

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

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A special issue to honor the service of Very Reverend Olof H. Scott



Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott



“Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven”—a familiar phrase, indeed! Christians everywhere can identify it as part of the Lord’s Prayer, a prayer with which we are very familiar and which most of us recite regularly, at least once every day.

Indeed this prayer is so familiar that, more often than not, my mind might wander off in any direction while reciting it. Can you relate?

Growing up in the Presbyterian Church, I was taught the Lord’s Prayer at an early age. I never even thought about the words seriously until sometime in Elementary School.

I don’t remember what grade I was in, but our hometown school system dismissed us two hours early one day each week to undertake some religious education. Yes, believe it or not, this was the public school system in New Jersey in the early 1950’s. Jewish kids went to the local synagogue, Catholics to St. Rose of Lima R. C. Church, and Protestants (lumped into one group) to one of their churches in town.

Most times these sessions were truly boring, but one day something different happened. It led to a profound change in my life.

The teacher on that day had to be a Baptist or from some evangelical background. She told us that in order to be a real Christian, we had to ask Jesus Christ to become Lord of our life. And after doing so, we had to be obedient to His Will for what we did and how we lived.

That woman’s words stuck with me for the rest of the day, and before going to bed that night, I did as she suggested. When I next said the Lord’s Prayer, the words “Thy Will be done on earth as it

is in heaven” registered for the first time. From the next morning on I vowed to make them a reality in my life.

Now understand, I didn’t become a saint. Kh. Eva can certainly attest to that even to this day. Throughout the remainder of my grade and secondary school years, college, graduate school and adult years following, I have had my share of ups and downs.

Church attendance and commitment as a Christian ran hot and cold. But through all of it, when I felt far away from God, He always had His hand on me. Because no matter the state or stage in my life, I always still prayed the words, “Thy Will be done,” not in general, but for MY LIFE.

Upon first glance at the path my life took, one would think there was no logical progression. My college and graduate school degrees were in my scientific interests of physics and nuclear engineering. “Thy Will be done....”

During graduate school a serious recommitment to my Christianity led me from the Presbyterian Church through Interservice Christian Fellowship and the Navigators to the Charismatic Movement of the ‘60’s and to the Assembly of God. “Thy Will be done....”

While beginning my nuclear engineering career at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in upstate New York, I encountered another major turning point—I met Eva. My response to her answer of one of my initial questions regarding her faith was, “You’re Ukrainian what?” Her answer had been, “I’m Ukrainian Orthodox.” “Thy Will be done....”

We dated, became engaged and mar-



ried within the next thirteen months. Eva was an RN, and my career led us to Public Service of New Hampshire and then to Westinghouse Nuclear Energy Systems in Pittsburgh, where we encountered the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese. “Thy Will be done....”

I was still a Protestant/Evangelical, but we were attending St. Michael Orthodox Church in Greensburg, PA. While still not a convert, I was singing in the choir, teaching an adult Bible class and serving as church school director. “Thy Will be done....”

After three years of debating Orthodoxy with our priests and before Lisa was born, I finally converted. Additional roles followed immediately at St. Michael’s: reader/chanter, parish council member, building committee finance chairman. “Thy Will be done....”

A feeling developed that I should be doing more in the Church. What was left? I was involved in everything that was possible, wasn’t I? Oh no! Not that! The only thing left is ordination! I enjoy my engineering career too much! I need to pray about this, “Thy Will be done....”

Two things happen: 1) a chance to study to become a permanent deacon in the Orthodox Church (I can keep my career! Whoo-hoo!); 2) an offer for promotion from Project Manager to Regional Sales Manager, Nuclear Energy Systems Marketing (a move into upper management). All is well. Things can’t get much better than this. “Thy Will be done....”

Study for the diaconate begins and

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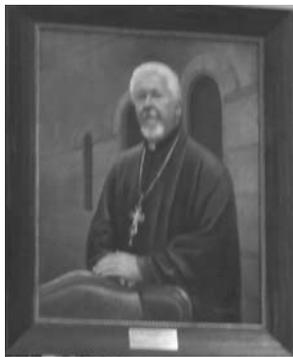
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A Weekend to Remember!

