

the Light



MAY 2022
NEWSLETTER



2022 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

Hosted by St. John, Memphis, TN
June 15 - June 18, 2022 [REGISTER HERE!](#)



CAMP ST. THEKLA 2022

June 26 - July 2, 2022
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July 3 - July 9, 2022
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YOUTUBE

CHRIST IS RISEN!

TRULY

He is Risen!

A Pascal greeting to all DOMSEians on this Feast of feasts and Season of seasons. May the Light of our Risen Lord, Savior, and God Jesus The Christ be a blessing on you all and guide you on your journey to become God-like. His inspiration is invaluable, His blessing is precious, and His gifts are irreplaceable. Let us use them wisely for our spiritual edification and our divine ascent.

Christ is Risen...Truly He is Risen.

+BISHOP NICHOLAS

Parish Spotlight

ST. PETER ORTHODOX CHURCH

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Herman Lasseter, Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. John Henderson,
Pastor Emeritus

V. Rev. Fr. James Meadows,
Assistant Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Leo Schelver, Assistant Pastor

Dn. Terry Algood

Dn. Richard Root

FEAST DAY: Veneration of the Chains of
St. Peter, January 16

EMAIL: abounaherman@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.stpeterorthodox.org



St. Peter Orthodox Church Madison, MS

St. Peter Orthodox Church is located in Madison, Mississippi. The parish itself began as a small Bible study in the 1970's led by V. Rev. Fr. John Henderson, now retired, and many others who are still very active members of the parish. Eventually the parish was received into the Antiochian Archdiocese, along with many others, as part of the Evangelical Orthodox Church in 1987.

Throughout the years, St. Peter's has seen slow but fruitful growth as we have strived to serve the community around us in the Jackson, Mississippi area. The parish maintains an extensive schedule of services that consists of Daily Vespers on Wednesdays, the Lord's Day cycle of Great Vespers, Orthros and Divine Liturgy, along with Festal Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Twelve Great Feasts, as well as an extensive

schedule of services for Great Lent and Holy Week.

The Antiochian women are active in monthly lunches with each other, praying the Akathist to the Nurturer of Children on a regular basis, as well as book groups and other activities in service to the parish and community. The Antiochian men also meet once a month for lunch and fellowship together.

Through these activities, worshipping together in the divine services, and love for one another, St. Peter's continues to grow, by the grace of God, into a parish family that supports each other and continues to reach out to our community at large.





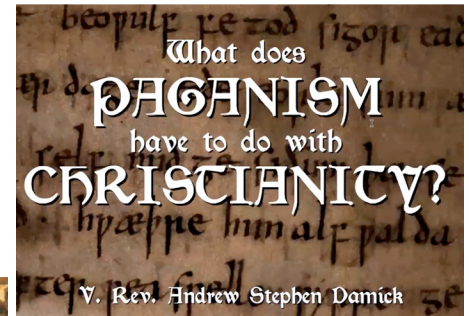
LENTEN RETREAT UPDATE

AMEN

By Michael Baclig

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church | Springdale, AR

The Antiochian Men in DOMSE had a very successful 3rd Annual AMEN Lenten Retreat at the end of March of this year! The retreat took place in a Zoom meeting on March 26th. There were 2 events that were part of the retreat. The morning event was a "Books, Breakfast, and Brotherhood" event which included a wonderful discussion of the book "Arise O God: The Gospel of Christ's Defeat of Demons, Sin, and Death" which was the theme of the retreat. DOMSE AMEN Secretary Burt Noyes led the book discussion with all of the men who attended and he did a fantastic job of exploring the content of the book. The afternoon event was a talk that was given by the author of the book, Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick, on the topic of "What Does Paganism Have To Do With Christianity?" This was an extremely edifying and educational talk that all of the men present benefitted from. This retreat was yet another example of the high quality work that The Antiochian Men have been doing in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast, especially in the area of organizing meaningful virtual retreats for the men in our diocese!



LENTEN RETREAT UPDATE

YAF

By Rebekah Meese

St. Anna Orthodox Church
Columbia, TN

We had our first Young Adult Lenten Retreat on March 19th, and it was a great success. There were about thirteen people attending in person, as well as several people who attended virtually. The day started off with lunch and icebreakers to help us get to know each other better. Next, we had the amazing opportunity to hear Bishop Nicholas speak on the topic of "The Sundays of Lent." Sayedna also answered questions from our in person and livestream attendees. It was a nice occasion to eat and converse with our

Bishop Nicholas and to hear a bit more about his story. After that, we did a small service project and headed to vespers together.

We ended the day by cooking dinner all together. Everyone did such an amazing job of taking initiative and making sure nobody was left out. We cooked, ate, and then cleaned up as a community. This was such a fulfilling opportunity and it helped us all feel a bit more connected to our fellow Orthodox Young Adults, especially during this time of Great Lent. We look forward to having more events like this to really help grow and strengthen our YAF community.



A huge thank you goes to the Young Adult Fellowship of St. Ignatius Orthodox Church in Franklin, TN for hosting. Thank you to the local young adults of St. Elizabeth's and St. Anna's for attending, and to our young adults across the diocese who participated over Zoom.



