

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Mar/Apr/May 2013 • Vol. 17, No. 3

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott



While vacationing in Florida last month I sat with former parishioners who were talking about their golf outings. I haven't played golf (except "miniature") since my first years at St. George. At that time I only played the par 3 course at Coonskin or just banged balls at the driving range near there.

If I were honest with myself and others, I was a lousy golfer. I might hit one good shot each round which would tempt me to think I could really play the game. My best hole was always the 19th.

Why was I a lousy golfer? The answer is obvious. I never worked at it. I never took an official lesson and only played occasionally without practicing.

If we are going to be good or proficient at anything (including golf), it's going to take effort and lots of it. This goes for all that we do: education, profession, sports, whatever. We will never be good at anything unless we really work hard at doing it.

If this is so, why do most of us put great effort into many aspects of our life, but put little or no effort into our spiritual life? We work diligently to get our education, to progress in our profession, to improve our athletic abilities and to acquire wealth and "stuff." But we do essentially nothing or, at best, put in minimal effort to grow spiritually.

Many of us Orthodox regard our Church with all of its teachings and traditions as superior to other Christian denominations. We might even scoff at those who think that just "accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior" is all that's needed to be "saved."

Well, guess what? We're guilty of practicing the same minimization. Too many Orthodox believe that their baptism and going to church services occasionally

is all that's necessary to be "saved." They treat their spiritual life like I treated my golf game.

A true spiritual life requires effort. It requires just as much or more as all of those other things in this life at which we work hard. We need to educate ourselves spiritually to the same degree as our secular education; spiritually exercise to the extent we exercise physically; acquire spiritual excellence as we do athletic prowess; accumulate virtues and graces as we do wealth and "stuff."

The only efforts of our life that will endure beyond death will be the spiritual ones. All others will pass away.

It's never too late to work on our spiritual life. Great Lent is upon us. It provides us with that opportunity to get back on track through fasting, praying, worshiping, reading spiritual works, doing good deeds and giving alms. It is the training ground that instructs us to develop an on-going practice in our everyday life. A practice that will become just as natural and essential as our other daily activities which we have developed over the years.

Let us not waste this moment. Don't model my disastrous golf game. ✝

Basic Class in Orthodoxy

Another Basic Class in Orthodoxy will be held with Father Olof during Great Lent on Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:00 PM, starting March 19. Topics to be covered are Worship Space, Salvation History, Great Ecumenical Councils, Church Doctrine and Sacraments.

The class is open for everyone to refresh their knowledge of Orthodoxy or for those who are interested in becoming members of the Orthodox Church. ✝

Pan-Orthodox Services for Lent

The southern West Virginia Orthodox parishes are hosting three Vespers services to bring our faithful together during Great Lent. Each service begins at 6:00 P.M. followed by a presentation and a Lenten food reception. The schedule is as follows: Sunday, Mar. 24: St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Huntington; Fr. Samuel Haddad speaking; Sunday, Apr. 7: St. George Orthodox Cathedral, Charleston; Fr. John Dixon speaking; Sunday, Apr. 21: St. Mary Orthodox Church, Bluefield; Fr. Elias Scoulas speaking. ✝

Summer Hours

Sunday, May 19, will be the last day for Junior Choir and Church School as we wrap up another year and take a break over the summer. Church School awards will be presented and graduates honored following Divine Liturgy that day.

Our last Sunday for regular service hours will be June 2. Summer hours will begin the following Sunday, June 9. Matins will begin at 9:30 A.M. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 A.M. ✝

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. ✝





Altar Boys Trip

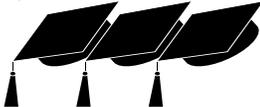
Once again we have scheduled the annual Altar Boys Trip to the Cincinnati area as a reward for their service to our parish during the course of the year.

Departure will be from the church parking lot at noon on Wednesday, June 5, with their chaperones. After checking into the hotel, the group has a chance to swim (weather permitting) before we proceed to the Great American Ball Park for dinner and baseball. The Cincinnati Reds will be hosting the Colorado Rockies at a 7:10 P.M. start.

After a short night's rest, the boys and their already-tired chaperones will invade Kings Island on Thursday, June 6. Departure from the park at 6:30 P.M. should ensure arrival back in Charleston around 11:30 P.M. ✠

Attention, Graduates!

