

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

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St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV



Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott

(reprint Vol. 7, No. 1, Sept./Oct., 2002)



Ah! The beginning of August! Freshman and new recruits arrive and check in, draw equipment and begin light workouts. The upperclassmen report a few days later and join in. Full pad workouts, two-a-days for a couple of weeks, installing more of the play book. Fine tuning and looking forward to the first opponent, setting a game plan, closing in on the "opener."

What is it? Right you are! The start of college football! Even surrounded by the heat of summer, when football arrives, fall is in the air.

As the end of August and the first of September arrive, the games of the college football season begin. At the same time, our parish awakes from a summer break and begins its routine schedule of activities.

Can you imagine a college football team arriving one day, drawing equipment, and then playing their first game on the next day? No way! It would be a formula for instant disaster.

But, a slumbering parish, full of lethargic Orthodox Christians, expects to jump-start itself, and launch into their busy schedule of services, classes, meetings, and activities. It doesn't really make any sense, yet we do it year after year.

Athletic teams and athletic endeavors require year round preparation and conditioning these days. When I was a child, athletes would devote themselves to a sport for a "season." When one season ended, they would move to the next sport and its season. A three and four sport athlete was not uncommon, moving from one to another.

Today, these athletes are rare, especially at the college level. Since the level of competition is so keen, an athlete usually

must settle on one sport which now has a yearly cycle of preparation, conditioning and practicing. The "season" and playing is just one small part of the whole cycle.

Orthodox Christians and their parishes must discard the idea of a summer vacation. Yes, individuals and families can still take their one, two, or three week vacations. But, when they are in town during the summer, they should be attending services, praying and following a spiritual discipline. Too many of us are still taking off for the whole summer.

Since September 1 is New Year for the Orthodox Liturgical Year, let's make a resolution to treat our Christian "endeavor" as an athletic "endeavor" and strive to train year-round. ✙

Basic Class on the Orthodox Faith

Prior to the start of Christmas Lent (Advent), Fr. Stephen DeYoung will present the series, The Basics of the Orthodox Faith. Sessions will be held on consecutive Tuesdays beginning on November 11. Topics will include Worship Space, Salvation History, Great Ecumenical Councils, Church Doctrine and the Sacraments.

The class is open to all parishioners and anyone interested in becoming a member of the Orthodox Church. ✙

A child is known by his doings whether his work be pure, or right.

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

- Proverbs: 20:11, 22:6

Parish Life Conference Highlights

We congratulate those who received awards at this year's Eastern Dioceses Parish Life Conference held at Antiochian Village from July 2 - 6. A good many of our youth received gold, silver and bronze ribbon awards for their entries in the Creative Festivals of Art, Writing, Poetry and Photography. Two finished within the top three places for their entries: Eva DosSantos, 2nd place in First Grade Photography; Isaac Abdalla, 3rd place tie in Eighth Grade Writing.

Carla Haikal was awarded a \$500.00 Fellowship of St. John the Divine Scholarship. Our Adult Bible Bowl team of Ernest Bsharah, Loretta Haddy and Ganim Howard finished in Third Place. Finally our St. George Liturgical Choir gave their normal masterful performance at the Choir Festival. ✙



"Meet at My House before the game."

- God

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. ✙



The Golden Parishioners To Be Honored

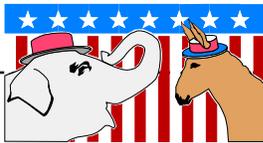
St. George Parish Council will honor our golden parishioners on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 5:30 pm in the ballroom. Our 80 and over parishioners will be our guests for dinner and be entertained by a musical performance by our St. George Choir.

Our honored guests will receive a personal invitation by mail and all other parishioners are invited to attend.

Reservations will be taken after Labor Day during coffee hour. We hope the families and friends of those being honored will plan to attend and make sure our honored guests and all other parishioners respond by Sunday, Sept. 21. Your check is your reservation. Our honored guests are free.

Mark your calendars to attend this evening event honoring our golden parishioners who were monumental in their efforts towards St. George Cathedral's growth and prosperity.

May God grant them many years! 



1870- The donkey became symbol for Democratic Party.

1874- The elephant became symbol for Republican Party.



