

the Light



MAY/JUNE 2024
NEWSLETTER

2024 DOMSE SCHOLARSHIPS

GET READY - Applications acceptance
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!](#)

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YOUTUBE

CHRIST IS RISEN!
TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Having labored patiently, with the help of God, through the Triodion, Great and Holy Lent, and Holy Week, we reaped the rewards during the Pascal services on Sunday morning. Laboring entailed orienting ourselves towards Christ and turning away from our society that professes and entices us to live a life of pleasures, ease, procrastination, and abundance. In his customary sermon, St. John Chrysostom delivered the good news of exhilaration, "Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord for the Lord gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour, as well as to him who toiled from the first. To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows. He accepts the work as he greets the endeavor. The deed He honors and the intention He commends."

Our Lord is munificent and overly supportive! He wants us to succeed in gaining His favor and return to the fold. Our intentions and efforts, no matter how minuscule they be, are crucial in attracting His disproportionately copious generosity and kindness! Nevertheless, His excessive rewards should promote in our psyche increased attempts to do better on our side. One way to do that is what St. Ephraim the Syrian suggests, "Brethren we are spiritual merchants, similar to those merchants who take care of material goods. Everyday, the merchant counts his profit and loss, and if he finds loss, he will work on fixing it. Similarly, my beloved ones, you should be careful every day,

morning, and evening, watching over your commerce. In the evening, test your heart and ask yourself: did I anger God in any way, or did I say vain words, or was negligent? Did I anger my brother or judge anyone? Was my mouth chanting, and my mind wandering away in earthly cares? Did I face a carnal temptation and accept it with gladness? If you fail the test, think how to restore yourself. Sigh and weep in order not to fall again." Our diligence on a daily basis, as St Ephraim proclaims, is the key to our success in achieving further goals and reconciling ourselves to God on a continual basis.

In other news, the PLC hosted by St. Stephen Church, Hiram, GA, is upon us. It is planned to be held during the period June 12 to June 15. However, you are welcome to stay on Sunday June 16, for two Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in two days. If you have not registered for the PLC, please do so promptly by clicking the link [here](#). In addition, Camp St. Thekla is also fast approaching and is planned for June 23-June 29 for session one and June 30-July 6 for session two. Furthermore, please be on the lookout for the Fall Retreat at the diocese [website](#).

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

+BISHOP NICHOLAS



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LENTEN RETREAT UPDATE

Antiochian Women

Sueanna Alter | All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh, NC

The Antiochian Women of DOMSE met in person and virtually on Saturday, April 20th, for our annual Hub and Spoke Lenten Retreat.

With an opening prayer and blessing from His Grace, Bishop Nicholas, our women began an in-depth discussion on the Seasons of Life and how to spend them in service to Christ and his Church. Our panel participants were Janet Yakubik, Christine Hallberg, and Stella Hallberg, who make up three generations of one Orthodox family, each of whom are faithfully serving the Church in different seasons. Janet spoke about growing up with two sets of grandparents who immigrated from Slovakia, and inheriting their traditions and love for service, and meeting her husband and raising three children in the Church. Christine spoke about finding herself in a time of transition where she has gone from having small children to now having teenagers who serve in the choir and altar instead of needing her during services. Stella is a junior in high school and spoke about looking forward to her next season in

life in college, and claiming her faith as her own by taking the initiative to attend Church and strengthen the OCF of whichever college she attends.

Our discussion compared each season in life to the seasons of the year, and how they affect the trees all around us. Stella might be said to be in spring, just beginning to bloom and show the fruit of her parents' labor in raising her in the Church. Christine in comparison sees herself as growing close to autumn, as her busy season of summer and actively shepherding her children through life comes to an end as they enter their teen years. Janet, as a loving grandmother, might be in winter, and while trees in winter can look still, they are preparing for the rejuvenation of a new spring, and Janet feels that her season of stillness is an opportunity for prayer and to gracefully make

space for those taking on the hard work that characterized her autumn, summer, and spring.

Fr. Kamal Alrahil, the spiritual advisor of the Antiochian Women, closed the retreat in prayer and our ladies across the diocese turned off zoom and turned to each other to continue the discussion about their own seasons in life and to break bread together. We are so thankful to have had this morning to spend on this edifying reflection, and hope that each Antiochian Women's Group continues to celebrate all of the seasons of our DOMSE women.





