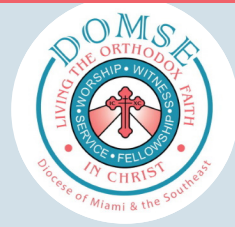


the Light



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

VIRTUAL LENTEN RETREATS

AMEN RETREAT

April 6, 2024 - Zoom
10:00 am - 2:00 pm EST
[CLICK HERE FOR INFO!](#)

YAF RETREAT

April 13, 2024 - Zoom
10:00 am - 11:00 am EST
[REGISTER HERE!](#)

AW RETREAT

April 20, 2024 - Zoom
8:00 am - 5:00 pm EST
[CLICK HERE FOR INFO!](#)

CONNECT WITH US!



Parish Spotlight

ST. ANDREW ORTHODOX CHURCH

CLERGY

V. Rev. Fr. David Bleam

EMAIL: Dbleam@gmail.com

WEBSITE: standrewpns.com



St. Andrew Orthodox Church Pensacola, FL

The community of St. Andrew the Apostle in Pensacola, FL was formed as a mission of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast in February of 2007 with the blessing and guidance of His Grace, Bishop ANTOUN of Thrice-Blessed Memory. For the first few months, services were held in an adapted office space on 'W' St. in Pensacola served by various priests from our deanery. Fr. David Bleam, a seminarian at St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary, was sent with his family to serve Holy Week and Pascha that year. On Bright Monday 2007, the community met and voted to purchase what would become our new home located further south on 'W' St. Fr. David was assigned as the parish priest in June 2007, and we would move into the new building in August 2007. On December 4, 2011, our parish home was consecrated a temple by His Grace, Bishop ANTOUN.

The parish is served by two deacons. Dn. Ted Werthmuller, a founder of the community who served in the Air Force was ordained at our consecration. Dn. Dan Gray moved down from Alaska as a retired officer in the Navy and joined our parish in 2016. One of the many blessings of our location is that we have been able to provide a temporary home for many of our military men and women throughout the years. Pensacola Naval Air Station, home of the Blue Angels, is where the Navy and Marines send potential pilots to begin their flight instruction. Eglin Air Force Base, the largest Air Force base in the world, is located about an

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(St. Andrew - continued from page 1)

hour drive from Pensacola. These men and women have found friendship and community with each other and our people that continues after they have moved on to their various assignments.

St. Andrew's has been blessed by many opportunities to serve our greater community of Pensacola. Our Antiochian Women (the Sisters of St. Photini) have provided a great deal of leadership and dedication to the local community. Each year they do a bake sale which helps those in need. For example, they have been instrumental in providing for a backpack program for one of our poorer elementary schools and making sure our food pantry is stocked for the many homeless who stop by in need. More recently, they have done the work so that our facility can be used as a much needed polling location.



Following the example of our women, our young adults have been very active in fellowship and in being involved in serving our community. One of the activities that our teens and young adults do is Christmas caroling to our shut ins.



In addition, we have been blessed with a vibrant choir to lead us in worship and a Sunday School program to supplement the educational needs of our children. As part of our Sunday School, the children meet with Kh. Nora Blean each week, learning the Byzantine tones and hymns of the church. The children are invited to join the choir after Communion to sing the remainder of the Liturgy each week. They also form the choir for one Pre-Sanctified Divine

Liturgy and for St. Nicholas Vespers. With the hard work of their outstanding Sunday School teachers, they also have been able to do a Christmas Pageant.



St. Andrew's has continued to grow in many ways over the last seventeen years. We are forever indebted to those who stepped out in faith to establish this community. Currently, we are growing in numbers quite quickly and are in the exploratory stages to build a sufficient parish hall. Due to the dedication and generosity of our people, we have recently installed iconography all along the south and north walls of the temple. More importantly, there has been a substantial growth in attendance at services as well as bible study.

We are thankful to God for His many blessings to our parish and hope to serve His purposes moving forward. We are grateful to His Grace, Bishop ANTOUN in establishing this community and to His Grace, Bishop NICHOLAS for the love and guidance he continues to show us through his visits and words of encouragement.





