

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Sep. Oct. Nov. 2015 • Vol. 20, No. 1

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV



Happy 19th Birthday,
Grapevine!



Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Christopher Eid

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”(Rev_1:8) (KJV) Where to start? How to write the first letter? Or even how to put together the first thought? All of that comes to mind when one is about to begin a project or a journey; if it was a business, school or even getting married. We do invest in all these personal life decisions. Yet, what do we do when it comes to spiritual life and personal wellbeing? How and where do we start? Who to ask and where to turn? It is of the most importance. Let's sit back and think for a second. Let's look at our life.

They say that life's journey starts with a step. They say that a poem starts with a word. In the past they used to say that a business deal started with a shake of a hand. It is not that far from the truth when we think about our spiritual journey with God.

The opening phrase of Scripture is “in the beginning”. Yes, in the beginning we were with God and God with us. And the journey continues with its ups and downs. With our failures and Gods love, mercy and compassion. His forgiveness and warm loving open arms welcoming us back every time. He gives us chances again and again. He calls us children and judges us with His just love, His utmost love. But what we ought to do? We keep falling down and failing in walking a straight path. Are we drunk? Are we drugged? But for sure we walk

with a wobble. We see the target and we know what is right and what is wrong, but!!! Yes, we keep missing the mark. We sin!!!

Scripture teaches us that God created us in His image and likeness: “And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”(Gen_1:26) He gave us authority. He gave us freedom. But, we misunderstood the meaning of freedom and misused, what He entrusted us with, authority.

As we are starting a new ecclesiastical new year, we ought to return to God with humility, love and obedience. We ought to return to the house of the Father and turn away from the houses of the world, the earthly world and turn to the Heavenly World and seek answers.

The Church! Our mother! Our Spiritual Hospital! The House of the Father! That is where we receive answers about our spiritual life, our relationship with God, our eternal wellbeing.

At this day of rejoicing God and celebrating another year of the Lord, let us together rejoice His presence in our life and the life of the people of this land. Let us be a blessing to everything in the air, in water and on land. Let us return to God for His gifts and abundance of the fruits of the earth and the gifts that are from above. Let us repeat the prayer that we say at the end of our meal and blessing the table of fellowship saying: “we give thanks unto thee o Master for filling us with these earthly gifts, deprive us not from your heavenly

Kingdom, for your name is blessed and glorified, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!”

May this year bring joy, prosperity and multiple blessings of heavenly, earthly, spiritual and physical gifts and healing to you all and your families. ✝

Happy New Liturgical Year

As we begin the new liturgical year in the church, we welcome our new priest and dean, Rev. Fr. Christopher Eid and Koureyee Katarina, and bid a fond farewell to Fr. Scott who retired on July 31 but still resides in Charleston. Fr. Stephen DeYoung and Koureyee Tricia will continue to serve as our assistant priest.

St. George Cathedral will embark on a new path under a new priest, and we hope his “new year's resolutions” will continue St. George's growth in the community and the Archdiocese. ✝

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. ✝



Many O Lord Are Thy Wonderful Works!

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

In today's world we often focus on our trials and tribulations and forget the blessings of our Lord. An old phrase states: "I cried because I have no shoes...until I saw a man with no feet; life is full of blessings" (author unknown). The words to a song about counting your blessings –

When upon life's billows
you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged,
thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings,
name them one by one,
And it will surprise you
what the Lord has done.

Psalm 40:5 tells us: "Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts which are toward us; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee. If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." These beautiful words remind us to focus on what God has given us, not what we do not have. At the end of each day let us think of all the wonders we have experienced. These are the gifts our Lord brings to us.

We may be obsessed with our sufferings whether physical, emotional or spiritual, but let us know that God's help is coming even if it is slow. The trial will not last indefinitely. "...God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted

above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it," (1 Corinthians 10:13). Let us not be discouraged but keep our faith, "...I will never leave thee or forsake thee," (Hebrews 13:5).

