

# THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Jan/Feb 2010 • Vol. 14, No. 3

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

## Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott



Happy New Year!  
As I readied to type these words a fleeting question passed through my mind, "Whatever happened to the Mummers Parade?"

"Mummers Parade?" you ask. "What the hey is the Mummers Parade?" Unless you've lived in the Greater Philadelphia area you probably never heard of the Mummers Parade.

The Mummers Parade was a part of my childhood every New Years Day. In fact, "Mummers Day" and "New Years Day" were synonymous in our household.

This unique celebration had its roots in the Swedish, Finnish, German, English, Irish and African-American heritages in the city. In the 17th and 18th centuries groups of revelers in every neighborhood would travel from house to house, singing songs and performing dances, all to be rewarded with food and drink. By the end of the 19th century, the individual groups were holding area parades with competition between them.

The City of Philadelphia finally sponsored and organized the first official parade in 1901, and by the time I was born, it had grown considerably. The parade started around 9:00 AM in South Philadelphia, heading up Broad Street, and lasted until almost 8:00 PM in the evening. I believe it had grown into the longest parade in the world.

Over ten thousand men (no women permitted until the '70's) marched and did the "2 Street Strut." They competed in four divisions, Comic, Fancy, Fancy Brigade and String Band, wearing large ornate costumes, some weighing hundreds of pounds, and costing thousands of dollars.

The String Bands were my favorite, numbering an average of sixty-four men, and playing only string, reed and percussion instruments. There are no brass in-

struments allowed which gives the String Bands a unique sound.

The Mummers Parade is to Philadelphia what the Rose Parade, Mardi Gras Parade and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade are to Pasadena, New Orleans and New York City, respectively. And yet, most Americans have never heard of it.

Going on the internet to investigate I found that the parade is still held, the various clubs still compete and with little change over the years. The reason that it's so little known is that there is no advertising, no publicity and no television outside of the local area. There appears no desire to spread and expand the Mummers tradition.

What does all of this have to do with St. George Cathedral and the Holy Orthodox Church? As we begin a new year I wonder sometime if Holy Orthodoxy is like the Mummers Parade. Only those that participate in it know anything about it. Anybody outside of the Orthodox Church has no clue as to what it is and probably have never heard of it.

Roman Catholicism and many other Christian denominations seem to be like the Rose, Mardi Gras, and Macy's Parades. They have publicity. They advertise. They use the media effectively. Yet in spite of this many of these groups are declining in membership.

So we must conclude that it's not publicity, nor advertisements, nor the use of the media that will promulgate and expand our Orthodox Faith. It is rather our "living it" that will make it prosper and grow, attracting others to it.

The early Christian Church spread and grew not by an organized advertising campaign. It grew because the world saw that Orthodox Christians were different. They stood out because they loved each other. And they were not shy in telling others about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let each of us make a resolution in this New Year that we will do our best

to "live" our Orthodox Faith. Let us not be content with just keeping our worship and traditions to ourselves. Let us not become like a Mummers Club stuck in the Philadelphia area. Let the living of our Orthodox Faith be such that all with whom we come into contact wish to be a part of it. ✙

## Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting and elections will be held on Sunday, January 24, at 1:30 PM, in the conference center. Please remember the following:

- All 2009 pledge commitments must be paid in full to be eligible to vote. In addition, all other pledge commitments (domes, building, 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 2009.

- All parish organizations are to have written reports on their 2009 activities and finances to the church office for printing and collation no later than Wednesday, January 20, 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. ✙



