

# THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Nov/Dec 2011 • Vol. 16, No. 2

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV



## Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott

(reprint from Vol. 1, No. 2, Nov/Dec, 1996)

2011 is about to wrap up and come to a close. Who can imagine it? Time comes and goes, and with each passing year it seems to go much faster.

St. Paul in his Epistle to the Ephesians writes, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15,16, RSV) The King James version uses the phrase, "redeeming the time" rather than "making the most of the time."

**REDEEMING THE TIME!** I like that! Rather than letting time just carry you along like a leaf in a current, Christians are called on to "redeem the time" given them. Lest we get caught up in the business, or rather the "busy-ness," of our lives, the Orthodox Church established set "lenten" cycles to allow us to "redeem the time."

November 15 marks the beginning of a forty day lenten period to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. If there is one time in our modern calendar that needs redeeming, it's the months of November and December which have become absolutely frantic with the commercialization of Christmas.

Lent means that we remember to do three things, fasting, prayer and charitable giving. Are we going to give in to the temptations of all of those pre-Christmas parties with all of that rich food? Why not consider making it to Christmas with no weight gain? Why not fast?

Are we going to be absorbed into all of those TV Christmas specials and other entertainment hoopla? Why not turn it off and devote yourselves to reading your

Bible, a spiritual book and seeking God in more frequent personal prayer?

And how much are you budgeting to spend on gifts for people who don't need anything, who have too much already? Why not set aside a significant amount of that money to be used for those in need? Members of our congregation will be adopting needy families to provide for them during this holiday season. Look for the opportunity to sign up when you come to Church.

Let's try to find ways to "redeem the time" during these next two months, so that we end the year in a positive spiritual way. ✝

## Basic Class on the Orthodox Faith

Prior to the start of Christmas Lent (Advent), Fr. Olof will again be lecturing on the Basics of the Orthodox Faith. Sessions will be held on Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. The topics and the dates are as follows:

- 11/15: Worship Space (in the sanctuary)
- 11/22: Salvation History (conf. center)
- 11/29: Great Ecumenical Councils-1 (conf. center)
- 12/ 6: Great Ecumenical Councils-2 (conf. center)
- 12/13: Church Doctrine (conf. center)
- 12/20: Sacraments (conf. center)

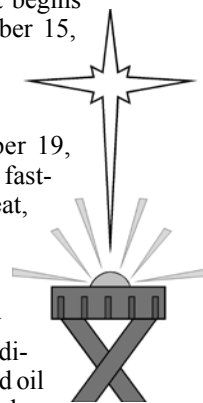
The class is open to all parishioners and anyone interested in becoming a member of the Orthodox Church. ✝



*Perhaps the best yuletide decoration is being wrapped in smiles.*

## The Nativity Fast

The Nativity Fast begins on Tuesday, November 15, and is divided into two parts. The first period is November 15 through December 19, when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but is modified allowing wine and oil on Tuesday and Thursday (some also permit fish on Tuesday and Thursday during this first period) and allowing fish, wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday.



The second period is December 20 through 24 (the period of the Forefeast) when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed Monday through Friday, but is modified allowing wine and oil on Saturday and Sunday. ✝

## 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 Love Story

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

"Let Us make man in Our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion...over all the earth, and over every creeping thing..." (Genesis 1:26). God provided for Adam by giving him a mate, Eve, and providing everything needed in the Garden for them. Then Eve and Adam disobeyed God by partaking of forbidden fruit which showed them good and evil. However, because of this they were unable to partake of the Tree of Life so to "live forever." They were sent forth from the Garden of Eden to till the soil and to labor, depriving them of the Tree of Life. Then Eve bore Cain and Abel, but Cain killed Abel. God banished Cain but put a mark on him to protect him and commanded no one was to harm Cain. Cain had children and the earth became populated. God made covenants with his people through the ages to bring them back so to be able to partake of the Tree of Life but all of the Old Covenants (Old Testament) were broken by those with whom God made these covenants.

