

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Jan./Feb. 2012 • Vol. 16, No. 3

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV



Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott

(Reprint from Vol 2, No. 3, January, 1998)

So much energy is tied up in and around the Christmas holiday.

If you're like me, you become exhausted from the bombardment of Christmas images long before the day arrives. Shopping, letter-writing, card-sending, party-attending, you-name-it, all working together to blot out any attempts at living the Christmas Fast and spiritually preparing for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When Orthodox universally used the Julian calendar, we were at least spared the commercial frenzy and had some peace focusing on Orthodox Christmas, January 7.

Fortunately, there is some means of recovering from the helter-skelter days of December and regaining our spiritual sensibility in January and February. First of all we have the glorious celebration of our Lord's Theophany or Epiphany on January 6. And then, the Christmas cycle is finally wrapped up in the Feast of the Presentation or Meeting of the Lord in the Temple on February 2.

This second feast is a spiritual way-station in the midst of winter doldrums. In the dead of winter we celebrate the encounter of St. Simeon and the prophetess Anna with the child Jesus. It had been "revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26). Inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he met the newborn Messiah, took Him in his arms and said the words which are now chanted in our Vespers service: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to

lighten the Gentiles, and for the glory of Thy people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32)

So may we, inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, be led into the Church of the Messiah, where we can claim our own "meeting" with the Lord. And having met Him, we too can "depart in peace" since our eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of His Christ.

May regular attendance at Church be our sustenance throughout the winter months. ✝

A Pre-Lenten Retreat

The Fellowship of St. John the Divine is sponsoring a Pre-Lenten Retreat on Saturday, February 25. We have invited the Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor and CEO of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY, to be our featured speaker.

The retreat is an excellent means of preparing our hearts and minds to begin Great Lent. Mark your calendars now to take the day off to attend. Details will be publicized in the near future. ✝

"Preserve a good-humored expression, an affable tone of speech, friendly behavior, and above all—avoid reminding people in any way about their unjust words or deeds. Behave as if they had done nothing wrong. Accustom yourself to preserve the remembrance of God unceasingly."

—Saint Theophan the Recluse

Annual Parish Meeting

The annual parish meeting and elections will be held on Sunday, January 15, at 1:30 PM, in the conference center. Please remember the following:

- All 2011 pledge commitments must be paid in full to be eligible to vote. In addition, all other pledge commitments (domes, building, chancery, etc.) must be fulfilled by their respective deadlines to be eligible to vote. Requests for dispensation must be made to Fr. Olof Scott.

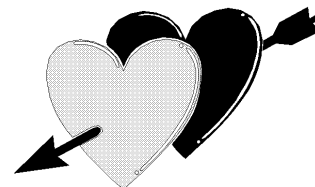
- All eligible voting members must have participated in the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion during 2011.

- All parish organizations are to have written reports on their 2011 activities and finances to the church office for printing and collation no later than Wednesday, January 11, typed and ready to print. ✝

RADIO PROGRAM

"Come Receive the Light"

Don't forget that our church sponsors the national Orthodox Christian Network's radioprogram, "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.





Joy and Happiness

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

A philosopher said, "The whole world is in a mad quest for security and happiness." People who have everything may often be miserable. A poet wrote:

"The lonely, dreary road he trod; Enter into My Joy, said God.

The sad ascetic shook his head; I've lost all taste for joy, he said."

A man went to a psychiatrist. "Doctor, I am lonely and miserable; Can you help me?" The psychiatrist suggested he go to the circus in town where a famous clown is said to make the most despondent person laugh with merriment. The patient then responded, "I am that clown."

The Christian has a different perspective on happiness. C.S. Lewis wrote, "Joy is the serious business of heaven; All His biddings are joy." Mother Theresa said: "True holiness consists of the doing of God's will with a smile." Jesus said, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

There are two kinds of happiness: 1) when circumstances are good and pleasant (fleeting and superficial); 2) Lasting, inner joy and peace which survives any circumstances and may even grow stronger in adversity. This is the happiness

Jesus speaks to us. There are three things we search for: 1) Peace (an inner peace, joy happiness); 2) Purpose; 3) Relationship with God (even when men deny God's existence they still search to fill a void in their life). God placed that void there and only He can fill it. We yearn for a relationship with our Creator, even if we do not admit it.