On Sunday, May 19, the cathedral of St. George will once again honor those who are graduating from high school, college, and graduate school. Please contact the church office to ensure that your family's graduate is included in this special occasion.



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

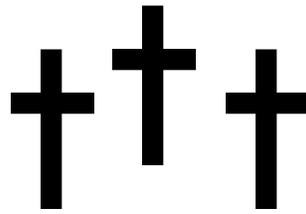
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Charleston, WV 25327
304-346-0106

A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America
Pastor: Fr. Olof Scott
Editor: Maryann Skaff
Design: Rita Damous Kee

Produced by The Fellowship of St. John the Divine, to promote activities and events about and for parishioners of St. George Orthodox Cathedral. We only list events as they are reported to us by organization reporters. We reserve the right to edit copy for space. Contact your church organization reporter for news or send your comments to The Grapevine, c/o St. George Orthodox Cathedral, Attn. Editor or email ritakee@aol.com.

<http://www.stgeorgecharleston.org/>

The St. George Grapevine is published every three months and is mailed during the first week of the month.



Traditional Easter Greetings

Christ Is Risen -

Truly He Is Risen

Al Maseeh Qam - Ha' An

Qam (*Arabic*)

Kristos Anesti - Alithos

Anesti (*Greek*)

Christos Voskrese -

Vo Istinu Voskrese

(*Slavonic*)

Parish Life Conference & Archdiocese Convention

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

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

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



Happy 60th
Birthday to
Bishop THOMAS

May God grant him many, many years!



You are cordially invited to
honor the Patron Saint of our
Church at our annual
St. George's Day
Lenten Luncheon
Sun. April 21, 2013

(immediately following the Divine Liturgy)

St. George Conference Center Ballroom

Mark your calendar and
make plans to attend!!



Lest We Forget! Did You Know.....?

Hierarchs who served the Antiochian Archdiocese in North America, in chronological order in which they served.

The Archbishop MICHAEL (Shaheen), was the former pastor of St. George Church in Indianapolis, IN, St. George Church in Canton, OH and St. George Church in Montreal, PQ, before he was consecrated a bishop on February 11, 1962 in Damascus, Syria with the title "Bishop of Toledo" for the Archdiocese of New York and All North America. This was hopefully the solution to the "Toledo/New York schism" offered by the Holy Synod of Antioch. However Bishop MICHAEL's constituents would not accept this "arrangement", so the Synod allowed "Toledo" as a separate archdiocese.

During a SOYO Parish Life Conference in Toledo, OH after the Sunday Hierarchical Liturgy, Father George Rados was visiting Metropolitan PHILIP (Saliba) in his suite when he suggested that they visit Archbishop MICHAEL at his home in Toledo. The Archbishop welcomed them and after a pleasant discussion both hierarchs agreed to a series of meetings to discuss the unity of "Toledo and New York". Metropolitan PHILIP appointed Archpriests George M. Rados and George S. Corey to represent New York and Archbishop MICHAEL appointed Archpriest John Estephan to represent Toledo. Meetings began immediately and lasted for well over three years during which time several possibilities were explored. People in both jurisdictions were expecting good results. Finally on June 24, 1975 Metropolitan PHILIP and Archbishop MICHAEL met in the office of Father George S. Corey at St. George Church in Pittsburgh, PA, to sign the terms of agreement which named PHILIP as Primate and MICHAEL as Auxiliary. Their document on unity was presented

to the Holy Synod of Antioch and ratified by them on August 19, 1975. All the faithful in North America and other Orthodox jurisdictions rejoiced at the good news. This unity has held to the present day and will never be broken.