LENTEN RETREAT UPDATE

Antiochian Women

By Sh. Shell Keim | All Saints Orthodox Church | Raleigh, NC

The Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast gathered on Saturday, April 9th for our first Hub & Spoke Lenten Retreat. Using the amazing technology of Zoom and the gracious hospitality of the ladies of our parishes, we were able to gather for fellowship locally and at the diocese level. This format allowed our ladies to get together in parish halls and homes around the diocese and see other groups of ladies via Zoom.

Bishop Nicholas and Sh. Shell Keim spent the morning at All Saints Orthodox Church in Raleigh, NC with the ladies of that parish as well as the ladies of St. Raphael Orthodox Mission in Fuquay-Varina, NC. Our theme for the retreat was "Your Current Status is Salvific" and we explored the lives of such saints as St. Mary of Egypt and St. Ignatius of Antioch. We compared the lives of these saints to those of St. Thekla and the Prophet Daniel. Sayenda Nicholas shared with the ladies the wisdom that those saints show us: growth comes from struggle. Comparing these saint's lives, we were able to see that whether you remain in the desert, like St. Mary, or at the mouths of lions, like St. Ignatius, your salvation is found in each of these situations if you prepare for the time of suffering by focusing on



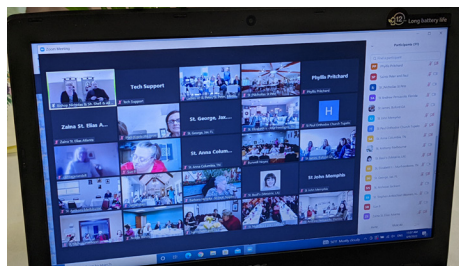
your spiritual walk consistently. Our ladies were encouraged to spend five minutes each day in silence. For our busy women this will be a challenge, but by preparing our hearts we will be better able to endure the struggles that inevitably lie ahead.

We were blessed to have 152 ladies representing our many parish groups around the diocese. Each parish was spotlighted on Zoom so they could be recognized and greet Sayenda and the other women of DOMSE. Everyone had their own way of making the retreat their own. Some of our ladies prepared a song to sing! Some groups met in cozy homes and others gathered at their local parish. Tables were

decorated with flowers and food was prepared for Lenten lunches.

It has been a challenging year for all of us and this was a wonderful way to connect across huge distances and have one-on-one fellowship with close friends at the same time. In our modern times, technology can be a huge distraction and a divisive tool in our communities, but it was comforting to see it used to bring smiles to so many beautiful faces of the Antiochian Women of DOMSE.

Thank you to all who participated in the retreat and to Sayenda Nicholas who is always so gracious and willing to make time for our organization.





CYBER SPRING LENTEN RETREAT UPDATE

Teen SOYO

By James Elliott

St. John Orthodox Church | Memphis, TN

On Saturday, April 2nd, DOMSE Teen SOYO met for its fourth annual Cyber Spring Retreat, presided by his Grace, Bishop NICHOLAS. The event was well attended by many teens throughout the diocese; some attended individually while others attended with their parishes.

The morning began with several icebreakers and activities, including an Orthodox parody of the popular game "What do you Meme?" created by DOMSE SOYO President James Elliott, and St. John SOYO Advisor Ted Werthmuller. The participating teens enjoyed the activity.

After icebreakers, a presentation was given by Fr. Gabriel Tannous on the importance of a daily rule of prayer and how one can build up a prayer rule. Fr. Gabriel emphasized that it is important to give to God at least several moments of our day to grow closer to Him. One of the main points Fr. Gabriel made is that the church provides a daily cycle of services that can be used to help us find a good rule of prayer. For example, if we attend liturgy on Sunday, we have already given two hours of our week back to Christ. If we attend orthros and liturgy, then we give God three hours of our week. If we go to vespers on Saturday night and orthros and liturgy on Sunday morning, four hours of our week is given to God. If this routine is followed with morning and evening prayers during the week, a natural and healthy prayer rule will develop.

Furthermore, Fr. Gabriel touched on the concept of keeping a rule that is healthy, not too short, or not too long. With our busy day to day schedules, sometimes it is hard to find time to concentrate on a long prayer rule. To combat this issue, Father suggested that each person ought to adjust the length of prayer to one that is the most helpful for them.

After Fr. Gabriel's presentation, His Grace reminded those present that we should only pray for what we need and not simply for what we want. He stated that if God does not answer our prayer at that moment, it is because He knows best what is needed for us and when we need it.



Upcoming Events

JUNE

2022 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

St. John Orthodox Church
Memphis, TN

June 15 - June 18, 2022

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

CAMP ST. THEKLA 2022 (SESSION 1)

June 26 - July 2, 2022

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JULY

CAMP ST. THEKLA 2022 (SESSION 2)

July 3 - July 9, 2022

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

Fr. Nathaniel Trembley, Editor
Deborah Abdo, Manager
Chelsea Beazley, Graphic Designer
Sh. Shell Keim
Bishop Nicholas

2022 Parish Life Conference

June 15-18 | St. John Orthodox Church | Memphis, TN

"Unless you are converted and become like children
you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3



2022 Parish Life Conference Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Memphis, Tennessee June 15-18, 2022



Hosted by St. John Orthodox Church at the beautiful Hilton Memphis

Join us in Memphis, Tennessee – the home of the Blues and the birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll – as we share fellowship with members from all corners of our Diocese. **Highlights of the in-person PLC include:**

- Keynote Speaker: Fr. Stephen Freeman
- Oratorical Festival
- Bible Bowl
- ...and much more!