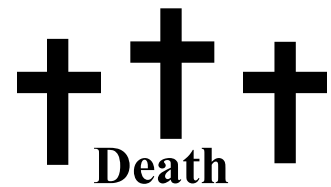
Blessed in Greek means: happiness; to be envied; spiritually prosperous with life; joy and satisfaction; in other words-happiness. Jesus tells us in the Beatitudes that there is an answer to our search. We can know God and be blessed, i.e. happy.

In God's economy, emptying comes before filling; confession before forgiveness, and poverty before riches. Christ said there is a happiness in the acknowledgement of spiritual poverty which lets God come into our souls. Our souls have a terrible disease - worse than cancer or heart disease - and that is Sin. Sin is the plague that causes all the troubles and difficulties in the world along with confusion and disillusionment. We have sinned against our Creator. God is Holy and Righteous and Just and therefore can not allow sin to enter into His presence. This is why sin has come between us and God. We must confess our sins as the first step to happiness and peace.

Many have attempted to live oblivious to God; but our riches and beauty are only

skin deep and insufficient to satisfy our eternal goals. Our accomplishments are due to what God has endowed us with. Those who are poor in spirit recognize their sinfulness and need for God. They are ready to confess their sins and renounce them. All around us is arrogance, pride and selfishness which are the results of sin.

"A man's wealth consists not in the abundance of his possessions, but in the fewness of his wants."



What A Wonderful Way To Explain It

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said
 Doctor, I am afraid to die
 Tell me what lies on the other side.
 Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know.."

"You don't know? You're a Christian man, and don't know what's on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door.

On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining,
 And as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room,
 And leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.


Turning to the patient, the doctor said,
 "Did you notice my dog?"

He's never been in this room before.
 He didn't know what was inside.
 He knew nothing except that his master was here,

And when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.

I know little of what is on the other side of death,

But I do know one thing...
 I know my Master is there and that is enough."

May you trust God that you are exactly Where you are meant to be. 



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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.

The Bishop EMMANUEL (Abo Hatab). Archdeacon to His Grace, Bishop St. RAPHAEL of Brooklyn in the Russian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America in 1908. He was Archimandrite and pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Montreal, Quebec in 1918 and consecrated Auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop AFTIMIOS (Ofiesh) on September 11, 1927, with the title "Bishop of Montreal". He edited AL KALIMAT (The Word) for a short period of time, wrote many articles on Orthodoxy, had an exceptional knowledge of canon law and was a powerful preacher. He was the overseer of the Syro-Arab Mission of the Russian Archdiocese from Bishop RAPHAEL'S death in 1915 to Archbishop AFTIMIOS' consecration in 1917, and from the retirement of AFTIMIOS in 1933 to EMMANUEL'S untimely death in that same year. Before he died, he succeeded in uniting all the Arabic speaking churches in the United States and Canada under the Patriarchate of Antioch in Damascus, Syria. The date of his death is May 30, 1933. He is buried with Bishop St. RAPHAEL of Brooklyn at the Resurrection Cemetery, Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA. May his blessed soul rest in eternal peace.

The Bishop SOPHRONIOS (Bishara). Auxiliary bishop to Archbishop AFTIMIOS (Ofiesh), with the title "Bishop of the West Coast". Upon his retirement in 1933, he lived in Brooklyn, New York, and pastored St. George Church there, which no longer exists. His date of death is October 5, 1940 and he is buried at the Resurrection Cemetery, Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA. May his memory be eternal. ✝



**Need a good book to
read this year?
Check out
the Church
Library
and Bookstore.**

Generation St. George

The time is now for us to step up and help maintain, sustain, and grow our Cathedral by expanding on the foundation set forth by our families.

PARTICIPATION CONTRIBUTIONS

52 weeks a year = 52 Sundays
a year = 364 days a year

What is it worth to you to have Christ in your life?

What is it worth to have St. George Cathedral in your life?

What's worth to have a place to raise our kids and see our family members regularly?

You can't put a dollar amount on Christ and our wonderful Cathedral ...but what if we thought differently about it...

We need to think Reasonable not Ridiculous when it comes to our support of St. George Cathedral and especially our pledges

For Example.....

Can you spare \$1 a Sunday = \$52 dollars a year ...

