

the Light



MARCH 2023
NEWSLETTER



YOUNG ADULTS LENTEN VIRTUAL RETREAT 2023

March 4, 2023 | Zoom

11:30 am - 6:00 pm EST

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)



TEEN SOYO CYBER RETREAT 2023

March 11, 2023 | Zoom

11:00 am - 1:30 pm EDT

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

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Parish Spotlight

ST. STEPHEN ORTHODOX CHURCH

CLERGY

Fr. Jacob Andoun (Presbyter)

Fr. Andrew Moore (Emeritus)

Dn. Ray Ralston

Dn. Stephen Tait

EMAIL: Saintstephenhram@gmail.com

WEBSITE: martyr1.org



St. Stephen Orthodox Church | Hiram, GA

Saint Stephen Orthodox Church is in Hiram, Georgia. Founded in 1987, St. Stephen is a vibrant faith community where people of all ages and backgrounds come together, as the family of God, to work out their faith and raise their families in accordance with the commandments of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church. Our organizations are very active within the church and with outreach programs. Our parish members have a tremendous heart towards helping others. A few examples of that: we have a food pantry run by the Antiochian Women that provides food to everyone that comes to us. The women also organize Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes to help families celebrate those feast days. Our

AMEN group recently rebuilt a porch for one of our own parishioners. They also maintain the church grounds. All our organizations meet on a regular basis. SOYO and YAM meet weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays respectively. Saint Stephen the Proto Deacon and martyr is our protector and patron. For his feast day (December 27th) we are blessed with his Grace Bishop Nicholas' visit and we have our all-night vigil followed by a really early lunch. We hope that you come and visit us wherever you are in town.





Antiochian Women

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF DOMSE PRESIDENT: Sh. Shell Keim
All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh, NC

The Antiochian Women has been an organized group of ladies serving Christ through serving others for 50 years. Countless lives have been touched and helped by the acts of mercy that our women perform daily in the parishes around our diocese. Each parish is encouraged to have a local chapter of ladies that serves their community and grows together in Christ. Each March we recognize the women of our parishes by celebrating Women's Month. You know as well as I do that our women are serving continually throughout our year, but thanks to Met. Philip of thrice blessed memory who instituted Women's Month many years ago, we stop each year and take a moment to thank these women and appreciate the sacrifices they make and the efforts they give to our parishes, communities, and diocese.

This year our women will raise money to be sent to the relief effort in Turkey and Syria through our Metropolitan's appeal. Please consider giving to this worthy cause and assisting our Antiochian Women in raising \$200,000 so that we can be matched by an anonymous donor with an extra \$100,000. This is a large goal, but as usual our women are up to the task.

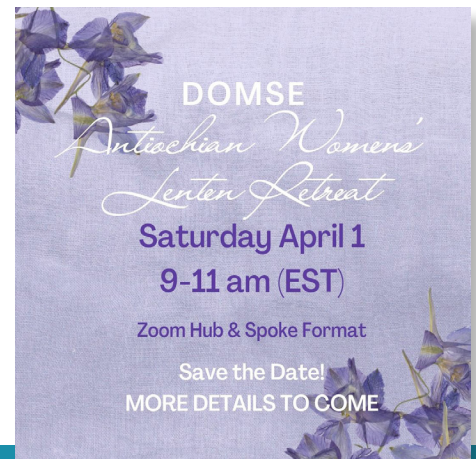
On April 1, 2023, our ladies will participate in our second annual Zoom Hub Spoke Lenten Retreat. This format allows for our ladies to gather together locally in person and then connect with the other groups throughout the diocese via Zoom. A silver lining to the pandemic

lockdowns has been our new ability to connect around the diocese using our DOMSE Zoom account. We are blessed to be able to offer this to our ladies during this busy Lenten season.

Our ladies are currently reading "Welcoming Gifts: Sacrifice in the Bible and Christian Life" by Fr. Jeremy Davis and our parish chapters are joining this year to make a common act of mercy by supporting local crisis pregnancy centers. The women of our diocese also keep an updated list of parishioners who are not able to attend church with our FIN (Friends in Need) List. We send cards from our local chapters to those on this list to remind them that they are in our prayers. If you would like to add someone to our FIN list, please contact Sh. Shell Keim. If your parish does not have an active Antiochian Women's group, maybe you are the lady to remedy that! If you would like to serve with the Antiochian Women in your parish, see your parish

priest and he can direct you to the Antiochian Women's president and she will be more than happy to help you get things rolling in your parish. No matter how large or small a parish is, the women always serve, so let us uphold each other in prayer and love.

