



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

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St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV



Pastor's Corner Etiquette: How to Show Proper Respect and Reverence in Church

By Rev. Fr. Christopher Eid

Church Etiquette

<http://www.antiochian.org/sites/default/files/ChurchEtiquetteBooklet.pdf>

The Holy Orthodox Church is perhaps one of the last social institutions where dignity, protocol, respect, and reverence are maintained. This is primarily because when we come to the church and its services we are entering the Kingdom of God on earth, His habitation, and we choose to honor this sacred place by our attentiveness to what is proper and ordered. We have the opportunity to reflect the image of Christ within us by our actions. "You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation" (Peter 2:9). This guide is meant for personal reflection, not as a means of judging others. We come to church to pray and worship God above all else, and that should be our only focus.

Lipstick

Do not wear lipstick while taking Holy Communion, or when kissing the cross, an icon, the priest's or bishop's hand, or any sacred object. It is best not to wear it at all in the church, because of the damage it causes.

Greeting the Priest and Bishop

In our modern culture, we greet one another with a handshake. The exception to this is when we greet a member of the clergy. We do not shake a bishop's or priest's hand; we kiss it with reverence and ask for a blessing. The proper way to do this is to approach the hierarch or priest with right hand over left, palms facing up, and then bow while saying, "Master, bless" to the hierarch, or "Father, bless" to the priest. If either places his hand in yours while blessing you, this is an appropriate time to kiss his hand. We kiss

his hand because we are honoring Christ, whom he represents.

Church Clothing

Whenever we are preparing to come to church, we should remember that we will be entering the House of God. This requires that we dress modestly and with reverence. Generally this will mean that we want to wear our best clothing. At any age it is not appropriate to wear shorts, pants that are too casual, short skirts, tight-fitting or transparent garments, garments with low necklines, or strapless tops. Some Orthodox traditions require women to wear dresses or skirts with covered shoulders and backs. Men should dress as if they were going to an important event. Clothing with logos or printed material distracts others from praying. Some women have the pious tradition of covering their heads. Men and boys must remove their hats when entering the church. What could be a more important meeting than that with God Himself? The purpose in choosing our clothing wisely is that we model what is important to us by how we dress and not be a distraction or a stumbling block to our brothers.

Clapping in the Church

Clapping in the church is not permitted. Anything takes place in the church, the house of God, would be only to honor God. Therefore, clapping in the church to honor individuals or their achievement would not be appropriate at all.

Above all: "In all things give glory to God." ✙

Congregation Meeting



Results of special congregation meeting on Sunday, June 25: Motion passed to move annual congregation meeting from second Sunday in January to the third Sunday in January so all reports could be turned in. Also, a motion passed that all pledges must be paid by Dec. 31st not in January. Also, a farewell luncheon was held for Fr. Stephen and Kh. Trisha who had been transferred to Lafayette, LA. We will miss them, but know God will guide them as they serve Him in their new spiritual home. ✙

October is Youth Month

October is youth month in our archdiocese. During this month our teens will pass the tray, read the Epistle and usher the communion lines. Please support them in all their projects for they are the future leaders of our cathedral. The teens will be taking donations for the Special Olympics Sports Camp at the village in October so please be generous.

A young boy who had just gotten his driving permit wanted to discuss with his father, who was a minister, about the use of the car. "You get your grades up and get a haircut and we'll talk about it," his father said. About a month later they had another discussion. His father said, "You have brought your grades up, but you didn't get your haircut." The boy replied, "You know, Samson, Noah, Moses and even Jesus had long hair."

His father replied, "Yes, and they walked everywhere they went." ✙



Happy 21st birthday, Grapevine!

Happy new year as we start our new Liturgical year in September.



