

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

May-Jun. 2012 • Vol. 16, No. 5

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV



Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott

(reprint Vol. 1, No. 5, May, 1997)



“Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!”

This is the greeting and the response that Orthodox Christians use from the Feast of Pascha (Easter) until the Feast of the Ascension, May 24.

What does the arrival of this “Feast of Feasts” mean to us each year? This may seem to some to be a silly question. Your reaction may initially be, “Father, you can’t be serious! Easter is important! It is the greatest Feast of the Church! Etc., etc., etc.” Yet my question is a serious one, and maybe this little story will help explain why I ask it.

Two weeks following my ordination to the priesthood and still in seminary, I was sent to serve Holy Week alone at St. Mary’s in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Their priest had suffered a heart attack and was in the hospital.

One of the teens, a girl who was active in Teen SOYO, told me she had given up chocolate during Lent. It had been hard to do (she loved chocolate so much), but the end of the Fast was in sight.

After the Resurrection services early Easter Sunday morning, I greeted each approaching member of St. Mary’s with the traditional greeting, “Christ is Risen!” When this teenager appeared before me, I repeated the greeting. With a look of absolute relief, she expelled a great sigh and said, “TRULY,....He is Risen!” It was as if she said, “FINALLY,....He is Risen! I have struggled enough, and now I can indulge myself with my chocolate again!”

This is why I asked my earlier question. During Great Lent the Church asks us to work on our spiritual life, to pray more, to fast more, to do more acts of

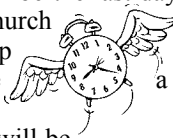
charity. Are we like this young teenager I met over twenty years (now over thirty-five) years ago? Do we greet the Feast of Easter with relief that the fast is over? “Great! Now I can get back to normal and business as usual. Now I can return to being an average Christian. I don’t want to appear fanatical.”

For those who are tempted to “return to normal,” whatever that is, consider this: Great Lent, and all lenten periods, are given to us for a purpose. They are like “training camps” that allow us to devote ourselves to improving our Christian life. We are to carry the habits that we’ve developed during the time of lent into the period following Easter. And then when the next lenten period comes, we build upon the progress that we have made to date—a never-ending struggle for perfection in Christ!

Don’t be like this young woman that I encountered in Johnstown. May your “Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!” mean that you have improved spiritually during Great Lent and that you are going to continue those practices and build on them in the future. ✝

Summer Hours

Sunday, May 27, 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.



Summer hours for our services will begin the following Sunday on the Feast of Pentecost, June 3. Matins will begin at 9:30 A.M. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 A.M. The cathedral will also be participating in Symphony Sunday at the University of Charleston on that day. ✝

Parish Picnic

The annual picnic will be held at Shawnee Park, shelter #4, in Dunbar on Sunday afternoon, June 10. Once again we will partake of great food and good fellowship for the whole family! Mark your calendars and plan to attend now! ✝

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 Tuesday, 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 Pittsburgh Pirates 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 Wednesday, June 6. Departure from the park at 6:30 P.M. should ensure arrival back in Charleston around 11:00 P.M. ✝

RADIO PROGRAM

“Come Receive the Light”

Our cathedral continues as a “Share the Light Parish” in support of Orthodox Christian Network (OCN). As such we still broadcast the program “Come Receive the Light” on WCHS, 580 AM, on Sundays at 8:00 A.M. Listening takes no more effort than getting up before 8:00 A.M., turning on your radio and tuning to the station. You will be rewarded with new knowledge in the Orthodox Faith. Try it, you’ll like it! ✝



Renew Yourself and Rejoice!

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

Have you ever felt the effects of this cry of despair? Some may exclaim "What a horrible thing to say!" However, it was said by Jesus Christ Himself when he was hanging on the cross. A cry of despair which is another example of Jesus' humanity and then an example of His Divinity and of the true love of God: "Thy Will Be Done." "Despair" comes from the Latin root word "sperare" which means hope. Therefore despair means to lose hope, to feel empty, desolate; one author describes it as being disconnected from the flow of life. In our times of trials and tribulations, we may experience such despair in which we may cry out the same words.....why hast Thou forsaken me?

