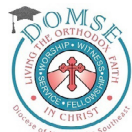


the Light



JUNE 2023
NEWSLETTER



**DOMSE
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION NOW OPEN!**
June 1 – July 1, 2023
[APPLY HERE!](#)

DOMSE 2023 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

St. George Cathedral, Miami, FL
June 14-17, 2023
[REGISTER HERE!](#)

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Parish Spotlight

HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Yuri Brubach (active)

V. Rev. Fr. Michael Byars (retired)

EMAIL: holycrossoc.org@gmail.com

WEBSITE: holycrosslive.org



Holy Cross Orthodox Church Ormond Beach, Florida

On March 21, 1993, a small group of Orthodox Christians met in a private home on the Sunday of the Holy Cross during Great Lent for their first Divine Liturgy in the Daytona Beach, Florida area. Father Michael Keiser of blessed memory celebrated the Divine Liturgy that day and God has blessed that handful of Orthodox faithful ever since.

In the last 30 years, the small Holy Cross parish has survived in the early years a fire at their rented store front and later renovated two properties into Orthodox temples, bringing them to their current home in Ormond Beach, Florida. Holy Cross is now a vibrant community of many Orthodox immigrants and converts, following

Jesus' command to let their "light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:16)

From April of 1995 to September 2019, the Very Rev. Father Michael Byars was parish priest. Under Father Michael's guidance, the Holy Cross parish went from meeting in a home to growing into a loving, Christ-focused congregation with a strong presence in the local community. In September of 2019, at Father Michael's retirement, the Rev. Father Yuri Brubach became the pastor of Holy Cross.

The year 2020 of course brought with it a huge obstacle for our new pastor

(continued on page 2)

and the parish: How to keep our parish strong through the pandemic and its unprecedented challenges. The parish council met through online meetings and made use of our weekly "email blast" to keep everyone in touch. The parish directory was divided into several parts and the members of the parish council took responsibility to call parishioners personally to offer encouragement and determine if they needed any help. The live streaming of our services was an additional success. As the pandemic waned, our parishioners returned and soon we were at our previous strength, grateful to be back "in-person" and determined to experience the full communion of Holy Orthodoxy.

"The small church doing big things!"

The backbone of the parish for these many years has been the Antiochian Women (AW) of Holy Cross. The AW has many charitable organizations they work with in the local community, as well as looking after those in need in the parish. Some of the charitable works include support for the Pregnancy Crisis Center, the Hope Center (housing for temporarily homeless families), distribution of clean drinking water to the area homeless, the Beacon House (resources for domestic abuse survivors), supplying Orthodox Study Bibles to the Youth Ministry and catechumens, and various Archdiocese initiatives, especially the recent earthquake relief effort. If you want to meet some of these amazing ladies,



several of our AW members will be at the upcoming 2023 Parish Life Conference.

A recent example of our parish's love and hospitality was exemplified in the support we gave to a refugee couple from Ukraine. Arriving in our area with absolutely no possessions except the clothes on their back, this couple found their way to our parish through one of our Russian parishioners.

Holy Cross jumped into action! The AW and Antiochian Men (AMEN) started to organize a massive relief effort for this couple: from gathering donated items from the parishioners to fundraising through the coffee hour luncheons. Soon, the couple had a house full of furniture, clothing, all the housewares they needed, as well as money to help them buy a car. Many tears of joy were shed as we welcomed this couple into our parish family!

Our big event every year is our World's Fare Food Festival. Hundreds of visitors come to our festival to sample the wonderful food prepared by our multi-ethnic parish. The variety of Slavic, Greek, Macedonian, Romanian, and Arabic dishes have become famous throughout the surrounding area.

At the 2022 Food Festival, the AW sponsored several families from the Hope Center to visit our festival with their children and enjoy the food and games. AMEN helped sponsor a Kid Zone that drew in children from the surrounding neighborhood. The joy of fellowship during the festival and meeting our neighbors is beyond description!

Under Bishop Nicholas' direction, we formed our AMEN chapter four years ago. Our AMEN chapter has contributed to many of the parish activities, including helping some

parishioners with transportation problems. In the last year, we have had several young men come into the Orthodox Church, and they are being integrated into the parish life. It's exciting to see the potential for growth through AMEN!

Our Youth Ministry has been revitalized in the last two years as our parish has put serving our youth as its highest priority. We are blessed with great leaders in the Youth Ministry who are wonderful teachers as well as organizing fun fellowship events for the youth in our parish. One of the favorite activities has been the Paint and Snack events. For the first time, we will have a Teen Bible Bowl team at the upcoming 2023 Parish Life Conference to complement our adult team. Watch out DOMSE!