Archbishop MICHAEL was active in civic and humanitarian affairs and he published the Divine Liturgy in French and Arabic parallel texts as well as the hierarchical liturgy in English. His Eminence had many spiritual gifts, a fine chanting voice in English and Arabic and a wonderful sense of humor which endeared him to his flock. He died suddenly on October 24, 1992 at his home in Toledo during his sleep. Metropolitan PHILIP immediately sent Vicar General George S. Corey to Toledo to seal the offices of the Chancery and to prepare the funeral of Archbishop MICHAEL. His Eminence was laid to rest in the front lawn of St. George Cathedral in Toledo. Shortly later Father George S. Corey was sent once again to Toledo to help Archdiocese Trustee George Joseph box all the archives to be sent to the Archdiocese Headquarters in Englewood, NJ, which is required by the Archdiocese Constitution. In his editorial in THE WORD on the untimely death of Archbishop MICHAEL, Father George S. Corey credited him as the Archbishop who said "YES"! Yes to unity, yes to brotherly relations, yes to Orthodox tradition. Archbishop MICHAEL's picture can be found in the hall next to the sanctuary at St. George Cathedral in Charleston. May His Eminence rest in eternal peace!

Editor's Note: This concludes all the articles of the deceased Hierarchs who served the Antiochian Archdiocese in North America, in the chronological order in which they served, all of which were compiled by Archpriest George S. Corey of Charleston.



**Deadline for next issue
Jun/Jul/Aug 2013:
May 15, 2013.**

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

Parish Picnic

The annual picnic will be held at Shawnee Park, shelter #4, in Dunbar on Sunday afternoon, June 9. Once again we will partake of great food and good fellowship for the whole family! Mark your calendars and plan to attend now!



Fasting Guidelines for Great Lent

Many of us ask each year, so the following fasting criteria is presented: Meat (beef, lamb, pork, veal, chicken, etc.)—total abstinence from Monday after Meatfare Sunday until Pascha; Dairy (milk, cheese, butter, eggs, yogurt, cream, etc.)—total abstinence from Monday after Cheesefare Sunday until Pascha; Fish (any fish with a backbone; shellfish and crustaceans not included)—abstinence but allowed on Annunciation and Palm Sunday; Wine (includes all alcoholic beverages)—abstinence but permitted on Saturdays, Sundays, Annunciation and Great Thursday; Olive Oil—abstinence but permitted on all Saturdays (except Great Saturday), Sundays, Annunciation and Great Thursday.

Be reminded that the purpose of fasting is to focus on the things of God's Kingdom and be freed from dependence on worldly things. Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is a gift from God that is not bought by our hunger or thirst.

The holy Fathers of the Church remind us that the control of all carnal passions begins with controlling the stomach. We can never discipline our passions if we don't first learn to discipline our stomach and endure the feelings of hunger. "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God," said Jesus to Satan. (Matthew 4:4)

We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God's gift of Salvation may bear great fruit in our lives. We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and Prayer are meant to go together.

Most of all, it is important that we do not "eat" each other. We ask God to "set a watch and keep the door of our lips."

Fasting is not irrelevant, is not obsolete, is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.

We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others and not holding ourselves up as an example.

Finally, do not fast if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn. And, do not fast during any serious illness or if your medication requires that it must be taken with a certain amount of food.





Annual meeting results

At our annual congregation meeting on January 13, the parishioners elected the following persons to the parish council for 2013: Tom Barrick, Ernest Bsharah, Dr. Steve Cassis, Brian Chapman, Harvey Ghiz, Loretta Haddy, Mike Jarrouj, Phil Michael II and Dr. P. Alex Skaff.

The remaining council members for this year are: David Cassis, Louis Cassis, Dr. Nick Cassis, Adam Edstrom, Cy Faris, Makhoul Ghareeb, Andre Haikal, James Ruckle, and Doug Skaff, Sr, Joy Browne for the Guild, Julia Cassis for the FSJD, Anne Marie Haddy for the Choir. Greg Dooley for Church School.

Officers for this year are: Chairman- Loretta Haddy, Vice-Chairman - Louis Cassis, Secretary - Dr. Steve Cassis, and Treasurer - Doug Skaff. Drs. Edward Howard and Muhib Tarakji were elected to the Foundation Committee. They will serve this year with: Dr. Alex Skaff, Andy Teeter, Dr. Nick Cassis, Ronald Murad, Geoffrey Haddad and Dr. P. Alex Skaff.

Congratulations to all the council and foundation members who serve our Cathedral.