Some say Jesus died of a broken heart, not the suffocation that comes with a crucifixion. In a crucifixion, the legs of the victim are broken so he cannot push up to breathe. Christ's legs were not broken. His despair may not have been for Himself but for His creation! Our sins broke His human heart, since His love was so great for us, beyond our wildest imagination.

We also say that we love God but we continue to question His actions. Do we cry when we miss visiting Him in His Holy House, worshipping Him on Sunday mornings in the Divine Liturgy? Yet we cry when we miss visiting our children or friends or other loved ones. Will you give up one day of vacation so you will not miss visiting the Lord God in His

House? Of course what about Holy Week; the time for a second vacation away from Him, our Lord God, the Savior. Yet when a loved one dies our first question is: My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken me? Another question is, "why did God allow this to happen?"

We forget so easily the blessings of God. Yet before despair comes fatigue. Do we have the energy to finish the race? We become tired of putting forth what is required to finish the race, to worship God. We find ourselves making excuses as to why we do not attend church or the lack of importance of attending on time. How many of us dress like we are watching a ball game on television when attending Divine Liturgy? Then we say it does not matter. It mattered fifty years ago so why not today. When our fathers and grandfathers worked eighteen hours a day, it mattered to them to attend Church and to participate. Now we make excuses and take shortcuts because we become fatigued. We do not put forth the effort because we are tired. We do not follow God's teachings because we do not have the energy. Where is the excitement that we saw before as children in our parents' faces when attending the Divine Liturgy?

What if Jesus was too tired to stay in the desert and fight off the temptations of the devil? What if Mary was tired of

the ridicule and criticism of others when she carried the Christ Child? What if Jesus was too tired to rise on the third day? What if the Lord God is too tired to remember us?! Yet Jesus summed it up at the Last Supper; "...do this in remembrance of me." Remember the story of Alexandra and St. George. In his jail cell she spoke to him and in all his agony and pain and weariness he sat up and spoke to her of his Lord Jesus Christ and how his suffering was a small price to pay for that love. He told Alexandra about his Lord and she became a believer that night.

Do we remember our Lord or do we make excuses. We are bold enough to sin in the sight of God yet become angry when we pay the penance of our sins. What arrogance! Rise Up! as Jesus did on the third day and experience the New Day! "Do not be weighed down with sleep," as it is sung in the Troparion of the Bridegroom. Catch your second wind and Rejoice and Celebrate the New Covenant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Bring your family and friends and sing out that Christ is Risen! Do not despair; Do not be weary. Shout out that today is the Day of Resurrection! Rejoice for in our Lord is the dead made alive! Rejoice for He is Life! Praise our Lord just as our family and friends who have passed on are doing even as you read this! Christ Is Risen! Yes Indeed, Christ Is Risen! ✝



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

St. George Orthodox Cathedral
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A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America
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<http://www.stgeorgecharleston.org/>

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



"Honor thy Father and thy Mother:

that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Exodus 20:12

Mother's Day May 13, 2012

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 arise up and call her blessed."

Proverbs 31:28

Father's Day June 17, 2012

Father

A Father is neither an anchor to hold us back,
Nor a sail to take us there,
But always a guiding light
Whose Love shows us the way.

"The Lord shall guide thee continually..."

Isaiah 58:11





Parish Life Conference Information

The 2012 Eastern Dioceses Parish Life Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick Hotel, July 4 - 8, hosted by St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church of Bergenfield, New Jersey. Information regarding hotel, schedule, tickets and registration can be obtained from the website, <http://EasternDioceses-PLC.weebly.com>. Printed copies of the information can be found on the document table in the church vestibule.