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

St. George Orthodox Cathedral
P.O. Box 2044
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A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Pastor: Fr. Olof Scott
Editor: Maryann Skaff
Design: Rita Damous Kee

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Making the Sign of the Cross

Orthodox Christians make the sign of the cross. We join the two index fingers and the thumb of the right hand to show that we believe in:

- God the Father who loves us,
- God the Son (Jesus) who saves us,
- God the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The three fingers are joined together to show that we believe in one God, not three. The other two fingers remind us that Jesus was both God and man at the same time. We drop the two fingers into the palm of the hand to show that Jesus "came down from heaven" to save us.

Making the sign of the cross reminds us of the great price Jesus paid to save us from sin. It tells us of His great love for us.

When making the sign of the cross, we pray: "In the name of the Father (as we touch our forehead) and of the Son (as we touch our chest) and of the Holy Spirit (as we touch first our right and then our left shoulder)

When we make the sign of the cross, we are also telling God that we love Him "with all our mind" as we touch our forehead; "with all our strength" as we touch our shoulders; and "with all our heart" as we touch our chest.

When we make the sign of the cross, we are praying not only with our mind and heart, but also with our body. and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might (Deut. 6:4).



NOV. 11-

Pray for our troops, veterans, and those who gave their lives for their country!

The Star-Spangled Banner (True or False)

1. "The Star-Spangled Banner" became the National Anthem for the U.S.A. on March 3, 1931.
2. Written to honor the flag flying over Baltimore's Ft. McHenry during Revolutionary War.
3. Francis Scott Key was a lawyer.
4. Lyrics written originally as a poem as the author watched from a ship in the harbor.
5. Maryland Historical Society of D.C. owns manuscript.
6. Francis Scott Key saw enormous flag(30' x 40') at dusk.
7. This past summer, the original manuscript and flag were paired up for viewing at the Smithsonian.
8. Lyrics written Sept. 16, 1814.
9. There are 3 verses to the National Anthem.

Happy 200th anniversary "Star-Spangled Banner" and long may you wave!!

Answers: 1. T, 2. F-War of 1812, 3. T, 4. T, 5. F-Baltimore, 6. F-"at dawn's early light", 7. T, 8. T, 9. T



From Spectator To Participant

By the priest, George S. Corey, D.Mm.

Part I The Liturgy of the Word

Very early in my priesthood, 52 plus years ago, I tried my very best to teach faithful Orthodox Christians in our church pews of the importance of moving from being spectators to participants in our age-old worship practices. Some of the younger generation then confessed to me that our liturgical services were too lengthy, repetitive, boring and non-scriptural. The excuses were legendary. I pondered on this dilemma and wondered what I could do as a young, inexperienced priest to help my new parishioners to move from spectators to participants in our holy services. It was about the same time that Orthodox Christianity in North America was experiencing a liturgical renewal, mainly through the efforts of the late and greatly lamented Protosyber Alexander Schmemmann of St. Vladimir's Seminary in New York, the school from which I graduated. His wise, historical efforts saved the Orthodox Church here and abroad from possible losses to non-Orthodox evangelical movements. Thanks be to God!

My first task was to address the question of boring services. Yes our services are lengthy, but truly never boring if in fact we become participants and not spectators. Boring means that we are uninterested. And if we are not at all interested, then why are we here in attendance? May I suggest a good, holy way to rid ourselves of boredom in our liturgical services and then to feel that our services are not too lengthy if we participate more in what is being said, sung and prayed. Don't be a spectator! The interior of the local church is not a movie theatre or opera. It is the Holy of Holies, the earthly dwelling place of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is ever-present and He fills all things. So to alleviate this feeling of boredom and thinking our divine services are too lengthy, learn and memorize the holy words of the services and sing along with the choir members and/or chanters who are not there to entertain us, but to lead us in worship. EMBRACE THE LITURGY! Dress yourself with the holy words and actions! Use your senses along with your words! Visualize and venerate the sacred icons, smell the holy incense, confess your shortcomings, drink the holy water, partake frequently of the Mystical Supper

of the consecrated Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ! And if you do, you will no longer be bored and time, sacred time, will be shortened. If you participate in this positive way, I can guarantee that you will no longer be a spectator to divine things but a participant of the Mystical Sacrifice.