Family, clergy and friends from near and far came together, June 12-14, to pay tribute and extend their best wishes to the Very Rev. Fr. Olof Scott on his retirement from St. George Cathedral after 39 years of service. Fr. Scott will officially retire in July and will continue to reside in Charleston, "because all my doctors are here," he declared.



from the parishioners, then unveiled a portrait created by Arthur Evans and donated by Louis and Joe Corey. From the Ladies Guild, President Diana Shdeed presented a quilted orthodox cross in a frame. And, on behalf of the FSJD, Chairman Dr. Andrea Labik presented a video and photo album of pictures parishioners had submitted depicting Fr. Scott's years at St. George.

But the highlight of the evening was the suggestion to take a picture of Fr. Scott and all the altar boys and sacristans who had ever served with Fr. Scott. That WAS a Kodak moment!

Then Fr. Scott took a moment to reflect on his time with us and to thank everyone.

On Sunday, after Divine Liturgy, everyone made their way to our annual picnic at Coonskin Park. A record number was in attendance for hot dogs and kafta burgers.

Thank you to Loretta Haddy and her committee and all who volunteered to make this tribute weekend to Fr. Scott a most memorable one for all! When I asked Fr. Scott what he thought about the weekend he replied, "overwhelming."

And, on a personal note, Rita and I would like to thank you, Fr. Scott, for your invaluable assistance with the newsletter.

"Well done good and faithful servant, and enter into the joy of the Lord."

May God grant Fr. Scott and Eva many, many years!



His Grace, Bishop Thomas, was present throughout the weekend and served the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday with Fr. Scott, Fr. Christopher, Fr. Stephen, two deacons, and two subdeacons. In his homily, Bishop Thomas acknowledged Fr. Scott's call to serve God and become a "fisher of men" which reflected the Gospel reading that day from Matthew, when Jesus called upon Peter and Andrew to, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Fr. Scott "left a good job in the city" and answered the call to follow Christ. We, the parishioners of St. George were blessed to have him assigned to our parish in 1976 where he has served faithfully for 39 years. Bishop Thomas reminded us that, "Fr. Scott is moving from one ministry to another to serve Christ."

Our tribute weekend to Fr. Scott began on Friday night with a casual evening in our ballroom with a musical program by our St. George Choir. Appropriate songs had been selected to follow a narrative depicting Fr. Scott's years of service here. A light buffet and drinks were provided while a DJ played music. Everyone could visit with Fr. Scott and Khoureyee Eva and their family the rest of the night. Thank you to the St. Ignatius group for underwriting that night.

Saturday evening a banquet and dance were held at the Marriott Hotel. Dr. Loretta Haddy, chairperson for the weekend, welcomed everyone. Our choir sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" and "The Lord's Prayer." Bishop Thomas gave a few remarks about Fr. Scott and led us in prayer before dinner was served.

Then the tears and smiles filled the ballroom as several presentations were made.

A letter was read from Fr. Mitri of Aitha, Lebanon, by Joe Awad. Parish Council Chairperson, Dr. Ganim Howard, presented a check to Fr. Scott

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Pastor's Corner

all is progressing nicely. My position as Regional Sales Manager progresses, and I begin to realize that I do not enjoy marketing. Up to this point all of my nuclear career positions have been fulfilling. What now? I need to pray about this, "Thy Will be done...."

It eventually becomes clear that God has given me everything which I thought that I wanted in life as far as career, money, prestige, authority, recognition, etc. And it has all occurred at 32 years of age.

Eva and I pray about it, "Thy Will be done....," and then eventually comes surrender. I notify Metropolitan PHILIP that I will be a candidate for the priesthood if he will have me, and that I will leave my engineering career.