God cared for His people even when they turned against Him. All the generations failed to keep God's Covenant. Since God is pure Love He had to restore His creation. St. Athanasius in his book "Incarnation of the Word," explains man as a work of art which is faded and worn, yet the Creator, God, did not dispose of

this tarnished work but restored it to its original beauty. This is accomplished by the Son of God taking on flesh. We also see this in the Anaphora prayer during the Divine Liturgy:

*"It is meet and right to worship Thee in every place of Thy dominion for Thou art God..... Thou hast brought us from nothingness into being, and when we fell away didst raise us up again, and Thou ceasest not, until Thou hast done everything to bring us to Heaven, and grant us Thy Kingdom to come. For all these things we thank Thee, and Thine Only-begotten Son, and Thy Holy Spirit; for all the things we know and do not know; for the visible and invisible bounties, which have been bestowed upon us. We thank Thee also for this Liturgy, which Thou dost deign to receive from our hands, even though Thou art surrounded by thousands of Archangels, and myriads of Angels, by the Cherubim and six-winged Seraphim, which are many-eyed, and soar aloft on their wings.*

"Even though His heavenly hosts surround Him God continues to reach to His creation. God sends His only begotten Son to save us. God did not create us because He needed to be loved. He created all creation because God is love.

As we enter the season of the Nativity, we must remember that the Holy Bible is not just a guide to live by, but it is the

record of the greatest love story ever told. The great love story between the Creator and His creation. All God's benefits given to us are for one purpose, our salvation, because of His love. We owe Him gratitude, thanksgiving, worship, and glory. Let us not turn our backs to God's love. Nothing is more important. The Christmas spirit is the Spirit of God's love for us found in the incarnation, the birth of the Christ Child. Such beauty and innocence that has never been seen in the history of the universe.

Begin a new journey now, a new experience with the Creator of All. Experience the Birth/Incarnation, the Epiphany, the Passion, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension in order to understand God's pure Love. Meet with God where He meets with His people, in His House, the Temple, the Cathedral of St. George. The journey begins NOW!

Due to malfunctions on Rita's Computer, this issue of the Grapevine is a bit late! All is well now and we hope you enjoy this issue!!



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

WE WISH YOU A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
GOOD TIDINGS TO YOU  
Wherever you are  
Good tidings for Christmas  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

from the Newsletter Staff



### THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

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Produced by The Fellowship of St. John the Divine, to promote activities and events about and for parishoners 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 two months and is mailed during the first week of the month.

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

Upcoming topics:

- + Historical Background of Feast Days
- +History of the Divine Liturgy
- +Historical Development of The Holy Bible
- +Questions and Discoussions welcome



## Did You Know.....? LEST WE FORGET!

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

St. RAPHAEL. (Hawaweeny), Bishop of Brooklyn. Ordained a priest on June 16, 1889 in Kiev (in the Ukraine) by request of the Patriarch of Antioch, and elevated to the dignity of Archimandrite on July 28 of the same year in order to head the Antiochian Metochion (embassy) in Moscow, RAPHAEL was invited in the Spring of 1895 by the Syrian Orthodox Benevolent Society to come to North America to establish the first Arabic-speaking church in the New World. He accepted and arrived in New York on November 14, 1895, and founded St. Nicholas Church, under the jurisdiction of the canonical Russian Orthodox Archdiocese. He then began missionary trips throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. On March 12, 1904, he was consecrated "Bishop of Brooklyn" for the Syrian Mission of the Russian Archdiocese, the first Orthodox hierarch to be consecrated in North America. St. Nicholas Cathedral of Brooklyn became "the Mother of the churches". Shortly thereafter he published the Book of Divine Prayers in Arabic, which is still in use today. In 1905 he began publication of Al Kalimat (THE WORD) in order to communicate with his scattered flock across the continent. He joined the Anglican and Eastern Churches Union, in order to promote Orthodox/