And please continue to support our Teen Soyo and their new officers: President-Simone Assaley, Vice-President-Sararose Burdette, Secretary- Maddie Tappe, Treasurer-Luke Lowen, Chaplain-Matthew Ede, and Social Coordinator/Historian-Ike Joseph. ✝



Remember Mother's Day
May 12, 2013
MOTHER

The happiness in a smile
 The compassion in a tear
 A small-yet brave - defender
 Against small moments of fear.
 Our haven when we're together
 Our lighthouse when we're apart.
 Our maker of happy memories
 And the keeper of our heart.

*"Her children rise up and call her blessed."
 -Proverbs 31:28*



The Jelly Bean Prayer

RED is for the blood He gave.
 GREEN is for the grass He made.
 YELLOW is for the sun so bright.
 ORANGE is for the edge of night.
 BLUE is for the sins we made.
 WHITE is for the grace He gave.
 PURPLE is for His hour of sorrow.
 PINK is for our new tomorrow.

A bag full of jelly beans colorful and sweet
 Is a prayer, is a promise,
 is a special treat.
 Happy Easter!

Women of St. George Word Scramble

- 1 EXILE _____
- 2 NOMEIS _____
- 3 OYJ _____
- 4 TREOLAT _____
- 5 ERNIE _____
- 6 CYANN _____
- 7 WELJEL _____
- 8 TRIA _____
- 9 ARGOGIE _____
- 10 AILJU _____
- 11 VELREBY _____
- 12 RAYMA _____
- 13 TEENAJTE _____



"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count, It's the life in your years."

Abe Lincoln

Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: What is the Rush Service?

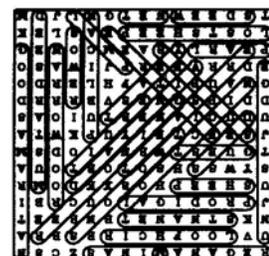
A: The Rush Service is the Midnight Office that is served to start the Feast of Pascha. This service along with the Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy are merely referred to, as a whole, as the "Resurrection Service" in the Greek language. The answer is not found in the original Greek but in our Antiochian / Arabic tradition.

The Arabic word for this service is Hajma (noun) derived from Hajama (verb) which means "to rush". It is in reference to the re-entry into the Church after we process outside, read the Gospel of the Resurrection and proclaim, "Christ is Risen".

The Hajma or the "Rush", so-to-speak, is the hurried movement of the crowd to re-enter the Church after we knock on the door and dialogue with Satan ("Who is the King of Glory?"). We "rush" or "hurry" back into the brightened Church, singing "Christ is Risen", to continue the glorious Resurrection Services!

From the bulletin

Answers to Word Search





Senior Fellowship

Seniors, has cabin fever got you down? Then join us at our next get-together on Tuesday, March 5, at 5pm if weather permits. After dinner, we will play "Senior Wed" game with five of our senior married couples. If you miss this get-together we will return after Pascha. Watch the bulletin for details! Christ Is Risen!



Church School News



By Layla Michael

March 17 - Creative Festival Workshop at 2 pm.

March 24 - Deadline for all Creative Arts Festivals entries. Turn entries into Layla Michael.

May 19 - Last Sunday for Church School and Jr. Choir regular hours; Graduate/Church School Awards.

June 9 - Church School end of year activities in conjunction with Annual Church Picnic.



Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

It is hard to believe we are in our third month of 2013! Congratulations to our 2013 officers: President-Joy Browne, Vice President- Natalie Tappe, Recording Secretary-Julie Mobayad, Corresponding Secretary- Debbie Bsharah, Treasurer-Jackie Birurakis, Chaplain-Lila Damous, and Parliamentarian-Maryann Skaff.

March is Women's Month and the ladies of the Cathedral will be passing the tray, reading the Epistle and ushering the communion line.

Since St George's Day falls during lent we will have a Lenten luncheon to honor our patron saint on Sunday, April 21st. Our annual dinner is planned for Sunday, Oct.13.

In addition to working for St. George, our Guild is a member of Church Women United with ladies attending four functions a year. We are also a member of the Interfaith group in the community. This year we are hosts for the Interfaith luncheon to be held on Tuesday, April 23 at the Pastoral Center with Fr. Stephen guest speaker. We hope you will attend our meetings the first Monday of each month at 7 pm to learn more about our community projects and our own projects and socials. Your suggestions will be greatly appreciated.