## Symbols Matching Game

Symbols are certain objects given spiritual meanings. Match the symbol in the left column with its description in the right column.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Alpha and Omega | ___ a. symbol of Christ, the "True Vine"   |
| 2. Anchor          | ___ b. symbol of Christ, the "Good Shepherd."  |
| 3. Book            | ___ c. symbol of Christ, the "Lamb of God" who takes away the sins of the world  |
| 4. Candles         | ___ d. symbol of evil and cunning.   |
| 5. Incense         | ___ e. symbol of hope.   |
| 6. Cross           | ___ f. symbol of humanity and St. Matthew  |
| 7. Crown of thorns | ___ g. symbol of peace.  |
| 8. Eagle           | ___ h. symbol of prayer.   |
| 9. Eye             | ___ i. symbol of purity.   |
| 10. Fish           | ___ j. symbol of purity.   |
| 11. Lamb           | ___ k. symbol of St. John the Evangelist and loftiness of his theological ideas.   |
| 12. Olive Branch   | ___ l. symbol of St. Mark, royalty and power.  |
| 13. Lily           | ___ m. symbol of strength and of St. Luke.   |
| 14. Lion           | ___ n. symbol of the Church.   |
| 15. Ox             | ___ o. symbol of the crucifixion.  |
| 16. Pelican        | ___ p. symbol of the faithful in the Church.   |
| 17. Phoenix        | ___ q. symbol of the Holy Scriptures.  |
| 18. Pigeon or dove | ___ r. symbol of the Holy Trinity.   |
| 19. Sheep.         | ___ s. symbol of the omnipresence of god, that is, He is everywhere.   |
| 20. Shepherd       | ___ t. symbol of the resurrection of the body.   |
| 21. Snake.         | ___ u. symbol of the resurrection.   |
| 22. Triangle       | ___ v. symbol of the sacrifice of Christ, who gave his Blood for us (as according to legend this thing gives the blood of its breast to its children). |
| 23. Vessel or ship | ___ w. symbol of the sufferings of Christ.   |
| 24. Vine           | ___ x. symbolize the Beginning and the End, that is, God is Eternal.   |
| 25. Wheat          | ___ y. symbols of Christ, the Light of the World.  |
| 26. Winged Man     | ___ z. the first letters of the Greek words meaning, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Saviour, from the Greek word for fish.                              |



### THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

St. George Orthodox Cathedral  
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## The Fish: The Church's oldest Symbol

Living as we do in a country where we have always been free to practice our faith openly, it is sometimes difficult for us to relate to the conditions that existed for the members of the early Church. The pagan rulers of the ancient Roman Empire were relentless in their attempt to destroy Christianity. Anyone bold enough to profess their belief in Jesus Christ faced certain torture, humiliation and death. The initial chapters of Church History are filled with stories of the brave men and women who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives for Christ.

Since their survival was largely dependent upon secrecy, the early Christians began to identify themselves with a simple marking, which enabled fellow Christians to recognize on another, yet did nothing to arouse the suspicions of

the Roman authorities. This symbol was the FISH. A fish traced in the ground may have indicated a place where other Christians were to meet for worship. Drawing a fish in the dust while conversing with strangers would quickly show if one were in the company of "friend or foe."

Why did the 2nd century Christians select a fish as their symbol? When the great theological truth - Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior - was written in its original Greek form, they noticed that the first initials formed the word "ich-thus." This happens to be the Greek word for fish! It not only showed who the early Christians were, but more importantly, what they believed. A simple drawing had been transformed into something full of spiritual significance.



## Epistle Reader Reminder

We do appreciate all of you who volunteer to read the Epistle each Sunday!

A copy of the Epistle is sent to you to familiarize yourself with that Sunday's reading. Just a reminder to those reading: When the priests move behind the Altar Table, that is the reader's cue to walk to the front of the Church. This lets the priests know and our back-up Epistle readers know that the scheduled reader is present. If no one comes forward by the time the altar boys take their places and the priests move around the Altar Table, one of the back-up readers will go forward. On occasion two readers have gone forward and the scheduled reader may have been offended. So, please come forward before the choir finishes their hymn and take a deep breath. We do appreciate all the volunteer readers each Sunday.

If you are interested in reading the Epistle, call the church office today!



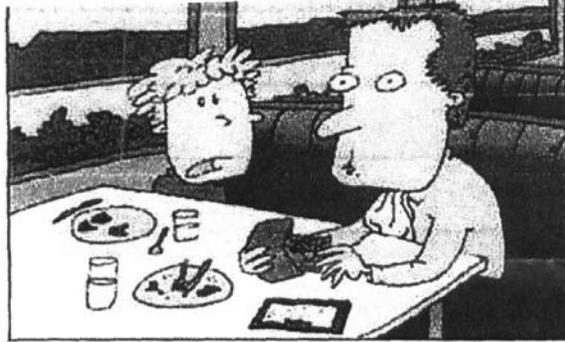
## A Pre-Lenten Retreat

The Fellowship of St. John the Divine is sponsoring a Pre-Lenten Retreat on Saturday, February 13. We have invited Dr. Christopher Veniamin, Professor of Patristics at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, 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.



## Orthodox Stewardship Program 2010



How come the waitress gets 18% and God doesn't even get 1%?