As the years have gone on, we have had many of our parish founders and other beloved faithful repose in the Lord. But in our God-protected Holy Cross Orthodox parish, they have left a legacy that continues to thrive and bring glory to God! May their memory be eternal!

One of the keys to our stability and cohesiveness at Holy Cross has been our communication among the parishioners, parish council, and our pastor, Fr. Yuri. Thus, we can identify and respond to the needs of the parish and its organizations quickly and most importantly, with love. By imitating the early Church, we pray that the "word of God is increased" (Acts 6:7) in our local community.

With our location being near the World's Most Famous Beach (Daytona Beach), we are privileged to have many Orthodox visitors from around the country nearly every weekend. We would love to have you worship with us and experience our brotherly love and hospitality!



Teen SOYO

By Olivia Baca
St. Ignatius Orthodox Church
Franklin, TN

With the school year drawing to a close and summer quickly approaching, many of us are filling up our summer with camp, vacations, sports, and the like. This year, I encourage you to prioritize attending the 2023 Parish Life Conference in Miami, FL from June 14-17! This annual conference brings together Orthodox individuals from across our diocese for a week filled with inspiration, fellowship, and growth.

Our guest speaker, Fr. Herman Lasseter, will speak to us on "Keeping our Eyes on the Image of Christ through the Imagery of Peer Pressure." Our sessions with Fr. Herman will encourage the deepening of our understanding of the Orthodox faith and our relationship with Christ.

Teens will also have the opportunity to participate in a service project, attend nightly "Ask Abouna" sessions, and hang out with each other!

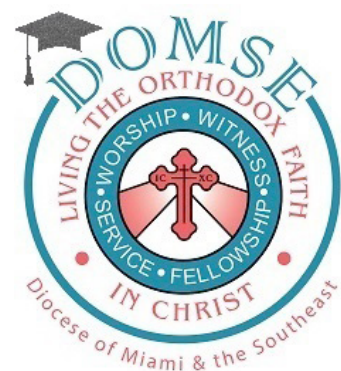
I encourage all of our teens to mark their calendars for the upcoming Parish Life Conference. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Orthodox teens, form lasting friendships, and grow in faith and fellowship.

The DOMSE 2023-2024 Scholarship Application is now OPEN!

JUNE 1 - JULY 1, 2023

DOMSE SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be a current resident of one of the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee.
- Applicant must be a member in good standing, and regularly attend, a DOMSE parish.
- Applicant must have graduated from high school in the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Applicant must be accepted and enrolled as a freshman in the fall 2023 term at a college or university located in one of the states listed above.
- The award recipient(s) will receive an award of up to \$2,500.00 in scholarship funds. The award will be divided equally over two semesters, provided that the award recipient is enrolled and attends each such semester.
- Each semester's award will be disbursed directly to the school prior to the beginning of such semester.
- The DOMSE Scholarship will be granted based on the Scholarship Committee's determination of an applicant's merit, and not based upon need. The Scholarship Committee's determination is final and not subject to review.
- In making its award decision, the Scholarship Committee will consider each applicant's high school grades, scholarship essay, parish involvement, academic involvement, pastoral recommendation, and other relevant factors.



[CLICK HERE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION!](#)

2023 Parish Life Conference Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

June 14-17, 2023 | Miami, FL

Register at www.miamiplc.com

Saint George Cathedral is honored and excited to welcome

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA

to the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Parish Life Conference!

Please make your reservation as soon as possible!

Let's extend a warm southern welcome to His Eminence this June!



IMPORTANT DEADLINES



**Bible Bowl and Oratorical
Registration**

June 1, 2023

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



**AW Meeting with Fr. Dr.
Kamal Al-Rahil**

Topic: Educating Our Next Generation



**AMEN Meeting with Fr.
Stephen De Young**

Topic: Introduction to your Bible



**SOYO Meeting with Fr. Herman
Lasseter**

Topic: Keeping our eyes on the image of
Christ through the imagery of peer pressure



**AMEN Meeting with Fr.
Jacob Andoun**

Topic: Let Us make man in Our Image,
according to our likeness: What is a Man?



