

the Light



OCTOBER 2021
NEWSLETTER

DOMSE FALL RETREAT

St. Ignatius, Franklin, TN
October 15 - 17, 2021
In person.

REGISTER
HERE



3RD ANNUAL AMEN VIRTUAL RETREAT

November 20, 2021
10:00 am - 1:30 pm EST

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Parish Spotlight

ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

CLERGY

The Rev. Father David Winn, Pastor

The Rev. Protodeacon David Keim

The Rev. Deacon John Pelikan

The V. Rev. Father Nicholas R. A.
Sorensen, Founding Pastor (Retired)

The V. Rev. Father Paul Solberg (Retired)

The Rev. Father Philip Pelikan (Retired)

EMAIL: allsaintsncoffice@gmail.com



All Saints Orthodox Church Raleigh, NC

FEAST DAY: All Saints Sunday (the Sunday after Pentecost)

We traditionally celebrate with a North Carolina Barbecue feast.

One of the unique things about All Saints is that it is made up of people from all different backgrounds, including a great variety of ethnicities, along with life-long Orthodox, converts to the faith, catechumens, and seekers, all worshipping together. All of the church's organizations, AMen, Antiochian Women, YAF, and Teen SOYO, are invested in the upkeep of the facilities of the church, serving our community, and fellowshiping together. We provide meals to our parishioners in times of need, especially after babies are born! Our St. Thekla Ladies group host a monthly knitting/crocheting group that makes blankets for our newest little members as well as our community. After 30 years of service, our founding pastor, Fr. Nicholas Sorensen, retired at the end of 2020, and we have been blessed to receive a new pastor this year, Fr. David Winn, and his lovely family!



CLICK HERE FOR PARISH LIVE STREAM



Words from Sayedna Nicholas



I would like to welcome you to the first edition of The Light. The Light is the official DOMSE monthly newsletter. It is another way to reach all DOMSEians in our efforts to spread the news about DOMSE events and provide updates for what is taking place all over the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast. I would like to thank all of the members of The Light Newsletter team for volunteering to help the diocese in this endeavor. They are: Fr. Nathaniel Trembley, Editor; Deborah Abdo, Manager; Chelsea Beazley, Graphic Designer; Sh. Shell Keim; and myself.

As I mentioned above, the goal of The Light Newsletter is to keep all DOMSE parishioners informed of the DOMSE news. I would like to begin by mentioning the new priests that DOMSE received on August 1, 2021. St. Stephen Church, Hiram, GA received a new Pastor, Fr. Jacob Andoun who was transferred from St. Mary Church, Palos Heights, IL. St. Nicholas Church, Springdale, AR received a new Pastor, Fr. Paul Fuller who was transferred from St. George Church, Terre Haute, IN. St. Peter Church, Madison, MS received a new Pastor, Fr. Herman Lasseter who was transferred from St. Stephen Church, Hiram, GA.

Shifting gears to spirituality, we continue to discuss the eternal goal that our Lord has set for us to become God-like. As you have heard me say in the past, this goal is attainable through the diligent practice of the virtues despite what seems to be insurmountable resistance from the world. To this end, I would like to highlight and underscore three specific virtues that will help us to make progress on our narrow road to salvation during this present time when we seem to be navigating a spiritual hurricane.

First, the virtue of Patience, which is defined as suffering but enduring at the same time. Patience means waiting

on our merciful God through trials and tribulations with courage and hope. No one can deny that we have been going through tumultuous times. However, this is nothing new in a Christian's life, as St. James the Brother of the Lord said two thousand years ago:

"Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7)

Such patience is difficult to achieve, but paramount in our lives as the physician of old has said:

"...through your endurance you will gain your lives" (Luke 21:19)

This goal [to become God-like] is attainable through the diligent practice of the virtues despite what seems to be insurmountable resistance from the world.