2010 Stewardship Theme. "Come and See"

### St. George Cathedral 2010 Drive Goal for 2010 = \$455,000

Your pledge will support the following activities for 2010:

- General Payroll, Benefits & Personnel Services. = \$230,000
- Church General Operating Expenses,
  - Repairs & Utilities..... = \$125,000
- Archdiocese Assessment..... = \$ 45,000
- Youth Programs..... = \$ 30,000
- Charity Outreach..... = \$ 25,000

Your contributions will allow the continued growth and development of Orthodoxy in West Virginia by educating our youth, providing charity outreach and the development of new programs in our church.

Thank you for your support.

It is greatly appreciated and needed!



## Kid's Corner - Q & A

### Q: Why Did Eve Disobey God When She Knew She Would Die?

**A:** Eve disobeyed God because Satan deceived her. That is, the devil used lies and tricks to get her to disobey God. God had said that Adam and Eve would die if they ate of the "Tree of Conscience," but Satan said they wouldn't. Because Eve believed Satan, she wasn't sure what would happen. Another trick Satan used was to promise that it would do great things for her; he said that if she ate the forbidden fruit, she would be as God. That sounded good to Eve, and so she did what Satan suggested. Temptation tells you that feeling good right now is better than anything that might happen in the future. Satan still deceives people by twisting God's words and making people believe lies.

Satan wants us to think that once we sin, God can't forgive us. But even though Eve sinned, and even though we sin, God had a plan for taking away our sin. That plan was to send Jesus.

**KEY VERSE:** "For you are the children of your father the devil. You love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. There was no truth in him. When he lies, it is perfectly normal. For he is the father of lies." (John 8:44)

**RELATED VERSES:** Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-5; Matthew 6:13; 26:41; 2 Corinthians 2:11



**RELATED QUESTIONS:** Did God want Eve to be deceived and eat of the fruit? Does God still love Adam and Eve?

From 102 Questions Children Ask about the Bible.





## New Church Growth and Vitalization Project

The Long Range Planning committee of the parish council has been working very hard to address some of the needs of our church. These include:

### The Need for a Covered Driveway

This has been talked about for years. Many of our parishioners both young and old are dropped off at the back door of the church from the parking lot to enter church. When the weather is nice there is no issue. However, when the weather is not cooperating, rain or snow, it is problematic. Especially if someone is being dropped off who may use a wheel chair or a walker. It can be very difficult to manage both an umbrella and a walker and to help your loved one all at the same time.

### The Need for a Handicapped accessibility to the Lower level from the Sanctuary in Controlled Space

Many of our parishioners who use a walker or a wheel chair to get around are now faced with two options to go from the Sanctuary to the lower level. They can have help to get down the steps next to the nursery steps and someone will need to carry the walker or wheel chair for them. Or, they can go out the back of the church to the parking lot and have someone go and open the doors next to the elevators. This last option requires someone to go and open a locked door for them and can be a problem again when the weather is not cooperating.

### The Need for a Permanent Chapel

The current space utilized for a chapel only has one possible use, daily services. Those who attend these services even on a sporadic basis are given the opportunity for not just daily worship but also a chance through readings and hymns to learn about the lives of the Saints and get a fuller view of the many Feasts of the Orthodox Church. However, as other churches that have made the investment into a permanent chapel, have told me this is just the beginning of what a chapel can offer.

We are proposing a structure to be built on the back of the church adjacent to the parking lot that would incorporate a portico entrance to the back of the church, a structure to be built tying the two buildings together with a ramp going down to the lower level to be controlled space out of the elements, and a permanent chapel adjacent to this new entrance. This would all be built in such a manner that if we should decide to add something on this structure in the future

we are ready for it.

### What could we use a Chapel for?

- Continue to use for daily worship in Matins, Vespers and various other services that are currently in use.

- Feast Day Liturgies
- Small Baptism and Small Marriage Ceremonies

- Auxiliary classroom for Sunday school and Adult Education. Because chapels typically have a very minimal Iconostasis, if any at all, it is easy for parishioners to see what is going on in a service or to see the Prothesis table without going into the altar area.

- Prayer and meditation at any time granted through card access.

### Why not just use the current Sanctuary for this?

- Level of intimacy. For a service with 5 to 10 people to be held in a space that holds 475 you can feel lost in that big of a space. There is much more of a sense of closeness in a smaller atmosphere.

- There would be a substantial cost increase to use the current Sanctuary for all of these purposes. Not only does the current Sanctuary have a large area, but also it is very tall. That is a lot of volume to condition.