We would love to see all of our DOMSE women in Miami at the 2023 Parish Life Conference where we can have face to face fellowship and get to know each other a little better. Go to the [DOMSE website and register today!](#)



Antiochian Women Prayer

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. O Christ our God, we are all pledged to serve Thee with our whole being. Help us to continue to work for Thee through our Church without seeking praise, without seeking personal gain, without judging others, without a feeling that we have worked hard enough and now must allow ourselves rest. Give us strength to do what is right and help us to go on striving and to remember that activities are not the main thing in life. The most important thing is to have our hearts directed and attuned to Thee. Amen.



SOYO LENTEN RETREAT



Our Panagia:
Hope, Protection, and Salvation

with Fr. Jacob Andoun | Sat, March 11th
11am-1:30pm EST

Zoom Link Details to Follow

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP 2023 Lenten Retreat

Antiochian Orthodox

SPEAKER | Father John Oliver
DATE | March 4th

LOCATION | Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church or Live Streamed
PRICE PER ATTENDANT | \$25



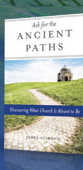
4TH ANNUAL **AMEN** THE ANTI-CHIAN MEN

SATURDAY 3/18/23

Ask for the ANCIENT PATHS

Event #1 @ 10 am EST
Books, Breakfast, & Brotherhood Part VII
Discussion led by Michael Baclic


Event #2 @ 12 pm EST
Guest Speaker: Fr. James Guirguis

Support Your Diocese

DONATE TO:
Camp St. Thekla | DOMSE Scholarship
Antiochian Men | Antiochian Women
Young Adult Fellowship | Teen SOYO
or a General Donation

Thank You!



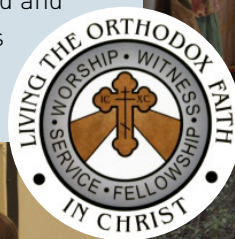

Winter Camp 2023

Sueanna Alter | All Saints Church, Raleigh, NC



On Friday, February 17th, just over seventy campers made the drive to the rolling mountains of South Carolina to be a part of Camp St. Thekla's largest Winter Camp session yet. The campers met their counselors, hardworking young adults who took time out of their week to serve as role models for the youth in our diocese. The campers and their counselors spent Friday night breaking the ice and getting to know each other, as well as meeting the speakers for the weekend. Fr. David Winn and Kh. Destinie Winn from All Saints in Raleigh, NC, brought their family to the camp so that they could speak to us on the topic of "Making the Faith Your Own." This topic deeply resonated with our campers who, at ages 12-17, are beginning to make that journey towards adulthood and becoming Orthodox Christians in their own right. Between

speaker sessions, our campers enjoyed the Gaga Ball, journaling, 4-Square, and Ask Abouna. During the evenings, our campers partied at the Retro Dance Party and battled it out at the Lip Sync Contest. We celebrated the Divine Liturgy on Sunday and said farewell to "meat" throughout the day with corndogs and burgers. On Monday morning we left camp, a few tears were shed, but we hope to meet again this summer!





TOUCHING BASE WITH ONE OF OUR

DOMSE Scholarship Recipients!

William Neaime | St. Elias, Atlanta, GA

ATTENTION TO ALL OF THE DOMSE HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATES!

As you prepare to enter college this fall, don't forget that the DOMSE Scholarship application period is June 1 to July 1, 2023! We hope you plan to [submit your application](#).

We touched base with one of our past DOMSE scholarship recipients, William Neaime, and asked him a few questions and for advice to our-soon-to-be highschool graduates!

Q: What is something you want to share about college with other soon-to-graduate high school students that you wish someone had shared with you about college?

College is often romanticized in media and television as some awesome growth and exploration experience. And while I learned a ton in college, it is important to go in with realistic expectations and realize there will be ups and downs, trials and tribulations, and victories and disappointments. The most important thing is to never give up and keep trying your best. One thing I wish someone would have shared with me prior to going to college is to learn how to allocate time for everyday mundane activities. Simple things such as eating or doing laundry can easily be forgotten in the hustle and bustle of college life and can contribute to more stress than is needed on a day-to-day basis.