St. George Foundation News by Dr. Edward Howard, President "The Power of One"

As individuals, we all hold the "power of one" -- the power within ourselves that directs our daily, spiritual and financial lives. Along the way of our journey, there are many in our lives who provide the love, support, care, and advice as we make our way. But ultimately, it is the "power of one" that holds the key to the direction we take that makes a difference in our lives and in the lives of others. And in many instances, it does "take a village" to make the person we are or hope to be. Small steps along the way make the big picture at the end all worthwhile. And thus, it is so with this Foundation. It takes the "power of one" -- YOU to make the difference. Small donations can make a big difference in the Foundation's picture at the end of a year. Yes, you, holding the power, can make the biggest difference in your and others spiritual life within this church as it grows. Because at the very least, your power of one and the St. George Foundation strengthen the old adage of "there's power in numbers" and that's our congregation here at St. George Cathedral.

For those who may have missed the January congregational meeting and our annual report on the Foundation, here's a snapshot of how we did in 2012:

The investment portfolio for the St. George Foundation Trust, along with the Donor Advised Funds, had a combined value on December 31, 2012, in the amount of \$1,193,301. The fund increased in value during the 2012 calendar year at a rate of 12.4%, or \$156,469. This was accomplished with a balanced portfolio of 40% in bonds and 60% in stocks. The St. George Foundation was proud to announce at the Congregational Meeting in January that the Trust would pay out \$23,246 to the St. George Parish Council. This represents 80% of all dividends and interest earned in 2012.



- FIG TREE
- FRUIT
- GOOD SAMARITAN
- GUEST
- LAMP
- LOST COIN
- LOST SHEEP
- MANAGER
- MUSTARD SEED
- NARROW DOOR
- NET
- PEARL
- PRODIGAL
- PUBUCAN
- RECKONING
- RICH FOOL
- SEED
- SHEEP
- SOWER
- SUPPER
- TENANTS
- TREASURE
- TWO SONS
- UNJUST JUDGE
- VINEYARD
- WEEDS
- YEAST

PARABLES OF JESUS Word Search

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

Answers to scramble
1. Lexie 2. Simone 3. Joy 4. Lo-
rita 5. Irene 6. Nancy 7. Jewell 8.
Rita 9. Georgia 10. Julia 11. Beverly
12. Mary 13. Jeanette



CALENDAR



March:

2: Pre-Lenten Retreat, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM

3: Basketball Luncheon following services; Bible Study, 6:30 PM (every Sunday unless postponed)

4: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM

5: Sr. Fellowship Dinner/Program, 5:00 PM; FSJD Meeting, 7:00 PM

6: Parish Council, 7:30 PM

17: Creative Festival Workshop, 2:00 PM; Forgiveness Vespers, 6:00 PM

18: Great Lent begins; Great Compline, 6:30 PM

19: Basic Class, 7:30 PM (every Tues. through Apr. 23)

20: Presanctified Liturgy/Cover Dish, 6:30 PM (every Wed. through Apr. 24)

21: Communion for Shut-ins

22: Akathist Hymn, 6:30 PM (every Fri. through Apr. 19)

24: First Sunday of Lent, Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 6:00 PM (see article)

25: Evening Liturgy–Annunciation, 6:30 PM

March 2013

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2013

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2013

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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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	

30: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM

31: Second Sunday of Lent, Vespers, 6:00 PM



April:

1: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM

3: Parish Council, 7:30 PM

6: All Souls Liturgy, 10:00 AM

7: Third Sunday of Lent, Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 6:00 PM (see article)

14: Fourth Sunday of Lent, Annunciation; Vespers, 6:00 PM

18: Communion for Shut-ins

20: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM

21: Fifth Sunday of Lent: St. George Day Luncheon, Baptism, 3:00 PM; Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 6:00 PM (see article)

27: Lazarus Saturday Liturgy, 10:00 AM; Church School Activity

28: Palm Sunday (see mailed schedule)

29/30: Holy Week (see mailed schedule)



May

1-4: Holy Week (see mailed schedule)

5: Easter Sunday

6: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM

8: Parish Council, 7:30 PM

11: Wedding, 5:30 PM

12: Mother's Day

19: Last Sunday for Church School/Jr. Choir and regular hours; Graduate/Church School Awards

23: Communion for Shut-ins

25: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM

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