### What have other churches experienced with a chapel?

#### St. Nicholas Grand Rapids MI –

- Daily Matins are held at 8:30 each morning. The Senior Citizens of the church mainly attend these morning services. Anywhere from 5 to 12 people attend, weather dependant.

- Increased the Liturgical life of the people in general. More special feast day services are held because many parishioners enjoy the smaller atmosphere that the chapel provides.

-Fr. Daly's wife and son

#### St. Elijah Oklahoma City OK –

- Their Chapel is actually a little larger than most. It also has pews. Can hold 80 people comfortably with pews.

- Saturday evening Vespers, Baptisms (Typical Baptisms have only 25 to 30 attendees) and second marriages

- Marriage blessings
- Starting point for tours. The intimacy is less intimidating to new people when they first visit their church.

- Introduction to Orthodoxy classes are taught there.

- Liturgy explanations are done there because parishioners can see into the altar area much better.

- Main reasons for doing this was

intimacy provided by the smaller setting and cost savings, Dn. Ezra mentioned air conditioning was pretty expensive in the Oklahoma City church in the summer time.

-Deacon Ezra

#### St. George Houston TX –

- They currently have a set up similar to ours where they only do daily Matins services and Feast Day Liturgies.

- Main reason for doing this was the desire for spiritual growth, intimacy of a chapel and cost savings compared to having in the main church.

-Church Secretary

#### Saint Michael Louisville, KY –

- Most used building on their facility
- Any weekday service is held there. Daily Matins and Vespers and Feast Day Liturgies.

- They had many against it when it was built. Some still are against it.

- Fr. Atty felt this was a major source of outreach for the community at large, which has attracted converts and brought back many who grew up in the Orthodox Church.

- He mentioned 15 priests were attracted to the priesthood after having a daily experience at the chapel.

- Many have felt the chapel was a way to return to church in a less intimidating way.

- Many of their parishioners share this opinion.

- Average 15 for Matins and 35 for Vespers 40 to 50 for Feast Day Liturgies.

- 60 to 80 people a week use key access to enter when there is no scheduled service.

-Fr. Alexander Atty

Other churches in our Archdiocese who have a chapel apart from a main church

Saint George Cathedral Toledo, Saint George Church Indianapolis, Saint Nicholas Cathedral Los Angeles, Saint John Cathedral Eagle River.

### Financial Plan to Pay for The Project

Total cost up to \$600,000

Monies in reserve by spring from Capital Fund and Previously Saved Money \$150,000

Remaining \$450,000

15 yr. note with a 5 year ARM Payment amount per year \$47,040

The payments would come from a pledge drive needing \$150,000 and coming from the Capital Funds



## \$100,000 To St. George Cathedral

The St. George Foundation has crossed the \$100,000 threshold in distributions to St. George Cathedral's operating budget with this year's transfer of \$18,210. This represented 80% of all dividends and interest that was generated from the fund investments during 2008. These funds were earmarked to support St. George Cathedral's Youth Programs, such as, scholarships for the Antioch Village, Athletic Programs, and Church School needs.

Since its inception in 2000, the St. George Foundation fund has contributed \$88,698, to St. George Cathedral. An additional \$11,782 has been transferred from the Foundations' "Donor Advised" funds to help supplement the needs of other programs, such as, St. George Cathedral Choir.

The Foundation has benefited this past year by being remembered through the legacies of four of our departed parishioners. May their memories be eternal. ✠

## Parable of the Growing Income

A man knelt with his pastor and asked for God's blessings as he committed himself to tithe. His income that first week was \$100.00, and his tithe was \$10.00. As the years passed, he became more and more prosperous, until his tithe reached the level of \$500.00 per week. Alarmed at the rising amount, he sought out his pastor and asked what he could do about the problem.

"When I made the promise, I only had to give ten dollars," he explained, "but now it's \$500.00. I just can't afford to give away money like that"

"I can see that you really do have a problem," the pastor replied. "Maybe we can kneel right here and ask God to shrink your income so you can go back to giving ten dollars a week again."



## Church School News

By Layla Michael

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone remembers the true meaning of our Holiday season, and to thank God for all of our blessings. This is also a time to change things that we are unhappy with in our lives. We should all do our best to be more active in our Church.

As the cold winter comes upon us, please let us not forget to bring our children to Church school. For those of you who bring your children regularly, thank you!