Now to those who complain that Orthodox worship is repetitive - yes, most emphatically it is! And well it should be. In the Great Ektenia (litany), we pray "In peace let us pray to the Lord". It is a call to prayer. Seconds later in the two Little Ektemas that follow, we pray "Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord". Why this repetition? It is to remind us that God's grace is so desired that we can never have enough. The Orthodox divine services are timeless, edifying, beneficial to our spiritual health. And each of the words of these services are scriptural. You will find them somewhere in Holy Scripture. It is not just the Epistle, Gospel or Old Testament prophecies that are scriptural, all words and phrases in our divine services come from the Old and New Testaments. Make no mistake about that. That is why then that Orthodox Christians would do well to mimic what the services call us to do. Here for our edification are some examples. In the Holy Liturgy which means "the common work of the faithful", we are called upon to do the following:

1. The senior priest begins the Liturgy with the invocation "Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages". It is the Kingdom of God that stands before us and in which we enter and have been called. We respond with the sign of the cross on our person and a resounding "Amen", which means "so be it". And each time we hear or pray "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" throughout the services, we cross ourselves.

2. In the Ektenias (litanies) that follow, we pray for a multitude of people and things. You know them: our Metropolitan, our Diocesan Bishop, our USA President, (in Canada they pray for the United Kingdom Queen and Prime Minister of Canada), our city and countryside, our armed forces defending our shores, travelers, the sick and the suffering,

and most especially our salvation. And when we then call to remembrance our all-holy, most pure, blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos (Birth-giver of God) and ever-virgin Mary, let us with all the saints, cast our eyes on Her Holy Icon, as we commend ourselves and each other and all our life to Christ our God, while casting our eyes on His Holy Icon on the Iconostasis.

3. In the Little Entrance, when the clergy and altar servers carry the Gospel Book, the Word of God, in procession, we sing: "Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ..." Fall down means to make a low bow before Christ as the hymn continues, "save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia".

4. Then follows the singing of the hymn of the tone of the day (there are 8 tones), of the feast of the day, of the patron saint of the parish and a special hymn called the kontakion. These are usually printed in the Sunday bulletin which means we can sing along with the choir and/or chanters.

5. The Trisagion Hymn follows. It means "Thrice Holy". We know it as "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us", and we once again cross ourselves with each verse. For the Sundays of the Holy Cross (mid-Sunday of Great Lent and September 14), this hymn is replaced with "Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Lord, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify". Again we make a low bow as the hymn implies. On other major feast days, the Trisagion Hymn is replaced with "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, Alleluia".

6. The Epistle and Gospel then follows as we hear God's message to us, giving us comfort and strength to do His Will in our world. This is usually followed by a homily by the bishop or priest to encourage us to be faithful to the Word of God as found in Holy Scripture. Again, careful participation!

7. The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the sermon. This is followed by the Liturgy of the Faithful by which we prepare ourselves to receive the Holy Eucharist (Communion). I will write about that part of the Liturgy in Part II in the next or future issue of the St. George Cathedral Grapevine Newsletter.





Your Chuckle for the Week

A pastor concluded that his church was getting into very serious financial troubles. While checking the church storeroom, he discovered several cartons of new Bibles that had never been opened and distributed.

So at his Sunday sermon, he asked for three volunteers from the congregation who would be willing to sell the Bibles door-to-door for \$10 each to raise the desperately needed money for the church.

Jack, Paul and Louie all raised their hands to volunteer for the task.

The minister knew that Jack and Paul earned their living as salesmen and were likely capable of selling some Bibles. But he had serious doubts about Louie who was a local farmer, who had always kept to himself because he was embarrassed by his speech impediment.

Poor Louie stuttered badly. But, not wanting to discourage Louie, the minister decided to let him try anyway.

He sent the three of them away with the back seat of their cars stacked with Bibles. He asked them to meet with him and report the results of their door-to-door selling efforts the following Sunday.

Anxious to find out how successful they were, the minister immediately asked Jack, "Well, Jack, how did you make out selling our Bibles last week?"

Proudly handing the reverend an envelope, Jack replied, "Using my sales prowess, I was able to sell 20 Bibles, and here's the \$200 I collected on behalf of the church."

"Fine job, Jack!" The minister said, vigorously shaking his hand..."You are

indeed a fine salesman and the church is indebted to you."

Turning to Paul, "And Paul, how many Bibles did you sell for the church last week?"

Paul, smiling and sticking out his chest, confidently replied, "I am a professional salesman. I sold 28 Bibles on behalf of the church, and here's \$280 I collected."

The minister responded, "That's absolutely splendid, Paul. You are truly a professional salesman and the church is indebted to you."

Apprehensively, the minister turned to Louie and said, "And Louie, did you manage to sell any Bibles last week?" Louie silently offered the minister a large envelope.

The minister opened it and counted the contents. "What is this?" the minister exclaimed. "Louie, there's \$3200 in here! Are you suggesting that you sold 320 Bibles for the church, door to door, in

just one week?"