FEATURED ORGANIZATION

Antiochian Men



ANTIOCHIAN MEN PRESIDENT: Michael Baclig | St. Nicholas Orthodox Church | Springdale, AR

The Antiochian Men of DOMSE held their first ever in-person Conference & Retreat on March 7-9, 2024, and it was a big success, thanks be to God! The event took place at the Woodland Christian Camp & Retreat Center in Temple, GA and there were 140 men in attendance! The AMEN Conference & Retreat incorporated the best aspects of camping, conferences, & retreats into a first-of-its-kind event for Orthodox Christian men. Attendees also included some catechumens and inquirers to the Orthodox Faith. Over half of the parishes from DOMSE were represented at the event, and there were forty-six men from outside the diocese who attended. This included men from all over the country, and even one from Canada!

The event was well organized and offered a wide variety of sessions for the men who attended including spiritual talks, liturgical services, outdoor activities, sports competitions, workshops, and campfire fellowship, just to name a few! The most unique aspect of this event was the scheduling of activities between guest speaker sessions, especially the outdoor activities which included a flag football game, basketball games, kayaking, fishing, ziplining, and a ropes course challenge! There was truly something for everyone who attended, regardless of age.

The guest speakers included His Grace, Bishop NICHOLAS, Fr. Stephen De Young, Fr. Hans Jacobse, and Fr. Jacob Andoun. Each speaker gave an extremely edifying talk on the theme of the event, which was "The Audacity of Manhood: Strength Through Virtuous Work." Fr. Stephen kicked things off with a talk titled "Who Do You Work For?" That was followed by a talk by Fr. Jacob titled "And You Thought the Saints Just Prayed?" Fr. Hans then delivered a powerful talk titled "Work Shapes the Inside and the Outside" followed by another talk by Fr. Stephen titled "Men at Work." The final talk was given by Bishop NICHOLAS and was titled "God Won't Do All the Work for

You." All the talks received overwhelming positive feedback from everyone who attended the event!

The event included a fantastic panel discussion with all the guest speakers responding to questions from the attendees. Each of the speakers shared their valuable wisdom on key issues that many men struggle with in our day and age. Liturgical services included morning prayers, Daily Vespers, and the Akathist to St. Joseph the Betrothed which was followed by a rousing sermon by Fr. Hans. There were two very helpful workshops that took place during the event, including Faithtree's "Lionheart Sessions" (video with discussion) and a "Restoring Young Men to Manhood" workshop led by Fr. Hans. If that wasn't enough, there was also a live recording of the "Coming Out of Chaos" podcast with audience participation and another epic AMEN Bible Study hosted by Fr. Stephen De Young, live and in-person!

With the direction of Bishop NICHOLAS, the Antiochian Men are planning to make this an annual event and they have already begun planning for next year. They have received extremely positive feedback from everyone who attended thus far, and they intend to make the next one even bigger and more successful, God willing. Thank you to all the men who participated in the first annual DOMSE Antiochian Men Conference & Retreat! We look forward to seeing you at the next one. We wish you a blessed Antiochian Men's Month and pray for a spiritually rewarding journey to the empty tomb!





Teen SOYO

By Olivia Baca
St. Ignatius Orthodox Church
Franklin, TN

Hey, DOMSE!

As teens there are so many ways for us to get involved in Great Lent! While these include fasting and attending Lenten services, you can also do things like sing or read at the chant stand, help cook a post-service meal, or say evening prayers with your friends. We can also fast from more than just meat and dairy. Social media and secular music are just a couple of ideas of things to abstain from during Lent! This is also the perfect time to plan a service project with your Teen SOYO group and serve your community. From your Teen SOYO board of officers, have a Blessed Lent!



WINTER SACRED MUSIC INSTITUTE UPDATE

Sacred Music Notes

DOMSE MUSIC CHAIR: Kh. Nora Blead
St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Pensacola, FL

A few weeks ago, we completed the Winter Sacred Music Institute, offered in DOMSE for the first time! It was a beautifully enriching event studying the theology and repertoire of the hymns of the Pentecostarion, practical musicianship, as well as time in prayer and fellowship. We could not be more thankful for our wonderful host parish of St. George Cathedral and for Fr. Ayman Kfouf, choir director Jackson King, and all the parishioners who made the Winter SMI a success!