Coming Home

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

As Christians we belong to the family of God. When our brothers and sisters in Christ are absent from Church we often become concerned; and when they stay away from Church for long periods we often look for reasons. Everyone attempts to put forth their opinions as to why members of the Church become lapsed. Maybe we are looking in the wrong direction when attempting to determine whether it is the celebration of the Liturgy, the clergy, or even other parishioners that keep our brothers and sisters from returning. Some will even say it the rules and restrictions of the Church; that all we need is to sing and pray and everything else is unnecessary. There is a beautiful song that was sung by the Orthodox singing group, Kerygma, which is titled "Coming Home." (His Grace Bishop Anthony was a member of Kerygma). It talks about how we may lose sight of what is necessary and how we may lose our zeal for the faith and become complacent. See if the first verse makes you remember.

They say all we have are obligations all kinds of rules and regulations;

Why bother with ceremony, with saints and martyrs and those who are holy.

But I always knew but forgot for a while, there's something in all that beauty and style; a Kingdom that appeals to me, a God I can touch, taste and see.

Here the Christian has forgotten what he had experienced possibly when he was

younger and then quickly remembers its importance. This next verse is the chorus that tells of his search for what he had previously experienced but now has lost.



Where are the angels singing?

Where is the Mother of my Lord living?

Why can't I fly with the Seraphim, and shout out praise with the Cherubim?

What became of my spirit's wings? Why is my soul filled with earthly things?

Does the Kingdom of God surround me? Are His loving arms around me?

Here the lost Christian has doubt and confusion about whether God even loves him and why has he lost sight of spiritual things. This is the power of Satan; to cast doubt and confusion in our worship of God. Let us see what happens to this lapsed Orthodox Christian.

I remember in my childhood breathing in incense, everything good.

Being there was my offering the lifting of my hands, a thanksgiving;

Receiving life in bread and wine, what was His has become mine;

Nothing else to ask for, all has been given there isn't anymore.

Now he begins to remember what inspires him and the innocent zeal and love that were present in a younger time. Now we will see how he gives way to the fire of his faith that has been diminished but

not extinguished.

Standing here in front of Him, I feel at home with all of them; Brothers and sisters everyone, wrapped in the Spirit of His Son.

Where is my heart lifting me? What is this vision that I see?

In the depths of my soul I say open my lips and show forth Thy praise.

Now he has rediscovered what he already had, his Love for the Lord and his desire to worship Him again. His flame is now rekindled.

I am with the angels singing, I am with the Mother of the living;

I am flying with the Seraphim, and shouting out praise with the Cherubim.

I have found my spirit's wings; my soul is filled with heavenly things;

The Kingdom of God dwells here within me; His loving arms are all around me.

He has now returned to the beauty of the Church, the Body of Christ. Remember these words. In our Family Night and adult class we will be exploring how to rekindle the diminished flame of faith and worship. Bring friends and family members who would like to explore that which has become "misplaced." Then they will experience the heavenly things of the Orthodox faith, by experiencing the Fullness of God which can only be found in the Orthodox Church.

Kids Corner Q & A

Q. Is it wrong to spread rumors?

A. A rumor (or gossip) is a story about someone or something that everybody talks about without really knowing whether it's true or not. Sometimes rumors are totally false, but they are spread because somebody got the wrong information. Sometimes rumors are deliberate lies, spread to hurt someone. Sometimes rumors are partially true, but they don't tell the whole story. Even if a story started out to be true, after a few people tell it, it usually gets changed and is only partly true. Rumors almost always do much more harm than good.

If you hear a bad story about someone, don't just pass it on. First, try to find out whether it is true or not. If you find out that the story is true, you have two good choices: (1)

You can drop it and forget the whole thing, or (2) you can talk to the person that the story is about and try to help. God wants us to be loving and kind to others. Passing along gossip, spreading rumors, is not loving or kind.

Key verse: "A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends." (Proverbs 16:28)

Note to parents: Remember that your child learns from the way you talk about others. Make an effort not to confuse facts with guesses in your discussions about other people.