In the Gospel of St. Matthew is told the story of the Canaanite woman whose prayers to Jesus to heal her daughter are repeatedly rejected. Then Jesus finally heals her daughter after a period of time yet heals a crowd of sick people immediately afterwards. St. John Chrysostom explains Jesus answers the prayers of the Canaanite woman only after He has rejected them several times. Yet He heals the crowd of sick people immediately. St. John notes it is not that the crowd was preferable to the Canaanite woman, but because the Canaanite woman had more faith than all of them put together. By putting off the healing, Jesus wanted to reveal to others her generosity and faithfulness.

We have seen those with infirmities, who increase their prayers and their faith, strengthen to the point that we are inspired by their strong faith. They have been chosen just as the Canaanite woman to be an example of this great and unyielding faith in the Lord. People who experience such great pain and are unable to pray just hold onto the memory of God and know that He is with them. "My grace is sufficient for you; for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). ✝



Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6



**Remember
our veterans
on Nov. 11.**

Christmas Lent (Advent)

The Nativity Fast begins on November 15, and continues through December 24. This fast is divided into two periods. The first period is November 15 through December 19, when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but with permission for wine and oil on Tuesday and Thursday, (some also permit fish on Tuesday and Thursday during the first period), and for fish, wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday. The second period is December 20 through 24 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed Monday through Friday, but with permission for wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday.

All Orthodox Christians are to strive to maintain this fast to the best of their ability.

If you are unable to maintain the rule for a meal, don't give up on the fast altogether.

Start over and do the best you can. ✝

A Teacher's Code of Ethics

As a teacher in my church, I will do my best:

To approach my task each Sunday with a prepared heart and a reverent attitude.

To make every effort to grow in the grace of The Lord Jesus Christ and to lead my pupils to do the same.

To contact absentees promptly, personally, and persistently.

To set an example in attendance, punctuality, and stewardship.

To make my instruction personal and practical, adapting the lesson to the needs of my class members.

To make a conscientious effort to win every pupil and to help him or her live as a Christian disciple.

To cooperate gladly with my pastor, Sunday school director, and other officers.

To use every possible method of improving my teaching.

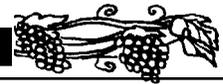
To esteem Christ first, others second, and myself last. ✝



**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

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<http://www.stgeorgecharleston.org/>
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Happy Birthday!

Do you know who turned 75 on July 27? He was officially introduced in a short film on July 27, 1940. He has appeared in more films than any other cartoon character, is the ninth most portrayed film personality in the world, and has his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame!



His first Oscar-nominated film "A Wild Hare" was released in 1940 and is best known for his famous line: "Eh... What's up, Doc?" **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BUGS BUNNY!** ✝

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> ✝

Boston Highlights

Boston hit a home run when they hosted the 52nd Archdiocese Conference this past July. The conference made history in this historic city with our new Metropolitan Joseph presiding over his first national Archdiocese conference and welcoming His Beatitude, Patriarch John X. His Beatitude addressed all organizations and the general assembly.

He is a very humble man. His words were very uplifting.

His Beatitude believed Metropolitan Joseph will lead the Archdiocese of Canada and America "to grow and prosper". He also remarked about the crisis in Syria and said, "We will stay where we are and not leave. It is some people's destiny to destroy; it is our destiny to build. Keep us in your prayers for peace."

Boston's hospitality was delightful and delicious. But attending the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was something to behold with the Patriarch John X, Metropolitan Joseph, other Metropolitans, Bishops and Priests officiating on this auspicious occasion. Thank you Boston. ✝

St. George Orthodox Cathedral

Annual Dinner October 18, 2015

12 noon - 6 p.m.

St. George Conference Center
Corner Court & Lee Streets
Charleston, WV • 304-346-0106

Menu:

- Kibbee - Ground Meat & Wheat
- Yabrah - Cabbage Rolls
- Loobia Bunadoora - Green Beans in Tomato Sauce • Rooz 'B Sharyeea - Buttered Rice with Orzo
- Salata - Salad with Oil & Lemon Dressing • Baklawa Dessert - Multi-layered Fillo & Nuts
- Pita Bread • Coffee / Ice Tea

Donation \$15.00

Carry-out Orders

Ethnic Groceries (Lower Level)

Diners are invited to tour the sanctuary.