Anglican unity here and abroad. However after a year or so, RAPHAEL resigned from that body, citing theological differences in an edict in 1910 to his flock. He was nominated by the Synod of Antioch for the Metropolitanates of Beirut, Zahle, Aleppo, Tripoli Tyre and Sidon and as Vicar in Damascus. He respectfully refused each invitation in order to make a case for his North American flock, which included people of all ethnic nationalities. He was fluent in Arabic, Greek, Russian, French, Turkish, Latin and English. He founded and consecrated 30 Arabic-speaking churches (including St. George Church in Charleston), and presided at the consecration of St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA (Russian Archdiocese). He authored several tracts, articles and liturgical books, including Divine Prayers, Funeral Service for Children, Services of Consecration and Dedication of Churches, The Liturgicon, The Great Euchologion, The Small Euchologion, and Al Kalimat (The Word). Bishop RAPHAEL fell asleep in the Lord after a brief illness on February 27, 1915. He was glorified to sainthood by the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) on May 28, 2000 with the title "Our Father Among the Saints, RAPHAEL, Bishop of Brooklyn". His uncorrupt body lies in repose at the Resurrection Cemetery at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA. Most Holy Master, Pray for Us! ✝

## The Five Fingers Of Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin our prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. it reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night You cannot pray too much for them.

5. And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest finger of all. Which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. ✝

## Q & A

### Q. What is advent?

A. Preparing for His coming again.

Advent is the forty day period before Christmas which is devoted to the preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

It begins on November 15 and extends until December 25. It is a period of fasting, prayer, scripture reading, church attendance and participation in the sacraments to enable us to capture the full meaning of Christ's coming.

A very effective way of celebrating Advent in the home is through the use of the advent wreath.

The circle (wreath) is the Christian symbol for God. Who is eternal. The evergreen branches symbolize external Life, or the life of God, of which Jesus came to make us partakers. The candles represent Christ who is the Light of the World.

The first candle is green to express FAITH.

The second candle is blue to express HOPE.

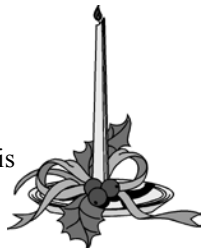
The third candle is gold to express LOVE.

The fourth candle is white to signify PEACE.

The fifth candle is purple to signify REPENTANCE.

The sixth candle is red to signify HOLY COMMUNION.

The seventh candle is white representing CHRIST. ✝



## The Legend Of The Candy Canes

Honoring the Birth of Christ was the original inspiration for the traditional, highly symbolic Christmas candy cane. Upright, it's a shepherd's staff; upside down it's the letter "J" for Jesus, White is for purity, while the red stripes represent the blood of Christ. One bold stripe is for belief in one God: the three fine stripes represent the holy Trinity. ✝





# Christmas Word Find

ANGELS  
BELLS  
BETHLEHEM  
BIRTHDAY  
BLITZEN  
BOWS  
BULBS  
CANDLES  
CANDY CANE  
CARING  
CAROLS  
CHIMNEY  
DECEMBER  
DOVES  
EGGNOG  
FROSTY  
FRUITS  
GIFTS  
GIVING  
GREEN  
HO-HO-HO  
HOLIDAY  
HOLLY  
ICICLE  
JESUS  
JINGLE BELLS  
JOLLY  
JOY  
KINDNESS  
LAMBS  
LIGHTS  
MANGER