Following seminary studies, another beginning awaits. Where will God have me serve? I physically moved through five addresses and three corporations over a period of ten years as an engineer. Seminary required another move. How many moves will I make as a priest? "Thy Will be done...."

Seriously praying that God's Will be done in your life will put you where He wants you. For me it resulted in the blessing of serving one congregation, one parish, now one "family" into my 40th year of priesthood.

Be serious in your own prayer life and Christian commitment. Pray "Thy Will be done...." God will lead you where you need to be, so that when your life is ending here, you can hopefully attest to doing your best to be obedient to His Will for you. May God bless all of you!



Did you know?....Facts about Fr. Olof Scott

Youngest of six children: Clinton (b. 1923), Barbara (b.1926-deceased), William (b. 1928-deceased), Patricia (b. 1931), Becky (b. 1932), Olof, Jr. (b.1942, dropped Jr. years ago)

Nuclear Engineer: Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory('66-'69); Public Service Company of New Hampshire('69-'70); Westinghouse Nuclear Energy Systems Div. ('70-'75)

Met Eva at wedding reception in Ballston Spa, NY

BA, Physics, Franklin and Marshall College; MS, nuclear engineering, Penn State University

Hobbies; Motorcycling (retired); Barbershop Harmony Society since '67. in Charleston, Kanawha Kordsmen Chorus and Pitchhitters Quartet '77-present. Sung lead, tenor and bass over the years.

Fondest memory: too many to count or select. The blessing: to serve one congregation for my entire active priesthood-St.George, Charleston, is FAMILY.





The St. Stephen's Course in Orthodox Theology

If you are interested in learning more about your Orthodox Faith, the St. Stephen's Course in Orthodox Theology through the Antiochian House of Studies is an opportunity to do so. It is a three-year program of study, open to men and women who want to learn more about Orthodox Christianity and to get the tools they need to participate more fully in the life of the Orthodox Church. The St. Stephen's Course is a three-year program of directed readings of books on the history of the Church, the Bible, theology, the Divine Liturgy, the Sacraments, the Canons of the Church, and other related topics with written assignments at the end of each unit to help cement learning. The course also includes projects in the parish directed by advisors, and one week a year (at the end of August/beginning of September) spent at the Antiochian Village spent worshipping and learning directly more about the topics above.

In addition to the regular course, if you have a particular interest in youth ministry, music, or iconography there are specialized versions of the course which focus in those particular areas, and these are highly recommended to anyone who wants to be more involved in those areas of ministry here at St. George. If you are interested in helping with St. George's youth programs, studying in the youth concentration will help you learn more about your faith, and ways to help pass that faith on to the next generation. If you participate in the choir and/or are interested in chanting, in addition to working with our choir director and chanters, the music concentration of the program will teach you more about the history and varieties of music in the Orthodox Tradition and give you even more opportunity to practice and improve. If you are interested in iconography, that concentration of the St. Stephen's program will give you the opportunity to learn more about the history and practice of writing and utilizing icons in worship.

Tuition is extremely reasonable and some scholarships are available through the Archdiocese. If you already have a Bachelor's degree, after completing the St. Stephen's Course you can write a thesis and turn the program into a Master of Arts degree in Applied Orthodox Theology from the University of Balamand, but a bachelor's degree is not required to take the course, nor is anyone required to

do the thesis if they choose not to.

If you would like more information about the St. Stephen's Course including how to apply, more information can be found at <http://www.antiochian.org/studies>, or speak to Fr. Christopher or Fr. Stephen about the program. ✝



Church School News

By Layla Michael

Christ has Risen!! Truly he has Risen!! It's hard to believe that another Church School year has gone by so quickly! I would like to thank everyone who has been so generous with their time, materials and necessary resources to the Church School. Our success would not be possible if it weren't for the parents who continually bring their children to Church School and the teachers being there every Sunday to instill in our youth the lesson of Jesus Christ and the importance of church in one's life.