Second, the virtue of Courage that is defined as not to be afraid. Here, the psalmist has stated:

"The Lord is my light and my salvation, who shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1)

Knowing that God is with us puts a check on our fear, so that we are not paralyzed by it, and can continue to follow Him regardless of our circumstances. This virtue must be practiced alongside Patience as they encourage each other and increase our endurance and spiritual progress.

Third, the virtue of Love as described by the blessed Paul: "... the greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13). As we practice Love, it is imperative to keep in

mind its two branches: the love of God and the Love of our neighbor.

The Love of God as the Christ described it:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37, 38)

If we don't love the One who created us and who also grants us every possession that we have, down to the very breath that we take, then whom can we love? The secret here is to call this fact to remembrance daily in order to keep the cares of the world from smothering our love and extinguishing the flame! If it gets extinguished, then who will rekindle it?

The Love of neighbor as the Christ described it: "...you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:39)

Our Lord emphasizes these two Commandments as the basis of all of the Old Testament's Commandments:

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:40)

Christ Himself practiced these virtues throughout His life on earth and even on the Cross as He was suffering physically and emotionally. He does not ask us to practice anything that He has not already done Himself! So, is it any wonder that He asks us to voluntarily comply?

Therefore, I pray that the Lord Jesus grants us all additional strength and wisdom to practice these virtues diligently and to serve Him in what is best for humanity – to become God-like. God bless you all!



Editor's Corner

As Orthodox Christians we confess that we “believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.” We recite these words every Sunday, and many of us also repeat them daily in our personal prayers. But what does it mean to say that the Church is ‘Catholic’? On a literal level, the word ‘Catholic’ means universal, but it also means that which pertains to the whole. So, when we confess that the Church is Catholic, we are really confessing that the Church is whole and complete, and that it is one and the same for all people everywhere, in every place and time.

On an everyday level, we experience this fact every Sunday at our local parishes. At every Liturgy, we offer up bread and wine to God, and they become the Body and Blood of Christ that He then graciously offers back to us. And when we receive these gifts, we ourselves become the Body of Christ – His Holy Catholic Church, as St. Paul says, “We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread” (1 Cor. 10:17). Therefore, each one of us experiences the wholeness of the Church at our local parishes, for our Lord Jesus Christ is wholly present in each and every one of them, and it is in our local parishes that He graciously offers Himself to us.

However, our individual parishes are also a small part of the larger Body of Christ. Our parishes are not islands, nor do they stand alone. Instead, they are a part of the worshipping community that God has been calling to Himself throughout the world, at every stage of its history, and even beyond them both into eternity. Thus, when we confess that the Church is Catholic, we hold together two seemingly contradictory positions – first, that the wholeness of the Church is present in each local parish, and second, that the local parish is only a part of the larger Body of Christ.

DOMSE’s “The Light” is a small thing – an email newsletter that arrives in each of our inboxes once per month. Nonetheless, it is something that can help us to experience that our local parishes are a part of the larger whole. The more that we develop a truly Diocesan mindset and identity, the more that we will be able to experience our communities as the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We pray that this effort may be blessed and further connect each one of us to God and to one another! Amen!

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER



FALL RETREAT

IN-PERSON RETREAT

HOSTED BY
ST. IGNATIUS ORTHODOX CHURCH
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

OCTOBER 15 - 17, 2021

REGISTER
<http://tiny.cc/Fall2021Registration>

HOTEL
domse.org/event/domse-fall-retreat-2021/

SCHEDULE
<http://tiny.cc/Fall2021Schedule>

NOVEMBER

3RD ANNUAL AMEN VIRTUAL RETREAT
November 20, 2021
10:00 am - 1:30 pm EST

DECEMBER

AMEN LEADERSHIP AND LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING
December 14, 2021
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm EST

JANUARY

DOMSE CLERGY & WINTER RETREAT
St. Elias, Atlanta, GA
January 26, 2022 - January 30, 2022

JUNE

DOMSE PLC 2022
June 12 - June 19, 2022

IF YOU HAVE ARTICLES OR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LIGHT NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO DOMSENEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM

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