Louie just nodded.

"That's impossible!" both Jack and Paul said in unison. "We are professional salesmen, yet you claim to have sold 10 times as many Bibles as we could."

"Yes, this does seem unlikely," the minister agreed. "I think you'd better explain how you managed to accomplish this, Louie."

Louie shrugged. "I-I-I re-re-really do-do-don't kn-kn-know f-f-f-for sh-sh-sh-sure," he stammered.

Impatiently, Paul interrupted. "For crying out loud, Louie, just tell us what you said to them when they answered the door!"

"A-a-a-all I-I-I s-s-said wa-wa-was," Louis replied, "W-w-w-w-would y-y-y-you l-l-l-l-l-like t-t-to b-b-b-buy th-th-this B-B-B-Bible f-f-for t-t-ten b-b-b-bucks---o-o-o-or--- wo-wo-would yo-you j-j-j-just l-l-like m-m-me t-t-to st-stand h-h-here and r-r-r-r-read it t-to y-y-you?" ✝

Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: Why the censer and incense are used?

Censer: A censer is a metal vessel in which incense is burned. It has a cover, and is suspended by 4 or 5 chains. On the chains are 12 small bells, which represent the 12 Apostles. Censers are usually made of gold or silver.

Incense: Incense has been in use in Church services since Apostolic times. The use of incense has mystical symbolism. It symbolizes the zeal with which the faithful should be consumed; the good odor of Christian virtue; and as the smoke rises it symbolizes the ascent of prayer to God. Incense is burned in the censer.

From the Dictionary of Orthodox Theology by George H. Demetrakopoulos

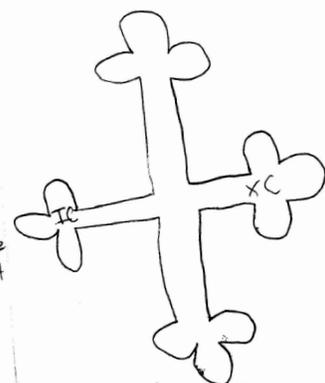
Letters From Camp

Dear Father Scott,

Thank you so much for giving me a scholarship to the Antiochian Village. I had a lot of fun and can't wait to go back again next year. I met a lot of new friends. My favorite part of camp was morning program. I learned a lot about the saints and their stories and about the Church. The saints that inspire me the most are saints Faith, Hope, and Love. Thank you! Sincerely,
Kaitlin Nester

Dear Father Scott, Doug Staff and St. George!

Thank you for the scholarship for camp. I really enjoyed it there and I hope to go back next year. I'm sorry that I didn't see you there, because there were so many other priests that I didn't see you. I learned to make holy bread. It was very yummy. I also learned to make prayer ropes and I rode a horse named Whinsey (I think that's how you spell it). Thanks again for the scholarship!



- Caroline Cassis
P.S. ☺



Church School News

By Layla Michael

Welcome back to a new Church School Year! I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing summer. September 7, 2014 at 9:45 am will be the first day of Church School. Preschool, (3year olds and potty trained) through high school are encouraged to attend and be a part of our Church School family.

September 28, 2014 is our annual Church School open house. Everyone is invited to come up and visit our Church School to see how things are run, or to just take a look around and see what's changed from the past.

October 19, 2014 Sunday is our annual Halloween party. More details will follow at a later date.

November 16, 2014 Sunday will be Godparents Sunday. All godparents of Church School children are welcome to attend class with them. A special coffee hour in honor of all the godparents in our Cathedral will conclude Divine Liturgy in the lower level. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Being a part of Church School and interacting with children of the same faith and beliefs brings a true foundation in the lives that our children live. I am asking each and every one of you to PLEASE be a role model in the lives of your children. SHOW them how important it is by com-

ing to church yourselves and bringing your children to Church School. There should be no reason to miss at 9:45 am on Sundays. If you can get your children up and ready for school before 8 am Monday –Friday for a good education, then why not get them up for God???? If there are any ideas, concerns, comments, etc. concerning Church School, please bring it to my attention. Maybe if we all work together we can make this a better learning path of faith. We are always looking for teachers, substitutes, or anyone willing to dedicate a small amount of their time to help the children of our Cathedral.