August 8, 2015, on Saturday we will have a guest come to our Cathedral for a retreat for Church School. Times will be announced at a later date. Please do your best to attend; children and adults are all welcome!! In addition, mark your calendars for our kick-off luncheon, which will be held on August 30, 2015, for all church school families and new children to register for the upcoming year. Please bring a picture of your child with the month of their birthday, and name written on the back, to be put on the bulletin board on the month of their birthday. The 2015-2016 church school year will begin on September 13, 2015, with the time TBA.

We are always in need for teachers and volunteers to help with the Church School, if anyone can give their time we would greatly appreciate it. The children of our cathedral are our future; please think about helping us to preserve what we have now so that our future remains bright as ever. Have a great and safe summer vacation!! ✝

**Honor thy Father
on Father's Day,
Sunday June 21.**

Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

Our last meeting before summer break was on May 4. We will resume our meetings the first Monday in August. We want to thank everyone who volunteered during Pascha weekend and donated items for Holy Thursday breakfast. We look forward to working with all the parishioners for our annual dinner on Oct. 18. Volunteers are needed for the annual dinner so contact Mary Dooley or President Diana Shdeed to offer your services.

This is a reminder that all women 18 and over are considered a member of the Ladies Guild! No dues are collected. Please attend our meetings the first Monday of each month and hear our plans for the year and offer any suggestions or ideas that may benefit the Guild's endeavors. As in the Bible, the women have always been there to serve God.

On behalf of the ladies of St. George, we thank Fr. Olof Scott for his 39 years of serving St. George and the parishioners, and may God grant him many years on his retirement! ✝

Senior Fellowship

Our get-together on May 5, was a unique experience! Cinco de Mayo met the Kentucky Derby, and Gospel music filled the air. We ate taco salads and sundaes, had a "run for the roses" and heavenly sounds from the "Brothers in the Cross" filled the air. Prizes were given for the best Derby hat and winner of the race.

Our next get-together will be in August or September. Watch the bulletin for details.

The Senior Fellowship wishes Fr. Olof Scott a happy and relaxing retirement and hopes he will continue to attend our get-togethers when he is in town! ✝

2 C's—Conference & Convention

The 2015 Eastern Dioceses Parish Life Conference will be held on July 1-5, in Happaage, NY, hosted by St. John the Baptist Church, Levittown, NY. Information for the PLC can be found at <http://www.stjohnorthodoxchurch.com/plc/>.

The 52nd Archdiocese Convention will be held on July 20-26, in Boston, MA, hosted by St. Mary Church, Cambridge, MA. Information can be found at <http://www.acboston2015.com/>. ✝





June 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				

July 2015

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	

August 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					

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. ✝

CALENDAR



June:

- 3: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 4: Chrismation, 7:00 PM
- 6: Church School Trip; Baptism, 3:30 PM
- 7: Start summer hours; Symphony Sunday at U of C
- 8: Apostle’s Fast begins
- 9/10: Altar Boy Trip
- 12-14: Fr. Olof–Tribute Weekend
- 16: Foundation Board, 6:30 PM
- 18: Communion for Shut-ins
- 20: Baptism, 11:00 AM; St. Ignatius Dinner Mtg., 6:00 PM
- 23: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
- 27: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM; Baptism, 1:00 PM



July:

- 1-5: Parish Life Conference
- 8: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 10-12: Shums’ il Bir Anniversary Weekend
- 16: Communion for Shut-ins
- 18: Wedding, 4:00 PM
- 20-26: Archdiocese Convention
- 25: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM



August:

- 1: Dormition Fast begins
- 3: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
- 5: Evening Liturgy–Transfiguration, 6:30 PM; Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 15: Liturgy–Dormition, 10:00 AM
- 20: Communion for Shut-ins
- 22: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM; Wedding, 2:30 PM
- 29: Liturgy–Beheading of John Baptist, 10:00 AM

Deadline for the next Grapevine issue Sep. Oct. Nov 2015 is Aug. 15, 2015.
Place articles in box outside Church office or email ritakee@aol.com

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