Q: Have you found an opportunity to connect with other Orthodox Christian students on campus? (OCF, local parish, church friends from home who are also attending your school) If yes, how are you supporting each other in the Faith?

I have had a few discussions with the OCF branch at UGA. Near our student center, there is often a priest painting icons, which draws many students in who are curious to discuss the faith. It is a great way to remain grounded in Orthodoxy while being surrounded constantly with secular and worldly values in college. Furthermore, in my dorm hall there were actually a couple of Orthodox students who I met and became friends with. It was nice to have something that

we shared which was not superficial or shallow, but rather deep and a part of each one of us.

Q: What are your top two college experiences so far?

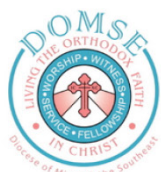
One of my top two college experiences so far would be being involved in a service-learning class with the City of Milledgeville to help develop their public transportation system, with a focus on remaining environmentally sustainable along with being accessible to the city's impoverished areas. Our class helped accomplish these tasks by attaining economically viable electric buses along with setting routes that were accessible to lower income communities. Along with this, my second favorite college experience was becoming back-to-back national football champions in my first two years here at UGA. The atmosphere at games along with the school spirit and enthusiasm displayed by all members of the UGA community is truly something beautiful! To be a part of the UGA family during this time has been a truly once in a lifetime experience.

Q: What would you say to high school seniors in our diocese to encourage them to apply for the DOMSE scholarship?

The DOMSE scholarship has taken a massive burden off myself and my family's shoulders in regard to our financial investment in my education. Many costs in college are often unaccounted for by high school students, from everyday sustenance to textbooks. The DOMSE Scholarship, through the generosity of our Diocese, can assist you and your family in paying for college along with hopefully bringing you closer to Christ through the attainment of knowledge and patience which college so uniquely endows upon those who embark on the journey of higher education.

"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."

Genesis 1:26



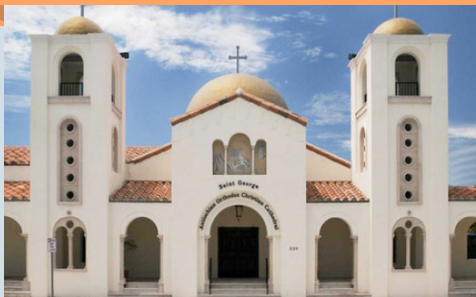
2023 Parish Life Conference Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Miami, Florida June 14-17, 2023



Hosted by St. George Cathedral Coral Gables, Florida at the Embassy Suites

Join us in Miami, Florida - the home of warm weather and beautiful beaches.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER



**Faith, Orthodoxy, Love, Joy
All waves lead to Miami 2023**

IF YOU HAVE ARTICLES OR
SUGGESTIONS FOR
THE LIGHT NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO

DOMSENEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM

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

Upcoming Events

MARCH

YAF LENTEN RETREAT 2023

March 4, 2023

11:30 am - 6:00 pm EST - Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

TEEN SOYO CYBER RETREAT 2023

March 11, 2023

11:00 am - 1:30 pm EST - Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

March 16, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EST - Zoom

AMEN LENTEN RETREAT 2023

March 18, 2023

10:00 am - 1:30 pm EST - Zoom

[CLICK HERE FOR INFO!](#)

APRIL

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT 2023

April 1, 2023

10:00 am - 12:00 pm EST - Zoom

Details to come!

AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

April 20, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EST - Zoom

MAY

AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

May 18, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EST - Zoom

JUNE

2023 DOMSE SCHOLARSHIPS!

June 1 - July 1, 2023

[CLICK HERE FOR INFO!](#)

DOMSE 2023 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE (PLC)

June 14 - 17, 2023

St. George Cathedral, Miami, FL

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

CAMP ST. THEKLA 2023 - SESSION 1

June 25 - July 1, 2023

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

JULY

CAMP ST. THEKLA 2023 - SESSION 2

July 2 - July 8, 2023

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

the
Light

AMEN
ANTIOCHIANMEN.ORG

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN
DOMSEWOMEN
ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF DOMSE

YOUNG ADULT
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
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Words from Sayedna Nicholas



Dear Reverend Clergy and Faithful of DOMSE,

I am writing to you today from Lebanon with joy and with firm hope for the future of both our Diocese of Miami and the Southeast and our God-protected Archdiocese of North America.