Teen SOYO

Stella Hallberg
All Saints Church | Raleigh, NC

Hey teens! It's your SOYO President Stella here. I want to tell you what a great year I have had serving on the Teen SOYO Board! We started off the year at leadership training in Arizona (which I missed and still have FOMO for). The Board bonded, planned the year, swam in the pool, and even saw Anees perform! Throughout the year we have met monthly to plan fun events for the DOMSE teens such as the Fall Retreat (which was both fantastic and educational), our most recent zoom Lenten Retreat, and a zoom "Ask Sayedna" session.

Serving on the SOYO Board this year has taught me so much about the Church and what it means to lead and serve. I cannot recommend the Teen SOYO Board enough if you feel called to serve the Church and Orthodox teens at a Diocesan level. If all of this sounds great to you, you may want to apply to be on the DOMSE Teen SOYO Board next year! Check the @domsesoyo Instagram bio for the application link. God willing, I hope to see you on zoom next year!

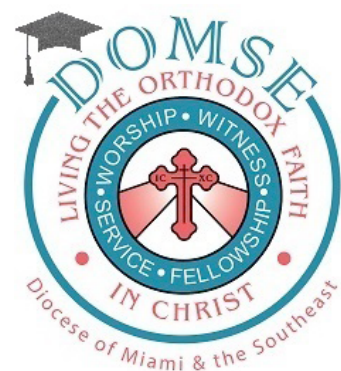


The DOMSE 2024-2025 Scholarship Application OPENS SOON!

JUNE 1 - JULY 1, 2024

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 2023-2024 academic year.
- Applicant must be accepted and enrolled as a freshman in the fall 2024 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 INFO AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION!](#)

SACRED MUSIC LIBRARY



Sacred Music Notes

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

Christ is Risen!

I know for all you church musicians, after the intensity and amount of work during Lent and Holy Week, you are truly feeling the lightness and joy of Pascha! Now with our hearts and minds refreshed, we are ready to continue to grow in our service to the church. This means professional development, and there are a number of opportunities available to DOMSE musicians.

The first is to sing at the PLC in Atlanta. We are blessed to have our National Choir of the Sacred Music Department, Mareena Boosrama Ball, organizing the chanters and leading the music this year. Attending a rehearsal and singing under a new conductor is always a learning opportunity. If you chant or sing in the choir at your parish, come up to the music area before services, so that all may be done in good order, to the glory of God!

The next opportunity is a much greater investment, with greater rewards. Attend the Sacred Music Institute (SMI) at the Antiochian Village. This year it is from Wednesday evening, July 10, through Sunday Liturgy, July 14, 2024. Here is the link

for more information and to register:

[2024 Summer Music Institute Registration](#)

Calling all High School Musicians! Concurrent with the SMI, the *Youth Music Ministry* (YMM) is offered to bring together young Orthodox Christians with a love for music and a desire to serve their Church. Participants will study Choral Music, Byzantine Chant, Vocal Production and Technique; they will learn challenging new music and participate in every Divine Service. *First-time attendees are FREE* - you only need to pay for travel costs. All applicants must submit letters of recommendation by their parish priest and a parent to Chris Farha (chrisfarha6@gmail.com) by June 17. Here is a link for more information: [Sacred Music Website](#)

It is with great joy that I am able to share with you that we have a new Sacred Music Library! It has been completely overhauled to be very user-friendly. The result is a collaboration between the Departments of Sacred Music, Internet Ministry, Liturgics and Communications. This is an invaluable resource for our diocesan

church musicians.

Here is a link directly to the library: <https://www.antiochian.org/sacred-music-library>

Some Navigation Tips... Hover the arrow over the books, and it will describe what is in the link. Find the liturgical book you need, like Menaion for the fixed feast days of each month; or Octoechos for each of the tones for each of the days of the week; or Lenten Triodion or Pentecostarion for the seasons of Lent and Pascha, respectively. You can also navigate through liturgical services like the Divine Liturgy, Vespers, Orthros, Baptism, Funeral and more. The liturgical books are organized chronologically. Each piece of sheet music in PDF has detailed descriptions. Some even have matching MIDI or MP3 files, so singers can listen to learn new pieces.

So, sing to the Lord a new song, or at least get a clean copy of songs you have been singing for a while.

Finally, keep an eye out for our new *Antiochian Online Sacred Music School*. Exciting things are happening! May DOMSE's churches be filled with joyous singing.