The cathedral is providing bus transportation to and from the conference. Starting in May we will have a sign-up table during Coffee Hour on Sundays to secure your seat on the bus. ☩

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

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

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

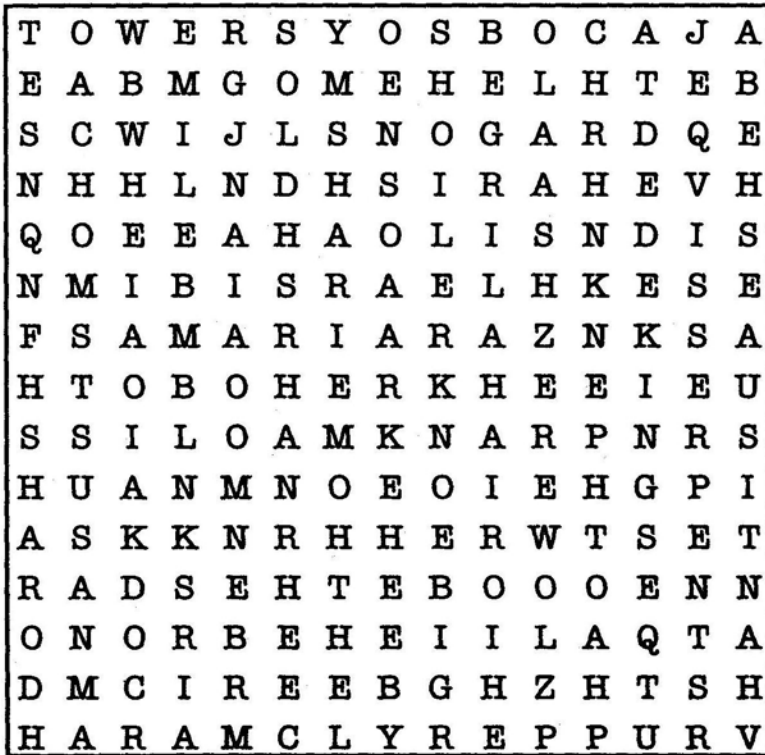
The Archbishop VICTOR (AbouAsaley) arrived in the United States as an Archimandrite (celibate priest) from Aitha Al Foukar, Lebanon, in 1922 with a delegation composed of the Metropolitan GERASIMOS (Messara) of Beirut and the Archdeacon Antony Bashir of Douma, Lebanon, in order to unite all the Arabic-speaking people of North America ~into one archdiocese under the Patriarchate of Antioch with headquarters in Damascus, Syria. Prior to their arrival, Arabic-speaking churches in North America were divided between allegiances to Russia and America (the "Antacky-Russy" schism). He was consecrated a bishop in Worcester, Massachusetts on November 9, 1924 as the first "Archbishop of New York and All North America" under the Patriarchate of Antioch. He began visiting parishes, organized church societies, church schools and choirs and ordained young men to the holy

priesthood. He founded The Shums 'IL Bir Club for women in Charleston, WV, in 1925, still in existence today. Among the several priests he ordained, was Father Raphael Husson of blessed memory, to the priesthood on February 27, 1927, the first American-born priest in his Archdiocese of New York and All North America, and long-time pastor of St. George Church in Charleston. Archbishop VICTOR was very much loved by his flock, but because of serious health problems (it is said that he had one glass eye), he did not live to see all the parishes united in North America. He was so respected that many families named their sons "Victor" after the Archbishop. His Eminence fell asleep in the Lord on September 19, 1934, and he was buried on the church property in Worcester, MA, and then moved on September 9, 1996, to the Holy Resurrection Cemetery at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA. May his blessed soul rest in eternal peace! (His picture can be found in the corridor adjacent to the sanctuary.) ☩





Word Search - Wells, Springs & Pools In the Bible



- | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| BEER | HEBRON | SAMARIA |
| BETHESDA | ISRAEL | SERPENTS |
| BETHLEHEM | JACOBS | SHEBA |
| DRAGON | KINGS | SHEBAH |
| ELIM | LAHAIROI | SILOAH |
| ENHAKKORE | LOWER | SILOAM |
| ESEK | MARAH | SIRAH |
| GIBEON | NEPHTOAH | SITNAH |
| GIHON | OLD | TOWERS |
| HAROD | REHOBOTH | UPPER |

"Love and self-control free the soul from passions; spiritual reading and contemplation deliver the intellect from ignorance; and the state of prayer brings it into the presence of God Himself."