If you were unable to attend, details for the Summer Music Institute at the Antiochian Village will be available soon!

Our next opportunity to sing together will be at the PLC, June 12-15, hosted by St. Stephen Church, Hiram, GA. If you sing (which includes chanting) in your parish, please come up to the choir/chanter's area to help out!

As always, if your parish is in need of help finding music, or any other musical need, don't hesitate to contact me at norableam@gmail.com.

May God bless you and grant you a holy fast.

Young Adult Lenten Retreat

Join us on zoom!

The morning of
April 13th



How to be a Sinner

by Peter Boueteneff
with Fr. Ayman Kfouf

5TH ANNUAL AMEN THE ANTIOCHIAN MEN BISHOP OF MIAMI & THE SOUTHEAST LENTEN VIRTUAL RETREAT

SATURDAY 4/6/24

From OBJECT to ICON

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

Event #2 @ 12 pm EST Guest Speaker: Fr. Hans Jacobse

Embrace the Season

DOMSE Antiochian Women Hub & Spoke Lenten Retreat

Featuring Generational Panel Discussion on Embracing our Season in Life

Lanael Yahubik • Christine Halberg • Stella Halberg

(Zoom link to be provided to Chapter Presidents)

Saturday April 20th, 2024 from 10am to 12pm (EDT)



Words from Sayedna Nicholas

The Church has placed the Cross in the middle of Great and Holy Lent, the third Sunday of the Fast, for a very specific reason!

By the third Sunday of the Fast, most of us have been abstaining from eating prescribed sumptuous foods for three weeks, participating in many services each week at inconvenient times of the day after having worked long hours, expanding our prayer rules, and reading spiritual books. Having done ascetical deeds, some of us are weary, tired, and may feel unsettled.

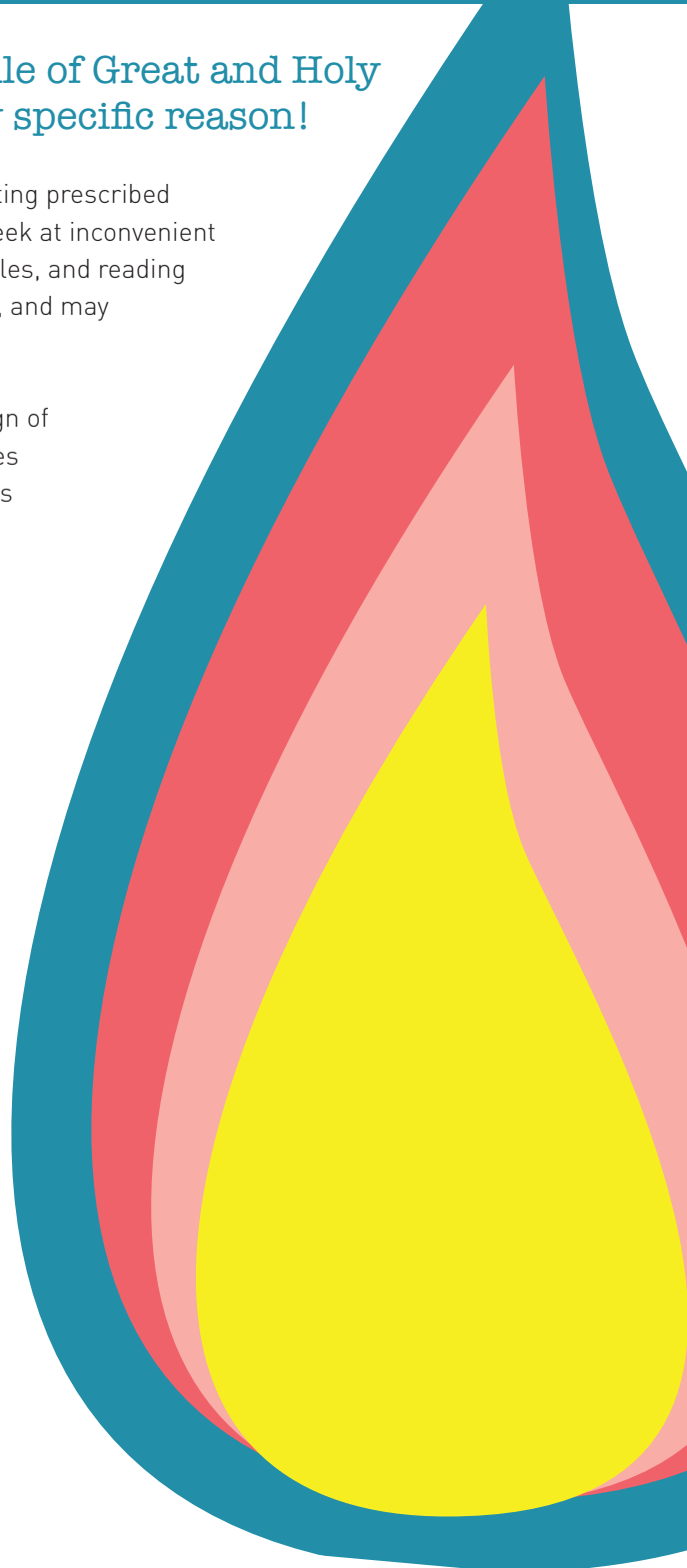
Prior to Christ being crucified, the cross was a sign of disobedience, a sign of unlawful activity, a sign of damnation, and a sign of condemnation. Thieves and criminals died on the cross so that society was “cleansed.” Jesus was considered one of those unlawful people despite the fact He had healed the sick, raised the dead, and performed miracles that had not been done by anyone else prior to His incarnation. He did not fit their earthly expectations with His divine plan! Therefore, He was crucified.