**YAF Workshop with Fr. Paul
Girgis**

Topic: TBD



**Christian Ed Workshop with
Anna-Sarah Farah**

Topic: Preparing our Children for their First
Confession

2023 Parish Life Conference Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

June 14-17, 2023 | Miami, FL

GENERAL SCHEDULE

Time	Event	Room Location
Wednesday, June 14, 2023		
3:00 PM	8:00 PM Registration	Hotel Lobby
5:00 PM	6:00 PM Vespers	Key Biscayne Ballroom
6:00 PM	8:30 PM Clergy/Clergy Wives Dinner with Bishop NICHOLAS	Key West Ballroom
6:00 PM	8:30 PM Kids Club (CLERGY KIDS)	Key Largo 4
8:00 PM	9:00 PM Meet and Greet	Hotel Atrium
8:00 PM	10:00 PM Teen Hospitality	Hotel Atrium
11:00 PM	11:30 PM Compline / Ask Abouna	Key Biscayne Ballroom
Thursday, June 15, 2023		
8:30 AM	10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	Key Biscayne Ballroom
10:00 AM	12:30 PM Kids Club	Key Largo 4
10:00 AM	5:00 PM Registration	Hotel Lobby
10:15 AM	12:30 PM BRUNCH Antiochian Men Meeting Retreat Speaker: Rev. Fr. Jacob Andoun - "Let Us make man in Our Image, According to our likeness: What is a Man?"	Key West Ballroom
10:15 AM	12:30 PM BRUNCH Antiochian Women Meeting Retreat Speaker: V. Rev. Fr. Dr. Kamal Al-Rahil - "Educating Our Next Generation"	Havana Ballroom
10:15 AM	12:30 PM BRUNCH Teen SOYO Meeting Retreat Speaker: Rev. Fr. Herman Lasseter - "Keeping our Eyes on the Image of Christ Through the Imagery of Peer Pressure"	Coconut Grove Ballroom
10:15 AM	12:30 PM BRUNCH Young Adult Fellowship Meeting Retreat Speaker: V. Rev. Fr. Paul Girgis - "Meant for More"	Bimini Ballroom
1:00 PM	4:30 PM Teen SOYO Service Project - Health Kits for Local Homeless Shelter	St. George Cathedral
2:30 PM	4:00 PM Kids Club	Key Largo 4
2:30 PM	3:00 PM Antiochian Men Workshop Speaker: V. Rev. Fr. Stephen De Young "Introduction to your Bible"	Key West Ballroom
3:00 PM	4:30 PM Antiochian Men Bible Study Hosted by V. Rev. Fr. Stephen De Young	Key West Ballroom
2:30 PM	4:30 PM Antiochian Women Book Club	Havana Ballroom
2:30 PM	4:30 PM Young Adult Outing	TBD
4:00 PM	5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	Key Biscayne Ballroom
5:00 PM	6:00 PM Vespers	Key Biscayne Ballroom
6:00 PM	8:00 PM Dinner Buffet Entertainment to follow	Grand Ballroom
7:00 PM	9:00 PM Kids Club	Key Largo 4
11:00 PM	11:30 PM Compline / Ask Abouna	Key Biscayne Ballroom
Friday, June 16, 2023		
8:30 AM	10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	Key Biscayne Ballroom
10:00 AM	11:00 AM Brunch Buffet	Grand Ballroom
10:00 AM	12:30 PM Kids Club	Key Largo 4
10:00 AM	5:00 PM Registration	Hotel Lobby
11:00 AM	12:00 PM Oratorical Festival	Key Biscayne Ballroom
12:00 PM	1:00 PM Creative Arts Festival Awards Presentation	Key Biscayne Ballroom
1:00 PM	2:30 PM The Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon	Key West Ballroom
1:30 PM	4:00 PM Kids Club	Key Largo 4
2:30 PM	3:30 PM Diocese Ministry Council Meeting	Key Biscayne Ballroom
3:30 PM	4:00 PM Social Media Parent Support Discussion by Bishop NICHOLAS	Key Biscayne Ballroom
4:00 PM	5:00 PM Christian Education Workshop Speaker: Anna-Sarah Farha "Preparing Our Children for Their First Confession"	Key Largo 1
5:30 PM	6:30 PM Great Vespers	Key Biscayne Ballroom
6:30 PM	8:00 PM Dinner Buffet	Grand Ballroom
7:30 PM	8:00 PM Bible Bowl Team Check In	Key Largo Ballroom
8:00 PM	10:00 PM Bible Bowl	Key Largo Ballroom
11:00 PM	11:30 PM Compline / Ask Abouna	Key Biscayne Ballroom
Saturday, June 17, 2023		
8:00 AM	9:00 AM Orthros	Key Biscayne Ballroom
9:00 AM	11:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	Key Biscayne Ballroom

FEATURED ORGANIZATION



Orthodox Christian Fellowship

OCF COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER: Joseph Bray
St. Anne Orthodox Church, Oak Ridge, TN

You've done it! Your son or daughter has finally graduated high school. Now what? You might be feeling some mixed emotions that come with this exciting milestone. The transition to college can be both exhilarating and daunting, especially when it comes to maintaining one's faith and finding a supportive community away from home.