As you know, in January I was nominated to be considered by the Holy Synod as the next Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America. Many of you vocally supported my nomination and I am humbled and grateful for all of your expressions of love and support over the past months.

Nevertheless, this nomination was a heavy burden to me for many reasons, not least being that if I was elected Metropolitan, it would change my close relationship with all of you, my spiritual children, in DOMSE.

I am grateful to God for His mercy and grace because today He has seen fit to remove this burden from me. Today the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Antioch has elected His Eminence Metropolitan Saba as our new Metropolitan. I thank the Holy Synod for their careful consideration of all of the candidates and for their love for our Archdiocese. In particular, I thank His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X for his leadership and for all of the kindness and hospitality that he has extended to me throughout this process.

The details of Metropolitan Saba's enthronement will be announced at a later date.

I am very excited at the selection of Metropolitan Saba! I have known His Eminence for many years. He is a holy, prayerful bishop, a true living icon of our Lord Jesus Christ, and an able administrator. He brings a wealth of experience to our Archdiocese, and I sincerely look forward to assisting him as he shepherds us on our path to salvation. I call on each of you to do the same.

I know that some of you may be tempted to be disappointed with the outcome of this process, but I urge you to put aside any feelings of resentment or division. Such feelings come only from the adversary of our souls. Our ultimate goal in everything that we do is to serve the Lord and His Holy Church, and not to seek personal gain or glory. We must now come together as one body in Christ and fully support our Metropolitan Saba and his ministry to our Archdiocese. I am confident that he is the right person for this important job and that, with God's help, he will lead us with wisdom, compassion, and faith.

+May the Lord God grant His Eminence many years of fruitful ministry in this vineyard of North America!

Please join me in praying every single day for the success of our new Metropolitan and for the protection and vitality of our Archdiocese.

Yours in Christ,
+Bishop Nicholas
Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

Watch the Ancient Faith Radio interview with Bishop NICHOLAS regarding the state of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast.





Theology Editor's Corner

During Great Lent, the Orthodox Church calls each one of us to increase our efforts when it comes to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. And while the labors of Lent can be daunting for many of us, one of the keys of the entire Lenten season is that none of us are struggling alone. Indeed, one of the sweetest things about Lent is how it reminds us that we are the Body of Christ, making the yearly pilgrimage to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus all together, side by side, every step of the way.

Great Lent begins just after Forgiveness Sunday, and this is fitting, since forgiving one another allows us to enter the Fast as one united church community. St. John Chrysostom says that nothing makes us more like God than “our readiness to forgive the wicked and the wrongdoer.” For, “love is the root of all that is good” and God “brings us together and cements us to each other” “by removing from all quarters whatever mars” love – including every grievance, resentment, or offense. Indeed, forgiving one another even unites us to God, since there is no one, “not a single one, whether father or mother or friend, who loves us as much as the God who created us.”

Forgiveness Sunday cements us to one another and to God, but this process continues throughout

Lent. For instance, in many places in the U.S., Pan-Orthodox Vespers services are held on the first Sunday of Lent – the Sunday of Orthodoxy – and perhaps for the rest of the Sunday evenings throughout Lent as well. At these services the local Orthodox churches from all the jurisdictions host one another for a time of prayer and fellowship each week, and this is a great encouragement, since attending them allows us to experience for ourselves that our individual parishes are not isolated islands, but are part of the city-wide, nation-wide, and world-wide family of churches that is the Holy Orthodox Church. In addition, many of our parishes host Lenten potlucks after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evenings, and here we experience not only that our Lord Jesus waits for us in the quiet stillness of the church temple to bless us and strengthen us with His own body and blood, but also that our brothers and sisters in Christ hold us up – feeding us, sharing Lenten recipes, enjoying our company, and inviting us into all of the joy of the Kingdom of God.

In the Orthodox Church we take up a common fast from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil rather than choosing for

ourselves what we are going to give up, because Lent is about finding our place in the Body of Christ rather than taking yet another opportunity to exercise our own will. The common struggle of the season allows us to experience ourselves as the united Body of Christ and to receive our Lord Jesus’ strength and joy. May God cement all of us to one another this Lenten season, especially as we welcome our new Metropolitan, His Eminence Met. SABAI! May God grant him many years as our chief shepherd!