Word Search

Musical Instruments & praise words in the Bible

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

ALLELUIA
ALMIGHTY
AMEN
BLESSED
CORONET
CYMBAL
DULCIMER
FAITHFUL
FLUTE
GLORY
GRACE
GREAT
HALLELUJAH
HARP
HIGH
HOLY
HONOR
HORN
JUST
OMNIPOTENT



ORGAN
PIPE
POWER
PRAISE
PSALTERY
PURE
REJOICE
RIGHTEOUS
SALVATION
TABRET
TIMBREL
TRUE
TRUMPET
VIOL
VOICE



Church School News

By Layla Michael

Wow! Can you believe Summer has come and gone so quickly? Welcome to a new and exciting year for the St. George Church School. The Church School staff has been busy the past few months preparing for a new and improved Church School experience for 2015. We welcomed Kh. Gigi Shadid for a Church School teacher/student retreat in August. She gave us some great ideas and topics to cover for our upcoming year. We can't contain our excitement for the NEW time and direction that this year's Church School will take in September. Just to give everyone a recap, starting with this year's school year, the Church School staff followed by the students will be asked to take Communion first and then be dismissed to their classrooms. This idea has been utilized in many other Parishes with great success, we hope to see the same results here at St. George when attendance is taken this year.

The first day of Church School is scheduled for Sept. 13, 2015. Some important dates to mark on your calendars are the following:

The annual Halloween Party is scheduled for Sunday, November 1st, details will be forthcoming...Godparents Sunday and a special coffee hour will be Sunday, November 22nd, Godparents are welcome to join their Godchild/Godchildren on that day and be excused from Liturgy along with their child. The Church School is always looking for teachers/volunteers; if anyone has any questions or concerns please contact me anytime. ✝

Senior Fellowship

September welcomes back our Senior Fellowship get-togethers with our next one on Tuesday, Sept. 1 at 5:30 p.m. We will have a WVU-Marshall Tailgate dinner so wear your favorite team attire. After dinner, we will have a speaker Paulette Justice, from Kanawha Valley Senior Services to speak about the many opportunities and activities for seniors in and around Charleston.

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, we will have dinner and play bingo for prizes. So mark your calendars to join us, and we will see you in September. ✝

Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

Welcome back, ladies! Fun in the sun is winding down and that means our monthly meetings have resumed. All women of St. George, 18 and older are welcome to attend our meetings. Every lady is an Antiochian woman; and we are eager for you to join us the first Monday of each month at 7 P.M.

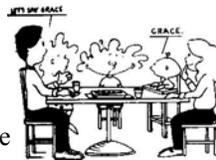
We have started work on our annual dinner set for Sunday, Oct. 18. Volunteers are needed before the dinner and on the day of the dinner. Please contact Diana Shdeed or Mary Dooley to offer your services (this includes, men, women and teens). Tickets will go on sale soon at \$15.00 each. Everyone is urged to try to sell ten tickets so our dinner will be a success. Workers are needed to cook, serve, waitress (or waiter), greeters, runners, work in carry-out and the grocery store, and set tables on Saturday, Oct. 17. This is a St. George project, so everyone is welcomed to help the Guild who organizes it.

We have also purchased backpacks and school supplies for refugee children in the Middle East and had them shipped with the St. Ignatius donated health kits to refugees.

Our annual Christmas dinner will be Dec. 12. Hope to see you ladies at our next meeting on Monday, Sept. 14. ✝

Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: Why do we call it "saying grace"?



A: The word grace means "thanks to God." It can also be used to mean "I ask for God's favor." This is how the apostle Paul used it to close some of his letters, such as Galatians, I Timothy, Philemon, and others. When we pray before meals, we are thanking God for the food and asking for his blessing on that time of eating. So this prayer is called grace.