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

JUNE

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!](#)



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!](#)

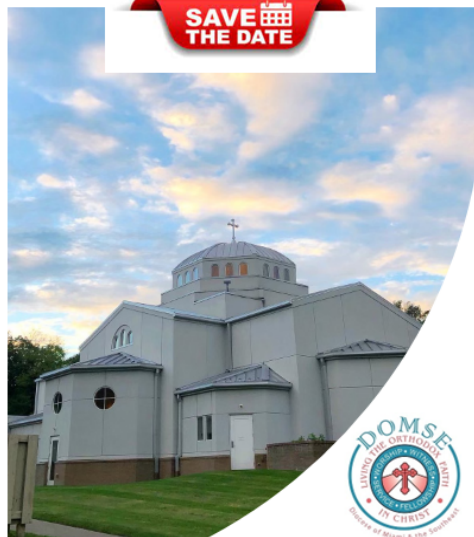
FALL RETREAT 2024

Hosted at St. Ignatius
Franklin, TN.

September 20 - 21, 2024

More details

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



SAVE
THE DATE



Support Your Diocese



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Antiochian Men | Antiochian Women
Young Adult Fellowship | Teen SOYO
or a General Donation

Thank You!

the
Light

AMEN

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ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

DOMSEWOMEN
 ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF DOMSE

YOUNG ADULT

DOMSE YAF

SOYO

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DOMSECHRISTIANED

General Schedule



DIocese of MIAMI AND THE SOUTHEAST

Parish Life Conference

June
12-15,
2024

HOSTED BY
ST. STEPHEN CHURCH (HIRAM, GA)

HILTON PEACHTREE CITY ATLANTA
HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

REGISTER HERE!

Time	Event	Room Location
<u>Wednesday, June 12, 2024</u>		
3:00 PM	8:00 PM Registration	Canterbury Counter
5:00 PM	6:30 PM Vespers with Litya and Artoclasia	McIntosh Ballroom
6:00 PM	8:30 PM Kids Club: Childcare (CLERGY KIDS) (Included with PLC)	Spalding Room
6:30 PM	8:30 PM Clergy and Wives Dinner with Bishop NICHOLAS	Lafayette Room
8:00 PM	9:00 PM Choir Practice	Peachtree Ballroom A
8:00 PM	10:00 PM Teen Hospitality	Lobby Area A
8:30 PM	10:00 PM Meet and Greet	Lobby Area B
10:00 PM	10:45 PM Paraklesis to the Mother of God	McIntosh Ballroom
<u>Thursday, June 13, 2024</u>		
7:00 AM	8:15 AM Orthros	McIntosh Ballroom
8:15 AM	10:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Homily	McIntosh Ballroom
10:00 AM	8:00 PM Registration	Canterbury Counter
10:00 AM	11:00 AM Brunch Buffet	Peachtree Ballroom
11:00 AM	4:30 PM Kids Club: Childcare (Included with PLC)	Spalding Room
11:00 AM	12:30 PM Talk 1: Family as Icon or Idol Speaker: Dr. Philip Mamalakis	Peachtree Ballroom
12:30 PM	1:30 PM Order of St. Ignatius Meeting and Light Lunch	Lafayette Room
12:30 PM	1:30 PM Young Adult Ministries (Young Adult Fellowship) Meeting	Peachtree Ballroom A
12:30 PM	1:30 PM SOYO Business Meeting	Peachtree Ballroom D
12:30 PM	1:20 PM Christian Education Speaker: Anna-Sarah Farha	McIntosh Ballroom
1:45 PM	2:45 PM Breakout Talk 1: Single Life (Dealing with being Single) Speaker: Dr. Philip Mamalakis	Peachtree Ballroom
1:45 PM	2:45 PM Breakout Talk 2: Our Kids (Who has their Minds) Speaker: Father John Oliver	McIntosh Ballroom
2:50 PM	4:30 PM Antiochian Women Meeting	Peachtree Ballroom A
2:50 PM	4:30 PM Antiochian Men Meeting	Peachtree Ballroom D
2:50 PM	4:30 PM Teen Outing Bowling/Arcade	Junction Lanes
3:00 PM	4:00 PM Choir Practice	McIntosh Ballroom
4:30 PM	5:00 PM Q & A with the Icon and Father Nectarios	McIntosh Ballroom
5:00 PM	6:00 PM Vespers	McIntosh Ballroom
6:00 PM	7:15 PM Dinner	Peachtree Ballroom
7:30 PM	8:30 PM Chanted Evening Event	McIntosh Ballroom
8:30 PM	10:00 PM Antiochian Women's Book Club	McIntosh Ballroom
8:30 PM	10:00 PM Young Adult Ministries (Young Adult Fellowship) bonfire	Meet in Lobby
8:30 PM	10:00 PM Antiochian Men Bible Study Speaker: Father Stephen De Young	Peachtree Ballroom
10:00 PM	10:45 PM Small Compline / Ask Abouna	McIntosh Ballroom
<u>Friday, June 14, 2024</u>		
8:15 AM	10:00 AM Divine Liturgy & Homily	McIntosh Ballroom
10:00 AM	5:00 PM Registration	Canterbury Counter
10:00 AM	11:00 AM Brunch Buffet	Peachtree Ballroom
11:00 AM	1:20 PM Kids Club: Childcare (Included with PLC)	Spalding Room
11:00 AM	12:30 PM Talk 2: Living as an Icon Speaker: Dr. Philip Mamalakis	Peachtree Ballroom
12:40 PM	1:20 PM Breakout Talk 3: Parenting and Step-Parenting Speaker: Dr. Philip Mamalakis	Peachtree Ballroom
12:40 PM	1:20 PM Breakout Talk 4: Overcoming our Personal Struggles Speaker: Father James Guirguis	McIntosh Ballroom
1:30 PM	3:30 PM Oratorical Festivals and Creative Arts Awards	Peachtree Ballroom
1:30 PM	2:30 PM Choir Practice	McIntosh Ballroom
3:30 PM	5:00 PM General Assembly	Peachtree Ballroom
5:00 PM	6:00 PM Vespers Introduce and Induct DOMSE Organization Officers	McIntosh Ballroom
6:00 PM	7:30 PM Dinner	Peachtree Ballroom
7:30 PM	8:00 PM Q&A with Bishop NICHOLAS	Peachtree Ballroom A
7:30 PM	8:15 PM Bible Bowl Team Check-In	Peachtree Ballroom D
8:15 PM	10:15 PM Bible Bowl	Peachtree Ballroom D
10:30 PM	11:15 PM Paraklesis	McIntosh Ballroom
<u>Saturday, June 15, 2024</u>		
8:00 AM	9:00 AM Orthros	McIntosh Ballroom
9:00 AM	11:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	McIntosh Ballroom