L S

A P O B

F R G R Y R

U A S W S E E Q

N N T Y N V P S K B

S C I L O Q S N L E M T

D E U L I R V E C C Z N O W

R R O T J S M W Z A S I T Y

T F H A K E E R S N T A X E S A

P R D J F B L E H F A G C C

L O F K I E L H G A T N B T R S

O C H R W N E E I L N I R Y U U H G

D E Z E G A B L L O A R O J E A L A G I

U D R L S C N H A H S A R Q V X E S V P S O

R M N B P Y N T M C T C A N D L E S K C S L J A

X Y D A V D E E B I A H Q R M I S T L E T O E T M X

A Y T T E N E V S N R T B J T V T W R E A T H S P S R W

C R P S Q A R A G T C S J P A P E R S T O C K I N G S G I T

O C G E A N G I G H O H O H O H I S S J N A P W

C R I N N I A F N B L B L H S N A P R E Q S R E V Q

F D F A G A I Y I V O K L J L X F R E K H I A T B M W R

A E T C E S E T V S T A G I O Q X X I E O S C L R T J P M N

E C S Y L N U N I S I X K A T Z O Q N N L C R E Y I K Q E W X A

O A Z D S E R E G T R N E V A Z T Z D Y G D O V E S R M S F D G M V

E K N W X N W T R C V T O C S E K E J D E C E M B E R R A R F T R S

P C A O I N T O Q M X K W H B E M E N A H A P P I N E S S E F H E L S F

C B V K S N O W M A N T S D B R Q Y E N M I H C R E G N A M T R W D

R A I O K E W L

J O Y R Z P L Q

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
MISTLETOE  
NOEL  
OPEN  
ORNAMENT  
PAPER  
PEACE  
PRANCER  
PRESENTS  
RECEIVING  
RED  
REINDEER  
RUDOLPH  
ST. NICHOLAS  
SANTA  
SHARING  
SLEIGH  
SNOW  
SNOWMAN  
STABLE  
STAR  
STOCKING  
TOYS  
TREE  
TWENTY-FIFTH  
UNDERWEAR  
VIXEN  
WISEMEN  
WRAPPING PAPER  
WREATH  
XMAS  
YULETIDE

## On the twelfth day of Christmas, my Sitto made for me,

Twelve bags of kaik, eleven trays of kibbee, ten shike-il-mihshi, nine pots of bammi, eight plates of hushwee, seven pots of loobey, six lahamishwee, five kufta balls, four spinach pies, three grape leaves and two loaves of bread and some hoomus and taboolee.

Dear Father Scott,  
Thank you for paying for camp. This year was definately the best. I had so much fun making new friends and seeing old ones. I always appreciate the church paying for us to go to such a wonderful place. Thank you so much.

From,  
Simone



## Church School News



By Layla Michael

It's hard to believe that fall is already here. The Church School has been off to a smooth start thus far. We have included Arabic in our Sunday rotations. Zeina Mitias is the new Arabic teacher, and a big thank you goes out to her for volunteering her time. The children seem to be enjoying the class very much. We would also like to introduce Gina DosSantos as our new Pre-School teacher. Manal Choueiri is the new assistant pre-school teacher. May God grant them many more years!!!

Godparents Sunday will be on November 20, please do your best to attend church school this Sunday with your Godchild. We would also love for all parishioners and Godparents to join us for a special coffee hour in the lower level after liturgy. We are also starting to prepare for our Christmas Program which will be on Dec 18 in the gym after Liturgy. We would love to see everyone come out and support the children by watching the program. Thank you to all the teachers and volunteers that help out with our Church School. Love and God Bless. ✠

## Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You  
(as Gomer Pyle would say) to one and all who volunteered their time and talent to make our annual dinner a delicious success!

The Ladies Guild would like to thank Mary Dooley, her committee chairpersons and committees and teens, for their dedicated service to the Cathedral and community.

Our Christmas dinner will be Sunday, Dec. 4. Our last meeting for 2011 will be Monday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 PM (after Liturgy at 6:30 PM). Mark your calendars for the Antiochian Women's events before the holiday parties begin and have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. ✠



## Senior Fellowship

Twenty-five year ago, a senior at St. George wanted to do something for the Seniors of St. George. And he did! George Moses, God rest his soul, began the Senior Fellowship get-togethers with the assistance of Vivian Ghiz from the Guild and a few other charter Seniors.

On Tuesday Nov. 8 at 5:45 pm, we will have dinner and entertainment to celebrate our silver anniversary. Please complete the form in the bulletin if you plan to attend or contact Juanita Salamie or Lila Damous. We will not get-together again until February if weather permits. Watch the bulletin for dates. Count your blessings for a happy, healthy holiday!

## WE CHANGE

When I was in my younger days,  
I weighed a few pounds less,  
I needn't hold my tummy in  
To wear a belted dress  
But now that I am older,  
I've set my body free;  
There's comfort of elastic  
Where once my waist would be.  
Inventor of those high-heeled shoes  
My feet have not forgiven;  
I have to wear a nine now,  
But used to wear a seven.

And how about those panty hose  
They're sized by weight, you see,  
So how come when I put them on,  
The crotch is at my knees?  
I need to wear these glasses  
As the prints were getting smaller;  
And it wasn't very long ago  
I know that I was taller.  
Though my hair has turned to silver and  
my skin no longer fits,  
On the inside, I'm the same old me,  
Just the outside's changed a bit. ✠

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

عيداد مجيد  
و عام سعيد

С РОЖДЕСТВОМ  
ХРИСТОВЫМ  
и  
С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ

## God Bless Our Troops!



Say a prayer for our veterans past  
and present.