One exciting new addition to our curriculum will be a score sheet. Children will earn points by coming to Church School every Sunday, learning their assigned goal, participating in the creative arts festival, Halloween party, Christmas rehearsal/ program, and Lazarus Saturday. If they reach a certain "score" they will get to go on a trip for free at the end of the year. If they receive a middle score they can get half of their trip paid for, and if they get a low score they are still welcome to attend the trip but it has to be paid for by them. This is new to us, as we haven't tried this in many, many years. More information and details concerning this trip will be coming very soon. ✝



Be wise...be instructed...serve the Lord...rejoice...Blessed are they that put their trust in Him.

-Psalms:2:10-12.

September is FSJD month.

Members will be participating in the Divine Liturgy by passing the offering trays, reading the Epistle, and ushering the Communion lines.

Among the specific ministries which the FSJD perform are:Community Outreach, Visitation, Spiritual Enrichment, Library, Bookstore, and the Prayer Net. May God continue to bless them to do their good works! ✝

Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

September brings an end to summer fun and the beginning of preparations for our annual dinner on October 26. We have resumed our monthly meetings the first Monday of each month at 7PM (excluding Labor Day Monday and we will meet the second Monday in September).

Volunteers are needed in all aspects of the dinner, so contact President Joy Browne if you can assist in the dinner preparations and/or work the day of the dinner. Watch the bulletin for dates and times to roll cabbage rolls. Tickets for the dinner will be available in September, so if every parishioner tried to sell ten tickets, we would have a very successful dinner!

See you in September, Ladies! ✝



In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man; if you want anything done, ask a woman.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

Senior Fellowship

Well, Seniors, September is here and the time is right to schedule another get-together in the middle of September. We apologize for not meeting during the summer, but the chairman encountered unforeseen circumstances and could not get together with the committee.

Watch the bulletin for details for our next dinner/programs in September and November! Hope the colorful autumn leaves "brighten" your day as they somersault through the air and color the ground. (Hope you also have someone to rake them for you! FYI:Kevin Abdalla's son may be available to rake leaves to earn some money for Boy Scout Jamboree.)

See you in September, Seniors! ✝



I use to dread getting older because I thought I would not be able to do all the things I wanted to do, but now that I am older I find that I don't want to do them.

-Nancy Lady Astor

Teen SOYO

Teen SOYO will have the election of new officers this month. October is youth month in the Archdiocese and the teens will be asking for donations to sponsor the Special Olympics Sports Camp at the Antiochian Village. So please be generous. Also, teens will participate in the Divine Liturgy by reading the Epistle, passing the offering trays, and ushering the communion lines.

Parents, please encourage your teens to attend the meetings and get involved with the teen programs at St. George. Our teens ARE THE FUTURE of St. George Cathedral and need to take part in any capacity to continue the ongoing task of maintaining and supporting our cathedral for future generations as their parents and grandparents did! ✝





CALENDAR



3: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 5: Wedding Rehearsal, 4:30 PM
 6: Wedding, 4:30 PM
 7: Start regular hours: Jr. Choir, 9:00 AM; Church School, 9:45 AM; Matins, 10:00 AM; Liturgy, 11:00 AM
 8-9: WVCC Retreat—Fr. Olof attending
 8: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 14: Elevation of Cross
 16: Sr. Fellowship, 5:30 PM
 18: Communion for Shut-ins
 21: Begin Cabbage Roll preparation
 22: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
 23: FSJD, 7:00 PM
 27: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM
 27-28: St. Thekla Pilgrimage—Ant. Village
 28: Church School Open House, 9:45 AM; Golden Parishioners Celebration 5:30 PM
 30: Dioceses Clergy Retreat Begins, Frs. Olof & Stephen attending

September 2014

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 2014

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 2014

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						



1-3: Dioceses Clergy Retreat, Frs. Olof & Stephen attending
 6: Begin Kibbee preparation; Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 7: Pastoral Committee, 6:00 PM
 8: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 11: St. John Hellenic Night
 16: Communion for Shut-ins
 18: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM
 19: Church School Oct. Party
 20: Begin Baklava preparation
 21: James Dent Dinner
 26: Annual Dinner
 31: Akathist to St. Raphael, 6:30 PM



1: Liturgy—St. Raphael, 10:00 AM
 3: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 4: FCA Sports Memorabilia Auction
 5: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 8: Liturgy—Archangels, 10:00 AM
 9: Sojourners Dinner, Noon; Choir Festival, 3:00 PM
 11: Basic Class, 7:30 PM (every Tues.); Senior Fellowship, 5:30 PM
 15: Advent Begins
 16: Godparent Sunday
 20: Communion for Shut-ins; Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
 29: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM; Baptism

Deadline for next issue Dec. 2014-Jan., Feb. 2015 is Nov. 15, 2014.

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