Praying before meals is a way of showing that we depend on God. It reminds us that all we have comes from God. This is an important part of prayer--thanking God for life and everything else he gives us.

KEY VERSE: Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it. (Hebrews 4:16)

NOTE TO PARENTS: Thank-you prayers are important, and it is important to teach children to include them in their prayers every day. It helps them learn that God loves and cares for them and that he is the source and owner of all they have.

From Let's Take a Walk throughout Orthodox Church. By Anthony M. Coniariis ✝

October is youth month

Our teens will be reading the Epistle, passing the offering trays, and ushering communion lines.

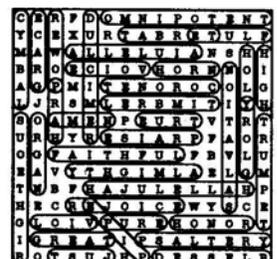
Please support our teens in all their projects. ✝

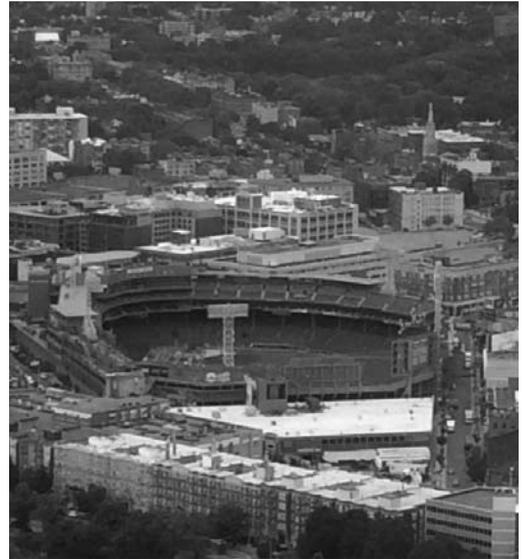
Deadline for the next Grapevine issue Dec. 2015, Jan., Feb. 2016 is Nov. 15, 2015.

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

Grandparents day, Sept. 13.

Answer to Word Search







Weekly Schedule

Check the weekly bulletin for updates, changes or cancellations.

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

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

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

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

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

September 2015

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 2015

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

November 2015

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					

Special Events

- Sept** 8: Birth of Theotokos 7:30 pm Ladies Guild
 13: 9:15 am Matins; 10:30 am Divine Liturgy; 12:00 pm Church School Begins
 14: Elevation of Cross; 7:00 pm Ladies Guild
 15: 6:30 pm Foundation Board Meeting
 17: Communion for Shut ins
 19: 3:00 pm Wedding
 20: 6:30 pm Becoming Human Presentation/ No Bible Study
 22: 7:00 pm FSJD Meeting
 30: Kibbee Prep



October

- 1: Kibbee Prep
 2: Kibbee Prep
 3: 9:30 am Manna Meal prep
 5: Grape Leaves Prep; 7:00 pm Ladies Guild
 6: Grape Leaves Prep; 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting
 7: Grape Leaves Prep*
 15: Shut-in Communion; 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
 18: Noon - 6 PM Annual Dinner; No Bible Study
 20: 6:30 pm Foundation Board Meeting
 24: 5:00 pm Vespers; 7:00 pm St. John's Hellenic Night
 25: 3:00 pm Choir Festival; 6:30 pm Bible Study
 27: 7:00 pm FSJD Meeting
 31: 9:30 am Manna Meal prep



November

- 1: After Communion - Church School Outing
 2: 7:00 pm Ladies Guild
 3: 5:30 pm Senior Fellowship; 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting
 15: Nativity Fast Begins; 9:15 am Matins; 10:30 am Divine Liturgy; 6:30 pm Bible Study
 17: 6:30 pm Foundation Board Meeting
 19: Communion for Shut-ins
 21: Entry of Theotokos 10:00 am Advent Retreat - Fr. Chad Hatfield; 5:00 pm Vespers
 22: Godparent Sunday
 24: 7:00 pm FSJD Meeting
 28: 9:30 am Manna Meal prep

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