(From 801 Questions Kids Ask About God)



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

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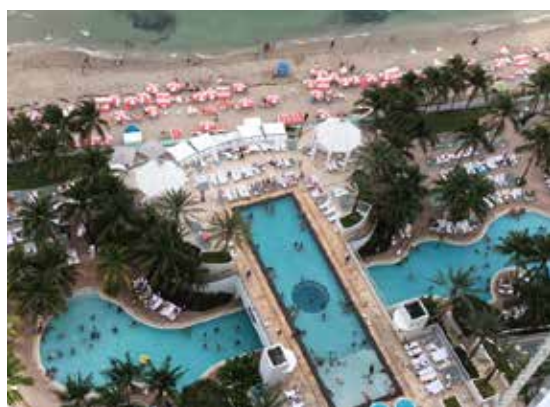


Archdiocese Conference News

Hollywood, Florida, was the setting for spiritual growth, church services, meetings, entertainment, fellowship and fun in the sun during the 2017 Archdiocese Conference. Around 1600 registered for the conference at the Diplomat Hotel. But the highlight of the conference was attending the Hierarchical service Sunday morning with His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph and all the bishops and priests serving the Liturgy, at least in my opinion. Although Charleston’s delegation was only a few, we had a good time and enjoyed seeing friends and family from Charleston who now reside in Florida. Among the “old friends” were Russell Bassett, Shirley and Michael Husson, the Victor Howard Family and the Elias Family, Guinevere Haddad’s brothers and sister,(she was unable to attend), as well as clergy and friends from across the United States and Canada.

Although Bishop ANTOUN was unable to attend most of the conference due to health issues, he was in attendance at the banquet for a brief period of time, where he was honored for his service to the diocese and the southeast region . Many gifts and accolades were bestowed upon him as he enters retirement. Bishop NICHOLAS will replace him in the Southeast Diocese. But before leaving the banquet, he spoke and thanked everyone, and then was serenaded with his favorite song, “You Are My Sunshine” by an opera singer, mariachi band , the junior choir of the local church and by everyone in the audience.

In 2019, the conference will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and then in 2021 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania(both within driving distance from Charleston). ✝



Antiochian Women (Ladies Guild)

Our first meeting after summer break was held on August 6. Plans are being completed for our annual dinner on Sunday, October 22. Volunteers are welcomed in all areas of the dinner so contact Mary Dooley or Gigi Michael to offer your services. Tickets will go on sale September 3. We are planning a fundraiser on Sept. 30 so watch the bulletin for details.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 2 at 7 PM. All ladies 18 and over are encouraged to come to the meetings and offer new ideas and assist in our projects. Plan now to join us in October.



We Gather Together (Fill in the blanks)



We gather together to 1 the Lord’s 2 ,
 He 3 and 4 His will to make known;
 The 5 oppressing now cease from distressing;
 6 praises to His name;
 He 7 not His own.

-Anonymous

Further reading: Deuteronomy: 31:12, John : 11: 52



St. George Welcomes Metropolitan JOSEPH And Bishop THOMAS

St. George Cathedral of Charleston, WV, welcomed His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH and His Grace Bishop THOMAS Sept. 1-3, 2017. In 1995, His Grace Bishop JOSEPH, then Bishop of Los Angeles and the West, made his first visit to Charleston; so we were honored to have Sayidna return for a visit as the new Metropolitan. Sayidna JOSEPH was accompanied by Deacon John Al-Massih. Also, during this Labor Day Weekend, the Aita Al-Fokhar Foundation held a reunion in Charleston, and asked Metropolitan JOSEPH to attend their events and speak at their banquet on Sunday night. Sayidna graciously accepted.