—Saint Maximos the Confessor

LECTURE
A TEENAGER
ABOUT WHAT'S WRONG
WITH KIDS TODAY!
\$2.50



At the youth group fund-raiser, Andy's booth was a big success.

Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: Why Did God put scary stories in the Bible?

A: The Bible tells true stories about real people who actually lived and died. Sometimes those stories can seem scary to us. God included those stories because he wanted to teach us something from them. That is, they weren't put there to scare us but to serve as a warning of what to avoid, to show us what we should do, and to help us learn how to live. Some teachings in the Bible seem scary to people, especially people who disobey God, because the stories reveal the bad that can happen when we choose to do evil. Hopefully, these teachings will show us how important it is to listen to God.

KEY VERSES: *All these things happened to them as examples to us. They warn us not to do the same things. They were written so we could learn from them as the world nears its end. (1 Corinthians 10:11)*



RELATED VERSES: *Psalm 119:105; John 20:30-31; Revelation 1:3*

RELATED QUESTIONS: *Why did God tell us about all sorts of terrible things that happen?*

From 102 Questions Children Ask about the Bible.



Church School News



By Layla Michael

Christ Is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter Holiday.

The children of our Cathedral have worked very hard on their Creative Festival entries this year. I want to thank everyone that submitted an entry, and hopefully our children all learned something new while doing their projects. I wish all the entrants the best of luck and hope that we have several winners this year!

The last day of Church School will be on May 27, 2012. The last day of Church School our children will receive their rewards for learning their specific goal that was set for them at the beginning of the year for each grade level. Please make sure your children work on their goals and if they aren't sure what they're goal was for the year be sure to ask their teacher, or let me know and I will help.

There will be an opening next year for the 2nd grade teaching position. Anyone interested please contact me at anytime. We depend on our parishioners to help us have a productive Church School, so please don't hesitate to volunteer!

The annual church picnic will again be our venue for the end of year celebration. We will have inflatables for the children to play on, and everyone please pray we get good weather this year!

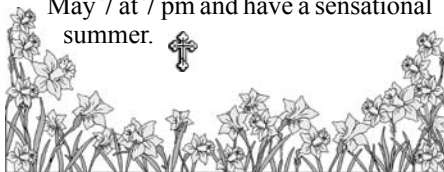
Thank you to all of our parents and volunteers for helping make 2012 a great year. I look forward to seeing everyone in the coming weeks and celebrating with everyone at the picnic.



Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

Monday, May 7, will be our last meeting before our summer break. Plans are being made for our annual dinner scheduled for Oct. 7. Volunteers are needed so contact Mary Dooley, dinner chairman, or President Joy Browne. We will resume our meetings in August. Join us

May 7 at 7 pm and have a sensational summer.



St. George Foundation News

by Dr. Edward Howard, President

Christ is Risen, Truly He is Risen...

As food nourishes our body, it is these words that nourishes our soul. The blessings of our church traditions sustain us through the good times and the not so good. And those blessings abound through the church and those serving through our various organizations as they reach out and touch not only our parishioners, but our entire community in which we live. And that is the mission of this organization -- to insure that Christian Orthodoxy, our church and our traditions reach out and continue to grow now and for many years to come. For those of us serving on this board and for those who will follow in years to come, this mission will remain the same. By serving, it is our commitment to insure that the St. George Cathedral Foundation is the vehicle for future prosperity of this cathedral. Yes, we are blessed with the best of the best in our parish. It is no wonder that when we view our children's sermons and see the future of our church before our eyes, we can rest easy knowing that the Risen Lord and our Orthodox Faith is vibrant and alive through the blessings of our parishioners and this Foundation. Yes, Christ is Risen, He truly is Risen!!!!