Camp Shelby,  
Mississippi, 5/9/1942

Dear Mr. Saba: (Andrew)

Received your kind letter and cigarettes Friday. They were forwarded to me from Camp Claiborne. I've been transferred to Camp Shelby for 2 months to attend the gov't cooking school. I want to thank you for your kind consideration but you shouldn't have bothered yourself.

Army life is not so bad. I'm beginning to like it more each day. While at Camp Claiborne I got a job working in the kitchen as an assistant cook and cook Moses Skaff is attending the same school.

I sure was surprised to see him here. I thought he was at a camp in Georgia. The fellows here treat us well. They are always trying to do something for us. One of the fellows even built us a clothes rack for our clothes and a shelf for packages and bundles.

The weather has been very warm several days it hit 103 degrees. When it rains, it pours.

Pvt. RE Morehead and I were good friends at Claiborne. He seems to be a very nice fellow. Nick Cassis came down to see me before I left Claiborne. Mike Sayfee is also stationed there.

The Army sponsors all kinds of sports, theatres, plays, dances recreation rooms and amusements of all sorts for the soldiers to keep their time occupied and make it as enjoyable as possible here at camp.

One of the cooks in my tent speaks Syrian. Do we have fun? The other fellows don't know what we are talking about.

I must close now as I am writing this letter between meals,

Give my regards to your family and all my friends.

Sincerely yours  
George (Moses)

Letters and packages are  
greatly appreciated  
by our troops!





**CALENDAR**



1: FCAAuction—hosting, evening  
2: Parish Council, 7:30 PM

- 4: Vespers/Akathist to St. Raphael, 6:30 PM
- 5: Liturgy, St. Raphael, 10:00 AM
- 6: Sojourners Thanksgiving Dinner, 12:30 PM
- 7: Evening Liturgy—Archangels, 6:30 PM; Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 8: Sr. Fellowship/Program, 5:45 PM; FSJD, 7:30 PM
- 11–13: Dioceses Fall Mtg, Antiochian Village
- 12: Fr. Olof Vacation Day
- 13: Choir Festival, 3:00 PM
- 15: Advent Begins; Basic Class #1, 7:30 PM
- 17: Communion for Shut-ins
- 19: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM
- 20: Godparent Sunday
- 21: Evening Liturgy—Entrance, 6:30 PM
- 22: Basic Class #2, 7:30 PM
- 24: Thanksgiving Day
- 29: Basic Class #3, 7:30 PM

NOV 2011						
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			

DEC 2011						
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

- PM; Family Activities, afternoon
- 13: Basic Class #5, 7:30 PM
- 17: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM; Church School Christmas Program Rehearsal/Luncheon
- 18: St. Ignatius Sunday; Church School Christmas Program
- 20; Basic Class #6, 7:30 PM
- 20–22: Communion for Shut-ins
- 24: Hierarchical Christmas Services: Matins, 6:00 PM, Liturgy, 7:00 PM
- 25: No Services
- 31: Evening Liturgy—St. Basil, 6:30 PM; NY Eve Dinner/Dance



- 4: Ladies Guild Christmas Gathering, evening
- 5: Evening Liturgy—St. Nicholas, 6:30 PM; Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 6: Hospice Tree in Mall; Basic Class #4, 7:30 PM
- 7: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 11: Holy Cross Hermitage Christmas Sale, 12:30

**THE GIFT**

The gift of encouragement  
Should be given each day —  
Pass it out freely  
And in gentle ways.  
There's no need for ribbons  
To make it look grand —  
Just the simple encouragement  
Of a kind, helping hand.

*By Joan Stephen*



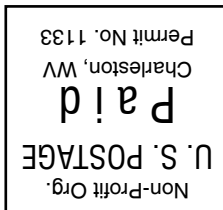
*“Remember constantly that the light of your soul, of your thoughts, and of your hearts comes from Jesus Christ. He is the ‘light of the eye’ of your heart.”*

*—Saint John of Kronstadt*

**Deadline for next issue:  
Dec. 15, 2011.**

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



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