During his first official visit to St. George, Metropolitan JOSEPH and Bishop THOMAS met with the Parish Council on Friday, Sept. 1, followed by a light dinner in the conference center. Saturday morning Sayidna was invited to breakfast at the home of Andre Haikal, with Bishop THOMAS, Fr. Christopher Eid and other out-of-town guests. Saturday afternoon, Sayidna JOSEPH and Sayidna THOMAS met with the Local Antiochian Women's group, the teens, St. George Fellowship and the choir. Sayidna JOSEPH was pleased to meet everyone and learn about what the organizations do for the cathedral and the community, and welcomed their comments and concerns. At Great Vespers on Saturday, His Eminence made his official entrance into our Cathedral. Serving Vespers with Sayidna were Sayidna THOMAS, Fr. Christopher, Fr. Samuel Haddad from our sister parish in Beckley, WV, Fr. John Dixon from our sister parish in Huntington, WV, Fr. John Shalhoub, and Fr. Mitri Houssan (from Aita, Lebanon), and Dn. John. After Great Vespers, Sayidna was welcomed at the Hafli for the Aita Reunion then went to Fr. Christopher's home for dinner pre-



pared by the St. Ignatius chapter of St. George.

On Sunday, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was served by His Eminence

Metropolitan JOSEPH, Bishop THOMAS, Fr. Christopher, the visiting clergy and deacon and our subdeacons George Damous and Michael Jarrouj. It was a divine service with all the clergy, choir, chanters and parishioners from near and far worshipping in the cathedral that morning. His Eminence gave the homily or "talk" that morning, greeted everyone

and spoke about the cathedral belonging to everyone and to God. And the most important thing is "that we are together". He stressed that love is needed first, and forgiveness, second. He said, "When people feel love and respect, they will give. Seek first and foremost the Kingdom of God and you will receive." Sayidna thanked Fr. Olof Scott, who recently retired from St. George after 39 years, for his dedication and service and welcomed Fr. Christopher to the parish. After liturgy, Roger David, national chair of St. Ignatius spoke about the Order, then Metropolitan JOSEPH inducted three new members into the local chapter: Patty Haddy, Dr. Loretta Haddy, Athena Howard. Abraham Mitias, was not present. A luncheon reception was held in the conference center ballroom for all and everyone could meet Sayidna. We thank our parishioners and Fr. Christopher for welcoming our family and friends from across the United States, Canada and Lebanon.

That evening, Sayidna JOSEPH and Sayidna THOMAS were in attendance at the banquet for the Aita Al Fokhar Reunion. Sayidna JOSEPH, Fr. Mitri and Dr. Ghassan Skaff, (Chairman Neurology Dept. at the American University of Beirut) spoke at the banquet.

St. George was truly blessed to have Metropolitan JOSEPH and Bishop THOMAS visit us over the Labor Day weekend. May God grant them many years! ✠





Church School News

By Layla Michael

Welcome back a new year of Church School, I hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer! We look forward to welcoming all of our teachers and students back for the first Sunday of Church school on September 10, 2017. **Church School starts at 9:45 am EVERY Sunday** morning before Liturgy. And don't forget, **Junior Choir starts at 9:15 am EVERY Sunday** right before Church School. There are some changes that will be going on this year, the 5th & 6th grade students will be together in our Middle School room. And our 7th and 8th grade students will now be joining the high school classroom downstairs. Our Halloween Party is going to be on October 29, 2017, with more details to follow. Godparents Sunday will be on November 12, 2017. Please have the children inform their Godparents about this special day. We would love to see ALL of our Godparents come to class with their Godchildren and plan to spend time with them after Liturgy for a special reception for them and everyone in the Cathedral. Our Christmas program is scheduled for December 10th after Liturgy in the gymnasium. Rehearsal for the Christmas program will be December 9th with lunch following for the teachers, students, and parents. We hope to see everyone coming back to Church School, we have a lot of new and exciting things to learn this year. I would also like to

challenge ALL of our parents of Church School children to put GOD first and be committed to bringing your children to Church School this year. Our volunteer teachers put a lot of time and effort into making our Church school something we can be proud of yearly. Make a commitment and bring your children EVERY Sunday so we can make our Cathedral the shining example for churches across our Archdiocese. I wish you all a happy and safe school year and look forward to seeing everyone this year. ✝

Senior Fellowship

Now that summer has sailed into the sunset, the seniors met again on September 19.