The 2010 Conference and Festival are right around the corner! This year's theme is "The earth is the Lord's, and it's fullness, the world and all who dwell therein." Psalm 23 (24):1. Please start thinking about this verse with your children and talk about it together. Also please see what you take from the meaning of this verse and bring ideas to your class. There will be two art workshops set up and the dates for these will be posted on the bulletin board. Parents please help support your children and our Parish by bringing your children to these important functions. We really do need a stronger output representing our parish in the 2010 Creative Festival. There are different categories that you can choose from including art, poetry, photography, and creative writing. You may enter in one or all of them if you would like, but I would really like to see everyone at least enter into one of these categories this year.

This year Lazarus Saturday is March 27, 2010. We will have fun activities planned, with further details coming soon.

God Bless you all in the New Year and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2010!! ✠



*"The first step toward freedom from anger is to keep the lips silent when the heart is stirred; the next, to keep thoughts silent when the soul is upset; the last, to be totally calm when unclean winds are blowing."*

--Saint John of the Ladder



## Antiochian Women (Ladies Guild)

Happy New Year, Ladies!

We hope your New Year's resolutions will include coming out to the Guild meetings, the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Our new officers are looking forward to working with you and hope all women of St. George will consider working with the Guild.

The 2010 officers are:

President - Anne Marie Haddy

Vice-President - Mary Dooley

Secretary - Belle Haddad

Corresponding Secretary - Gladys Howard

Treasurer - Monica Cassis

Chaplain - Lila Lee Damous

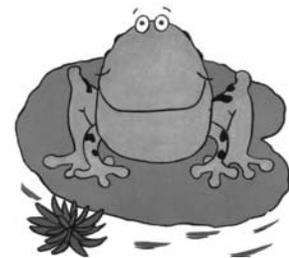
Parliamentarian - Maryann Skaff

We'd like to start this new decade off with fresh ideas and everyone's input, so please consider attending a meeting or two or volunteer to serve on a committee; social, St. George Day, Annual Dinner, Lenten Luncheon, and more! See you Jan. 4 and Feb. 1 at 7:30 PM! ✠

## Senior Fellowship

2010 has arrived and we hope the New Year blesses you with good health and happiness!

Our first get-together will be in February with dinner and entertainment. Watch the bulletin for details. ✠



A little FROG told me how to best enjoy the coming year!

Frequently  
Rely  
On  
God!!!!

*Leap with joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven.*

--Luke 6:23



## JAN 2010

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						

### January:

- 1: Happy New Year!
- 4: Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 5: Epiphany: Matins, 6:00 PM; Liturgy/Blessing of Water, 7:00 PM
- 6: House Blessings begin
- 8: Fr. Olof—CCT Meeting, Seattle; Return 1/15
- 10: Family Activities, 4:00 PM
- 13: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 15: Fr. Olof returns
- 18: Pastoral Committee, 7:30 PM
- 19: FSJD Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 21: Communion Shut-ins
- 23: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM; Baptism, 11:00 AM; Engagement, 7:00 PM
- 24: Annual Meeting, 1:30 PM
- 25: Fr. Olof & Kh. Eva—Vacation; Return 2/09
- 30: Liturgy—Three Hierarchs, 10:00 AM

## CALENDAR

### FEB 2010

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						

### February:

- 1: Evening Liturgy—Presentation, 6:30 PM; Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 7: Family Activities, 4:00 PM
- 9: Fr. Olof & Kh. Eva return
- 10: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 13: Pre-Lenten Retreat, 9:30 AM
- 14: Forgiveness Vespers, 6:00 PM (Great Lent Begins)
- 15: Great Compline, 6:30 PM
- 16: Basic Class #1, 7:30 PM
- 17: Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 PM
- 18: Communion for Shut-ins
- 19: Akathist Hymn, 6:30 PM
- 21: Pan-Orthodox Vespers (location TBD), 6:00 PM
- 23: Basic Class #2, 7:30 PM
- 24: Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 PM
- 26: Akathist Hymn, 6:30 PM
- 27: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM; Baptism, 4:30 PM
- 28: Vespers, 6:00 PM

### Laughing Matters

*The human race has one really effective weapon, and that is laughter.*  
*Mark Twain, US Author (1835-1910)*



*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.*

*Prov. 3:5-6*

### Deadline for next issue:

**February 15, 2009.**

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

Answers to Symbols Matching Game

1-x, 2-e, 3-q4-y, 5-h, 6-o, 7-w, 8-k, 9-s, 10-z, 11-c, 12-g, 13-i, 14-l, 15-m, 16-v, 17-u, 18-j, 19-p, 20-b, 21-d, 22-r, 23-n, 24-a, 25-t, 26-f

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