But after His resurrection, the Disciples, who effectively became apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-42), began to change the common perception of the Cross as they began preaching the resurrected Jesus Christ. Having received the Holy Spirit, Peter’s sermon (Acts 2:14-39) was emotionally moving and thought-provoking to the crowds. Thousands were baptized and started following Christ and His teachings through the words of the Apostles. The faithful’s view of the Cross began to change from a condemnation interpretation to a salvational reality, from a discouraging truth to an encouraging certainty, from a despair mentality to a hope mindset, and from a life destroying event to a life-giving actuality.

Such a change in demeanor toward the Cross urged the Church to utilize its power to inspire the faithful to take up the whole armor of God that they may be able to withstand in the evil day (Ephesians 6:13). That is why the Feast of the Cross has been celebrated on the third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent.

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

+BISHOP NICHOLAS





DIOCESE OF MIAMI AND THE SOUTHEAST

PRESENTS

PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE + 2024

JUNE 12TH-15TH

FAMILY AS ICON

HOSTED BY ST. STEPHEN CHURCH
HIRAM, GEORGIA

Join us for a PLC including divine services, the **Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon**, our annual Bible Bowl & Oratorical, and guest speakers.



CLICK TO REGISTER AND/OR BOOK A ROOM!

GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DR. PHILIP MAMALAKIS



SPEAKER:
FR. JOHN OLIVER



SPEAKER:
FR. JAMES GUIRGUIS



Upcoming Events

APRIL

AMEN LENTEN VIRTUAL RETREAT 2024

April 6, 2024
10:00 am - 2:00 pm EST - Zoom
[CLICK HERE FOR INFO!](#)

YAF LENTEN RETREAT 2024

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ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT 2024

April 20, 2024
8:00 am - 5:00 pm EST - Zoom
[CLICK HERE FOR INFO!](#)

MAY

2024 DOMSE SCHOLARSHIPS!

June 1 - July 1, 2024
[CLICK HERE FOR INFO!](#)

DOMSE 2024 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE (PLC)

June 12 - 15, 2024
St. Stephen Orthodox Church, Hiram, GA
[REGISTER HERE!](#)