We had a luau and many came dressed in Hawaiian outfits. Pineapples and other related items were given out during bingo.

We are also planning a second get-together on Tuesday, Nov. 14 with dinner and entertainment. So mark your calendars and join St. George Senior Fellowship for fun, food and fellowship. ✝



Antiochian Women - Visitation Committee

A visitation committee has been formed in the Guild to visit past guild members who attended meetings and participated in Guild projects but now are unable to attend meetings and church. Evelyn Cassis and her committee-Joy Browne, Mary Dooley, Pat Elias, Beverly Howard, Gigi Michael and Diana Shdeed - make two visits a month for about an hour. When Evelyn calls to schedule a day and time to visit, she requests that no refreshments be offered.

Once the committee arrives, they explain the purpose of their visit, update that member on the Guild's activities, and even offer assistance to whom they are visiting, such as, grocery shopping, pharmacy pick up, and driving the member to appointments. Before they leave, a prayer is said, and a plant or St. George night light is given to the member. It is the

Guild's way of keeping in touch with our past members and letting them know they are not forgotten. And those who have received this committee's visits have been overwhelmingly grateful for the committee's time taken to visit them. God bless Evelyn and her committee. ✝

Tennis, Anyone?

Congratulations to our parishioners who played in the Public Courts Tournament this summer. Timothy Koenig (husband of Beth Faris Koenig) won in the 55 doubles division.

Honorable mention to Mark Cassis, (son of Steve and Lisa Cassis), and to Zack Koenig, (son of Timothy and Beth Koenig), in making it to the final rounds. ✝



Batter up!

St. George also had a team in the church softball league this summer. They came in second. Pictures of many of the players are included in the newsletter, so try to name our players. Perhaps next year we can print the schedules so more parishioners can come out and cheer for our team. ✝





CALENDAR

Weekly Schedule

Check the weekly bulletin for updates, changes or cancellations.

Wednesday, 6:30 pm - Daily Vespers, Family Night & Book Club

Thurs.: 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Sat.: 5:00 pm - Great Vespers/Confessions

Sun.: 9:15 am Junior Choir; 9:45 am Church School; 9:30 am Matins; 10:30 am Divine Liturgy



September

2: 5:00 pm - Hierarchical Great Vespers with Metropolitan JOSEPH presiding

3: 10:30 am - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan JOSEPH presiding

10: Church School & Junior Choir begin

11: 7:00 pm Ladies Guild

12: 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting

19: 5:30 pm Senior Fellowship Dinner

26: 6:30 pm Foundation Board Meeting (Aladdins); 7:00 pm Fellowship of St. George Meeting

30: 9:30 am Manna Meal prep; 7:00 pm Ladies Guild Social

September 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2017

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30	31					

November 2017

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		



October

2: 7:00 pm Ladies Guild

3: 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting

22: 12:00-6:00 pm Annual Dinner

24: 6:30 pm Foundation Board Meeting

28: 9:30 am Manna Meal prep

29: 4:00 pm Church School Halloween Party

31: 7:00 pm Fellowship of St. George Meeting



November

6: 7:00 pm Ladies Guild

14: 7:00 pm Parish Council; 5:30 pm Senior Fellowship Dinner

12: Godparents Sunday

15: Nativity Fast Begins

25: 9:30 am Manna Meal prep

28: 6:30 pm Foundation Board Meeting; 7:00 pm Fellowship of St. George Meeting

December 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

*Answers to fill in the blank:
I ask 2-blessing 3-chastens
4-hastens 5-wicked 6-sing
7-forgels*

Deadline for the next Grapevine issue

Dec. 2017, Jan., Feb. 2018 is Dec. 1, 2017. Place articles in box outside Church office or email ritakee@aol.com

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