Can you spare \$5 dollars a Sunday x 52 Sundays = \$260 dollars a year. (Just \$5 a week) .74 cents a day to help our Cathedral

What else I spend \$5 dollars a week on

Taco Bell \$5 Value meal

3 Pop or bottled water a week \$1.66 = \$5 a week

A 24 oz beer at Murads or mixed Drink Bar 101 \$ 5

USA Today Newspapers

Carwash at least \$5 dollars

Can you find five dollars a week...?

I lose five dollars a week in my seats of car or couch.

Can you spare \$10 a week or \$520 dollars a year or (\$1.42 a day per year)

Movie theatre admission is \$7-\$10 dollars

M & M Mart sandwich, chips, and drink

One Steak Escape or Penn Station Sandwich

Can you spare \$20 a week = \$1040 a year to St. George or \$2.85 a day to have Christ and our Cathedral in your life...

Bottom line is our Parish is getting older and with the combination of deaths and people leaving to find greener pastures we must be prepared to step up to the plate and help our Cathedral grow. Please be planning on ways that we can give back both financially and by participating in all that our cathedral offers.... Please share with others. God Bless... ✝

"What is good will? To have good will is to experience concern for someone else's adversities as if they were our own; to give thanks for our neighbor's prosperity as for our own; to believe that another person's loss is our own, and also that another's gain is ours; to love a friend in God, and bear with an enemy out of love."

—Saint Gregory the Great



Prophets In The Bible Word Search

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|
| AARON | DEBORAH | JOEL | NATHAN |
| AGABUS | ELIJAH | JOHN | SAMUEL |
| AHIJAH | GAD | JONAH | SAUL |
| AMOS | HABAKKUK | MALACHI | SHEMAIAH |
| ANNA | HOSEA | MICAH | ZECHARIAH |
| AZARJAH | HULDAH | MICAH | ZEDEKIAH |
| BARSABBUS | ISAIAH | MIRIAM | ZEPHANIAH |
| CAIAPHAS | JEREMIAH | MOSES | |
| DANIEL | JESUS | NAHUM | |



The Bishop's Throne

The bishop's throne is located to the right of the icon screen. It is set apart for the bishop who is the leader of the church. The bishop represents Jesus Christ. For this reason an icon of Christ, the High Priest, is placed on the bishop's throne.

The bishop sits or stands at the throne during church services. He blesses the people. Often he speaks to the people from his throne. When we see the bishop at his throne, we feel that we are in the presence of Jesus.

The bishop holds a pastoral staff. This is like a shepherd's staff. It is a staff that has a loop at one end. The shepherd uses this staff to lead the straying sheep back into the sheepfold.


The bishop holds this staff to show that, like Jesus, he is the good shepherd who cares for the flock and leads them to the safety of the sheepfold which is the church.

When the bishop celebrates the liturgy, he blesses us with two candlesticks. One is a triple-branched candlestick which expresses our belief in the Trinity, that is, in the Father Who loves us, the Son Who saves us, and the Holy Spirit Who lives in us.

The double-branched candlestick expresses our belief that Jesus was both God and man in the same Person.

Holding the triple-branched candlestick in his right hand and the double-branched one in his left hand, the bishop prays God's blessing upon us.

God loves us. He shows us His love for us by blessing us through the bishop, the priest, our parents, and grandparents.

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; He gently leads those that have young." (Isa.40:11) 

A New Year Wish -

May the New Year bring us:

- Enough happiness to keep us sweet;
- Enough trials to keep us strong;
- Enough hope to keep us lively;
- Enough sorrows to keep us dependent on God;
- Enough failure to keep us humble;
- Enough success to keep us eager;
- Enough friends to give us comfort;
- Enough wealth to meet our needs;
- Enough enthusiasm to keep us looking forward;
- Enough faith to overcome despair;
- And enough determination to use every day and situation somehow for good.





Church School News



By Layla Michael

Christ is born, Glorify him!!

I hope each and everyone of you had a wonderful CHRISTmas and a Happy New Year, may God grant us a safe and happy 2012!

I would like to thank everyone that came out to support our Christmas program on Dec. 18, we hope that you all enjoyed the program. Thank you to all the parents that bring their children to church school and to the practices for the program. A special thank you goes out to Lori Choueiri for her help, Mike Barnhouse for his accompanying music and Elliot Namay who as always provided a wonderful sound system. Lastly, I want to thank ALL the teachers, parents and volunteers that help to make this program a success.