JUNE

CAMP ST. THEKLA 2024 - SESSION 1

June 23 - 29, 2024
[REGISTER HERE!](#)

CAMP ST. THEKLA 2024 - SESSION 2

June 30 - July 6, 2024
[REGISTER HERE!](#)

SEPTEMBER

DOMSE FALL RETREAT 2024

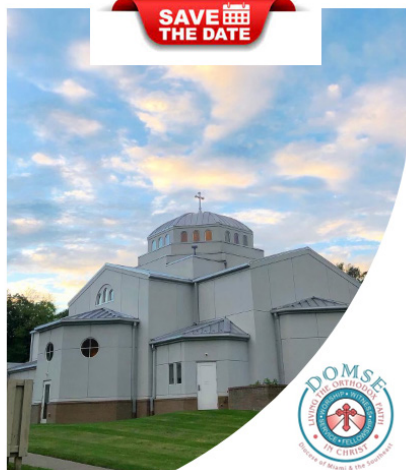
September 21 - 22, 2024
St. Ignatius Orthodox Church, Franklin, TN
[CLICK HERE FOR INFO!](#)

FALL RETREAT 2024

Hosted at St. Ignatius
Franklin, TN.

September 20 - 21, 2024

More details
<https://domse.org/event/domse-fall-retreat-2024/>



AMEN
ANTIOCHIANMEN.ORG

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN
DOMSEWOMEN
ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF DOMSE

YOUNG ADULT
DOMSE YAF

SOYO
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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
DOMSECHRISTIANED



Theology Editor's Corner

Every year during Great and Holy Lent, the Church gives us the opportunity to put our faith into action. We increase our efforts when it comes to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, all while trusting that our acts of faithfulness will lead to a deeper encounter with the Living God. In the Church, we know that faith is more than mere belief, and indeed, that "faith without works is dead," as St. James says in the Holy Scriptures [James 2:26]. But here, Christos Yannaras clarifies the nature of faith and shows how it deepens and grows within the Church. He says,

When we speak in business about "faith," we still mean today the trust which a merchant inspires in marketing circles. Everyone knows him; they know his conduct and the ethics of his dealings, his record of fulfilling his obligations... In the context of the Judaeo-Christian tradition, "faith" functions as it does in business and in the marketplace. Here the object of faith is not abstract ideas which derive their validity from some infallible authority. The object[s] of faith are specific persons you are called upon to trust in the context of an immediate experiential relationship...

So it is with faith in God. It can begin just with trust in the evidence of people who know Him and consort with Him and have been permitted the vision of His face and trust in the testimony of the experience of the patriarchs, saints, prophets, and Apostles. It can proceed to the study of the love which His works reveal, the insertions of His revelations within history, His word which leads us by the hand to the truth. Faith is transformed into immediate certainty and surrender of ourselves to His love when we are permitted to know His face, the uncreated beauty of the light of His glory...

When the Church calls us to her truth, she does not hold out some theoretical theses which must be accepted in principle. She invites us to a personal relationship, to a way of life which constitutes a relationship with God or leads progressively and experientially to a relationship with Him. This way transforms our entire life from individual survival to an event of communion. The Church is a *body* of communion wherein the *members* live, not each one for himself, but each one in an organic unity of love with the rest of the members and with the *head* of the body, Christ. "I believe in the truth of the Church" means that I agree to be included in the "bond of love" which constitutes it; I trust in the love of the saints and of God, and they accept me with faith and trust in my person (*Faith As An Ecclesial Experience*, 25-26, 27-28).

We often hear that Lent is the season of the bright sadness, and this is true in so many ways. Yes, the fasting and extra services of the Church are difficult, but we gain so much from being together more often during the week, and from being united with one another in a common struggle and in prayer and worship. Indeed, it is only as we are pushed to our limits that we can more fully entrust ourselves to God, His saints from every age, His ministers – the bishops, priests, and deacons, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ. May we experience the joy of being together as the Church – the very Body of Christ – every step of our Lenten journey, so that we come to know for ourselves that God and His holy ones are trustworthy, and that we have been accepted with full faith!

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



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