That's why we want to extend a heartfelt invitation to your graduate to join Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF). OCF is the official campus ministry program serving Orthodox Christian students across the United States. It is an invaluable resource that helps students stay connected to their Orthodox faith during their college years. OCF offers college students rich community in Christ, inspiring a life-long love of God and neighbor.

By submitting your student's information with OCF, you provide them with an opportunity to thrive spiritually, intellectually, socially and ensure they receive the support and guidance needed to navigate the challenges and questions that college life brings.

Let's help our graduates embark on their college journey with confidence, knowing that they have a strong Orthodox community backing them every step of the way. Together, we can ensure that their college years are not just a time of growth but also a period of deepened faith and thriving in all aspects of life.

Visit ocf.net/get-connected to connect your student and find an OCF chapter near you.



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

JUNE

2023 DOMSE SCHOLARSHIPS!

June 1 - July 1, 2023

[CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION!](#)

DOMSE 2023 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE (PLC)

June 14 - 17, 2023

St. George Cathedral, Miami, FL

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

June 15, 2023

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm EDT

IN PERSON AT PLC

CAMP ST. THEKLA 2023 - SESSION 1

June 25 - July 1, 2023

SESSION FULL

[CLICK HERE FOR WAITLIST!](#)

JULY

CAMP ST. THEKLA 2023 - SESSION 2

July 2 - July 8, 2023

SESSION FULL

[CLICK HERE FOR WAITLIST!](#)

AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

July 20, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT - Zoom

AUGUST

AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

August 17, 2023

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT - Zoom

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Light

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ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF DOMSE

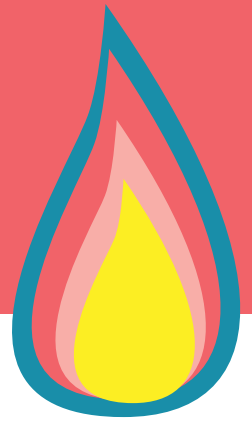
YOUNG ADULT
DOMSE YAF

SOYO
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
DOMSECHRISTIANED



Words from Sayedna Nicholas



Expectation of Divine Consolation, according to St. Isaac the Syrian, is a cause of motivation to live a virtuous life. On the other hand, tedium and dissension impede supplications. What is a person to do in such cases?

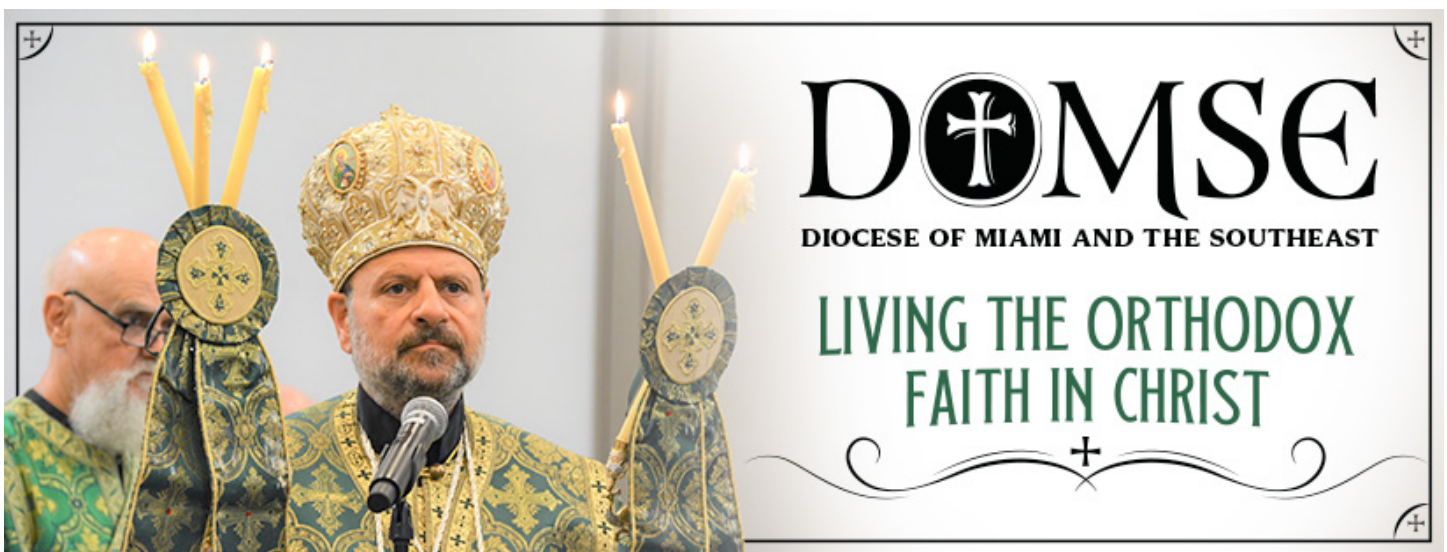
Pain in life comes from all types of sources, some of which are external, and others are internal to our thought process, as it is invaded by the evil one, or wells from our conscience. External sources of pain can stem from an economic crisis, an earthquake, a friend or relative who betrays us, lack of opportunity to start growth in one's life because of a place of birth within a poor and deprived society, etc. Internal springs of pain, assuming our conscious is alive, and we have not administered to it some anesthetic or murdered it all together, can be due to the fact that we have been unfaithful to a promise or someone, we have given in to temptation and locked ourselves in sinfulness, we have become arrogant, we have harmed someone, etc.