Senior Fellowship

Our next get-together will be on Tuesday, May 22 at 5:45 pm. Dinner will be followed by a speaker from Hospice who will tell you about all the new programs Hospice has to offer. We may have a movie night in June, so watch the bulletin for details. See you May 22 for dinner.



The Sunday School teacher was talking about Easter.

She told them Jesus died and was placed in a tomb.

A great stone sealed the tomb. Impossible to escape.

But on Easter, God raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus left the tomb and was alive forevermore.

Then teacher asked a very important question.

And what do you think were the first words of Jesus?

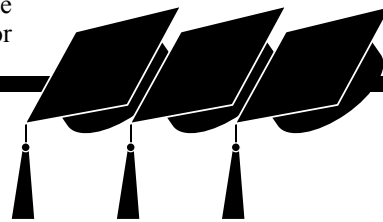
When Jesus came out, what were His first words?

A third grade girl became very exciting.

She said, I know! I know! I know!

The little girl lifted both hands high in the air. She sang out, TA DA!

Congratulations To All Graduates



Attention, Graduates!

On Sunday, May 27, 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.

Hold To Your Dream

A dream is a high and lovely thing,
A heart-flown kite on the winds of Spring.
Buoyant and bright, it hovers there
Against the blue-almost a prayer,
Calling the spirit to broaden its scope
Of faith in the future, and courage, and hope;
Adding dimensions of height and girth
To even the simplest joys of earth.
If you have a dream, oh, how lucky you are!
Play out the string and let it sail far,
But follow it-ever so close-with your eyes,
For dreams have been known to be lost in the
skies.

Never lose sight of it-hold fast the string
A dream is a precious and wonderful thing!

Helen Lowrie Marshall



CALENDAR



MAY 2012						
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		

JUN 2012						
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: CARLA Mtg.–Hosting, 9:00 AM; Arabic Class (every Tues.), 7:00 PM
- 2: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 4/6: Eastern Dioceses Spring Mtg–Bethesda, MD
- 6: Bible Study (every Sun.), 6:30 PM
- 7: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
- 8/10: Fr. Olof/Kh. Eva–Vacation
- 10: Children Home Soc. Dinner, 6:30 PM
- 16: FSJD Mtg., 7:00 PM
- 19: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM
- 22: Sr. Fellowship, 5:45 PM
- 23: Evening Liturgy–Ascension, 6:30 PM
- 24: Communion for Shut-ins
- 27: Last Sunday for Church School/Jr. Choir and regular hours; Graduate/Church School Awards



- 3: Start summer hours; Feast of Pentecost/Kneeling service; Symphony Sunday Food Booth
- 5/6: Altar Boy Trip
- 5: Appalachian Power Park Day
- 6: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 8: Wedding Rehearsal, evening
- 9: Wedding, 4:30 PM
- 10: Parish Picnic–Shawnee Park
- 12/27: Fr. Olof–Vacation in Lebanon
- 21: Communion for Shut-ins
- 28: Evening Liturgy–Sts. Peter & Paul, 6:30 PM
- 29: Wedding Rehearsal, evening
- 30: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM; Wedding, afternoon

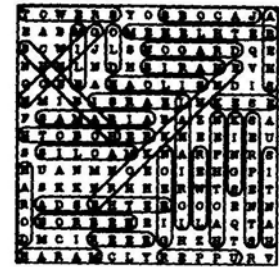
While the kids are in Church School...come to class...
Adult Class with Subdeacon George Damous!
Every Sunday
10:00 - 10:45 am
Lower Level Conference Meeting Room



Questions and Discussions welcome

Deadline for next issue:
June 15, 2012. Place articles in box outside Church office or email ritakee@aol.com

Answers to Word Search



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