The city of Memphis also has much to offer, including:

- Historic Beale Street
- Graceland (the home of Elvis Presley)
- National Civil Rights Museum
- The world's largest Bass Pro Shop
- Big River Crossing over the majestic Mississippi River
- ...and much more!



Barbecue, Blues, and Beatitudes



Join us in Memphis, June 15-18
for the **2022 Parish Life Conference**



Register today: antiochianevents.com/miami
DIocese of MIAMI & THE SOUTHEAST
Host Parish: St. John Orthodox Church, Memphis, TN

GENERAL SCHEDULE

Time	Function	Room Location
Wednesday, June 15, 2022		
3:00 PM	8:00 PM Registration	Lobby Annex
5:00 PM	6:00 PM Vespers	Tennessee B
6:00 PM	8:30 PM Kids' Club (CLERGY KIDS)	Director 1
6:00 PM	8:30 PM Clergy and Wives Dinner with Bishop Nicholas/Mtg.	Director 6
7:00 PM	8:00 PM Clergy Wives Dessert	Director 3
7:00 PM	8:00 PM Teen Welcome	TBD
11:00 PM	11:30 PM Compline/Ask Abouna	Tennessee B
Thursday, June 16, 2022		
8:30 AM	10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	Tennessee B
10:00 AM	5:00 PM Registration	Tennessee B Foyer
10:00 AM	12:30 PM Kids' Club	Director 1
10:15 AM	12:30 PM Antiochian Women's Brunch/Meeting/Retreat (including young adult women) Speaker: Mother Beth Freeman - Mary, Martha, and friendship with Christ: sharing His yoke	Director 6
10:15 AM	12:30 PM Antiochian Men's Brunch / Meeting / Retreat (including Young Adult men) Speaker: Fr. Stephen Freeman	Tennessee C
10:15 AM	12:30 PM SOYO Brunch / Meeting / Retreat Speaker: Fr. Joseph Aboud - Matthew 18:3	Tennessee D-E
1:00 PM	4:30 PM SOYO Service Project	off-site
2:30 PM	4:30 PM Kids' Club	Director 1
2:30 PM	4:30 PM Antiochian Women's Book Club – "Mary as the Early Christians Knew Her" by Fredrica Mathews Green	off-site
2:30 PM	4:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship / Discussion Speaker: Protodeacon David Keim – Orthodoxy in the Workplace	Director 3
2:30 PM	3:00 PM Antiochian Men Book Club: "God Is A Man of War"	Tennessee C
3:00 PM	4:30 PM Antiochian Men Bible Study with Fr. Stephen De Young	Tennessee C
5:00 PM	6:00 PM Vespers	Tennessee B
6:00 PM	8:00 PM Dinner Buffet with speaker Speaker: Fr. Stephen Freeman – "Like a Weaned Child with Its Mother": Caring for the soul in a world of shame	Tennessee C-E
7:00 PM	9:00 PM Kids' Club	Director 1
8:00 PM	10:30 PM Evening Fellowship/Entertainment	Tennessee C-F
11:00 PM	11:30 PM Compline/Ask Abouna	Tennessee B
Friday, June 17, 2022		
8:30 AM	10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	Tennessee B
10:00 AM	5:00 PM Registration	Tennessee B Foyer
10:00 AM	11:00 AM Brunch Buffet	Tennessee A
11:00 AM	12:30 PM Oratorical Festival	Tennessee B
12:30 PM	1:00 PM Creative Arts Festival Awards Presentation	Tennessee B
1:30 PM	4:00 PM Kids' Club	Director 1
1:30 PM	4:00 PM Diocesan Ministry Council meeting	Tennessee B
4:00 PM	5:00 PM Christian education workshop Speaker: Anna-Sarah Farha – Special Needs Resources for Sunday	Director 2
4:00 PM	5:00 PM School Teachers	Director 6
4:00 PM	5:00 PM Order of St. Ignatius Reception	TBD
4:00 PM	5:00 PM Deanery Meetings	TBD
5:30 PM	6:30 PM Great Vespers Service	Tennessee B
6:30 PM	7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	Tennessee B
6:30 PM	8:00 PM Dinner Buffet	Tennessee C-E
7:30 PM	8:00 PM Bible Bowl Team Check-in	Tennessee A
8:00 PM	10:30 PM Bible Bowl	Tennessee A
11:00 PM	11:30 PM Compline/Ask Abouna	Tennessee B
Saturday, June 18, 2022		
8:00 AM	9:00 AM Orthros (Matins)	Tennessee B
9:00 AM	11:00 AM Hierarchal Divine Liturgy	Tennessee B
12PM	Young Adults - Doctrine on Draft	offsite

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!