Olof-Vacation
 5: Evening Liturgy-

- Transfiguration, 6:30 PM; Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 7: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 13: FSJD Meeting, 7:00 PM
- 14: Evening Liturgy-Dormition, 6:30 PM
- 15: Communion for Shut-ins
- 24: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM
- 25: Church School Kick-off Lunch, Noon
- 28: Evening Liturgy-Beheading of John Baptist, 6:30 PM
- 31: Labor Day Weekend Hafti, evening

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