January will be a month to focus on our church school goals that the children should have accomplished by the end of the year. February will bring us closer to the Creative Arts Festival. There will be TWO creative art workshops that will be held this month in the art room. The dates for these workshops will be announced soon through email and the church bulletin. Please start thinking about this year's theme which is "The Bible Fills us with Eternal Joy" with your children and encourage them to turn in at least one entry from the four categories. Preferably each child should turn in one entry for EACH category for a total of four entries per child. Our Cathedral needs to be well represented and without our parents encouraging their children, we will not get a good representation. Thank you all for your continuing support of our Church School.

God bless you all in the new year! ✝



"Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him! If you see a friend enjoying honor, do not envy him. For let not the mouth only fast, but also the eye, and the ear, and the feet, and all the members of our body."

—Saint John Chrysostom

Senior Fellowship

We hope 2012 finds our seniors in good health and ready to enjoy the new year!

We are planning our next get-together on Tuesday, Feb 7 at 5:30 PM. A game night is planned after dinner as long as old man winter stays away! We welcome parishioners 55 and over to attend. Seniors think about some interesting topics or speakers you would like to explore at our future get-togethers!

Mark your calendar for Feb. 7 at 5:30 PM and watch the bulletin for details! ✝

Senior Moments

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect..Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!" ✝

Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

Welcome to 2012 and a new year for the Ladies Guild of St. George. Our January meeting introduced our new officers for the year and new ideas were suggested for socials and activities! Our 2012 officers are: President-Joy Browne; Vice-President - Natalie Tappe, Secretary-Michelle Paterno; Treasurer - Jackie Biruakis; Corresponding Secretary - Gladys Howard; Parliamentarian - Maryann Skaff; and Chaplain - Lila Lee Damous.

We thank the outgoing officers for a job well done and wish the new officers a year of excitement and good deeds for St. George. But we need all the women of St. George to attend meetings and volunteer to assist in our projects for 2012. Plan to attend our next meeting on Monday, Feb. 6 at 7 PM. ✝

Why, Why, Why

Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are almost dead?

Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they already know there is not enough money?

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars; but have to check when you say the paint is still wet?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose idea was it put an "S" in the word "lisp"?

If people evolved from apes, Why are there still apes?

Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the end on your first try?

How do those dead bugs get into those enclosed light fixtures?

When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart then apologized for doing, so, why do we say, "it's all right?"

Well, it isn't all right, so why don't we say, "That really hurt, why don't you watch where you're going?"

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

In winter, why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

The statistics on sanity is that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends--if they're okay, then it's you.

A day without a smile is like a day without sunshine! And a day without sunshine, is like night! ✝



CALENDAR

JAN 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				

FEB 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			



- 1: Happy New Year; No Services
- 2: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
- 5: Theophany Matins, 6:00 PM; Theophany Liturgy, 7:00 PM
- 6: House blessings begin: look for schedule in mail.
- 11: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 14: Wedding, 3:00 PM
- 15: Annual Parish Meeting, 1:30 PM
- 16: FSJD Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 19: Communion for Shut-ins
- 23: Fr. Olof & Kh. Eva–Vacation, return 2/4
- 28: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM

- 1: Evening Liturgy–Presentation, 6:30 PM; Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 4: Fr. Olof & Kh. Eva return
- 6: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
- 14: Fr. Olof–CCT Mtg., Memphis; return 2/17
- 18: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM; Fr. Olof & Kh. Eva–Wedding, Philadelphia; return 2/20
- 23: Communion for Shut-ins
- 25: Pre-Lenten Retreat, 10:00 AM
- 26: Forgiveness Vespers, 6:00 PM
- 27: Great Lent Begins: Great Compline, 6:30 PM
- 28: Basic Class #1, 7:30 PM
- 29: Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 PM

Deadline for next issue:

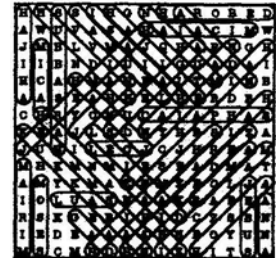
Feb. 15, 2012.

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

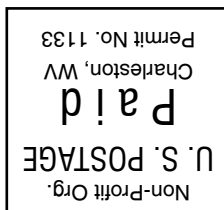


The average human heart beats 100,000 times a day.

Make those beats count.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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