While we are in pain, we seek (worldly) comfort as a relief, but we only find a temporary dose of it. However, God offers us a fatherly and friendly path to relieve our pain through confession and the expression "I forgive you" in preparation for receiving the Eucharist. He further offers us the Bible which bring echoes of Christ's teachings of comfort and consolation.

God allows pain in our lives in a myriad of ways and uses it to purify us as a goldsmith uses the kiln to purify gold, for fire burns off impurities ensuring pure gold. The book of Job can be our encouragement in such a purifying process. Perhaps, during the pain period through a test, a disease, or death of a loved one we do not understand the purpose. Nevertheless, taking comfort in God's love for us in expectation of Divine Consolation, accepting His mercy, and living confidently in His profoundly tender affections shall prove fruitful producing peace in Christ and encouragement as it did for Job and kept him on the narrow path to remain in His bosom. One day we will see it, without mysteries, as divine love, and eternal true comfort.

In other news, the PLC hosted by St. George Cathedral, Miami, FL is upon us. It will be held from June 14 to June 17. However, you are welcome to stay on Sunday, June 18, for two Hierarchical Divine Liturgies in two days. In addition, Camp St. Thekla is also fast approaching and is planned for June 25-July 1 for session one and July 2-July 8 for session two. Both sessions are full and have wait lists.

May God bless you and may the Holy Trinity protect you all.





Theology Editor's Corner

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord can seem anticlimactic since it brings the forty days of Pascha to an end – along with their feasting, celebration, and joy. However, the Ascension is the crown of the Paschal season and can fill us with hope as often as we think about it. For during this feast, we remember that our Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, where He is seated at the right hand of God the Father (Acts 2:33-35) and ministers at the Heavenly altar on our behalf (Hebrews 9:24), pouring out the grace of the Holy Spirit upon us all (John 16:7).

In the book of Hebrews, St. Paul says that the Ascension is our anchor of hope since our Lord Jesus Christ has entered the Holy of Holies – behind the curtain – as our forerunner and has become our High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 6:19-20). Here, the hope that we have because of the Ascension of Christ is twofold: first, that our human nature – both soul and body – has been completely united with God in Heaven; and second, that this union makes it possible for the life of the All-Holy Trinity to be given to each one of us.

The Ascension is a consolation to us, since our Lord Jesus Christ has arrived at the goal, going before us, urging us on, and showing us that all things are possible with God. But as our Heavenly High Priest who stands

between us and God, He also stands ready to help us in every way as we hasten after Him. This is why He says that He will grant us whatever we ask for if we only ask for it in His name and promises that those who trust in Him will do even greater things than He has (John 14:12-14).

Furthermore, the Ascension opens the gates of Heaven to us so that we can eat the Passover meal that our Lord promised would be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God (Luke 22:15-16), and we experience this at every Divine Liturgy. For the altar area of an Orthodox church or temple represents Heaven; and this means that the Great Entrance is a type of the Ascension – as the bread and wine are carried by the priest and deacon in a grand procession and taken up into the altar area, so our Lord Jesus enters into Heaven

accompanied by the angels, whose icons adorn the fans that are carried by the altar servers. And having arrived there, the bread and wine become the deified Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He offers to the faithful who have prepared themselves so that we can receive new life and salvation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has ascended into Heaven as a human being – as one of us; He is there as our great High Priest, having offered His own perfect humanity once for all, and He shares the divine life of the Holy Trinity with us by offering us His deified Body and Blood. In all of this then, we have great hope – for we will ascend to Heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ if we faithfully follow Him. Christ has ascended! May we also ascend with Him!