Theology Editor's Corner

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen! St. Gregory the Theologian's Festal Orations are a treasure of the Church and invite us deeper into the mystery of many of the feasts that we celebrate each year. Indeed, St. John of Damascus even used "St. Gregory's orations as his primary source in composing the Paschal Canon" that we sing with joy during this season of brightness (*Festal Orations*, SVS Press, 13). St. Gregory says,

It is the day of resurrection and an auspicious beginning. Let us be made brilliant by the feast and embrace each other. Let us call brothers even those who hate us, and much more those who have done or suffered anything out of love for us. Let us concede all things to the resurrection. Let us grant pardon to each other... (57)

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ, today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him, today I am made alive with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him, today I rise with Him. But let us make an offering to the one who died and rose again for us. Perhaps you think I am speaking of gold or silver or tapestries or transparent precious stones, earthly matter that is in flux and remains below, of which the greater part always belongs to evil people and slaves of things below and of the ruler of this world. Let us offer our own selves, the possession most precious to God and closest to Him. Let us give back to the Image that which is according to the image, recognizing our value, honoring the Archetype, knowing the power of the mystery and for whom Christ died (58).

Let us become like Christ, since Christ also became like us; let us become gods because of Him, since He also because of us became human. He assumed what is worse that He might give what is better. He became poor that we through His poverty might become rich. He took the form of a slave, that we might regain freedom. He descended that we might be lifted up, He was tempted that we might be victorious, He was dishonored to glorify us, He died to save us, He ascended to draw to Himself us who lay below in the Fall of sin. Let us give everything, offer everything, to the one who gave Himself a ransom and an exchange for us. But one can give nothing comparable to oneself, understanding the mystery and becoming because of Him everything that He became because of us (59).

May each one of us become more like Christ during this holy season, that by dying with Him, we will be raised up! Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!



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