

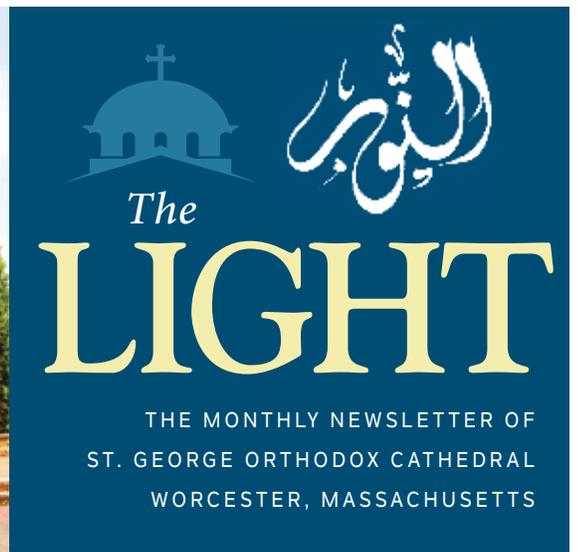
His Eminence
Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

His Grace, Bishop JOHN
Auxiliary Bishop for Worcester
and New England

Rev. Fr. Milad Selim, *Dean*

Rev. Fr. Seraphim Solof
Assistant Pastor

Rev. Dn. Anthony Payne



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Reflection

The Orthodox Church and Her Apostolic Succession



Fr. Milad Selim

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ established the Church as His living Body and entrusted Her into the hands of His disciples. His mandate to them was to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them all that [He] had commanded them” (Matthew 28:19-20). The disciples faithfully fulfilled Christ’s message by ensuring that the Good News of His salvific work was not only spread throughout the world, but entrusted into the hands of faithful leaders who would preserve and defend it until the second coming of our Lord. Those faithful leaders were Bishops who were ordained by the disciples through the laying on of hands. The New Testament makes mention of two of those Bishops, Timothy and Titus. In one of his Epistles, St. Paul instructs Timothy to not lay hands on anyone hastily (1 Timothy 5:22), as to not jeopardize the continuity of Christ’s message. In addition to the physical act of the laying on of hands, Apostolic Succession may also be understood as the continuity in doctrinal teaching from the time of the Apostles to the present. For centuries, Church Fathers have interpreted and defended the faith against heresies that threatened the Church. Their teachings were preserved from one generation to the next, guided by the Holy Spirit.

This doctrine of Apostolic Succession has raised many questions regarding the authenticity of churches that deviate from the ancient teachings of the Church. Theologians of various denominations are completely divided on this important issue, thus leading to a further division in the church today and threatening any possible unity of all Christians as One Church. The Roman Catholic Church affirmed, under Pope Benedict XVI on June 29, 2007, that the One

Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church “subsists” in the Roman Catholic Church alone. Almost all Protestant churches deny the doctrine of Apostolic Succession altogether, stating that it is neither taught in Scripture nor necessary for Christian teaching, life, and practice. While Orthodox theologians still maintain that the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church is fully revealed in the sacramental life of the Orthodox Church, they do not deny that God acts through other Christian churches for the salvation of the world.

This ongoing debate has become the focal point of numerous dialogs on church unity amongst Orthodox and nonOrthodox theologians. Throughout these dialogues, the Orthodox Church has never surrendered its belief that She “constitutes the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.” With that being said, the Orthodox Church continues to dialogue with faith, love and hope with other Christian churches for the unity of all believers on the basis that the Holy Spirit, who leads all people into unity in Christ, operates beyond the canonical boundaries of the Orthodox Church.

The Church of Antioch, one of the five ancient Christian Sees, traces Her roots in unbroken, Apostolic Succession to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called “Christians” (Acts 11:26). Therefore, through Apostolic Succession by the laying on of hands, the Bishops of our Patriarchate and all other Orthodox Bishops ultimately received their consecrations from our Lord Jesus Christ through His Apostles. Though each Bishop may have different titles and roles, they are equal in their sacramental office, through Apostolic Succession, and their preservation of the faith. Keep this in mind the next time you recite our confession of faith, the Creed.

If you would like to view the complete and uninterrupted list of Primates of the Apostolic See of Antioch, beginning with St. Peter, visit the Antiochian Archdiocese website: www.antiochian.org/patofant/primates +

OUR 4TH ANNUAL



AUGUST 4TH

*Bear one another's
burdens, and so fulfill
the law of Christ.*

Galatians 6:2

See inside for details.





FR. SERAPHIM'S
fun facts

From time to time, when we have something serious to discuss, the title of this column just doesn't fit. This is one of those times.

A few weeks ago, two celebrities took their own lives: Kate Spade, on June 5, and Anthony Bourdain, just three days later. In the wake of Spade's death, *Time* magazine published a short article in their June 18 issue on how prevalent—and even contagious—suicide has become. Reporter Jamie Ducharme wrote that, according to federal data, “suicide rates have increased steadily across nearly every demographic over the past two decades, rising by 28% from 1999 to 2016. Almost 45,000 Americans died by suicide in '16, making it the 10th most common cause of death that year...” Of course, we don't need *Time* magazine to tell us about what has already touched so many of us personally: the tragic loss of a friend or family member at their own hand.

A fact, but not a fun one...

Fr. John Breck, who taught Ethics when I was in seminary, wrote in *The Sacred Gift of Life* that suicide “refers to the taking of one's life through a free exercise of will. It implies an intentional and voluntary act of self-destruction, free from both external and internal constraints.” Our Archdiocese's Clergy Guide (2011) directs that “Suicide is considered rebellion against God and is equated with murder, and so one who commits suicide may not receive an Orthodox funeral service.” This sounds harsh, to be sure, but Bishop John shared with me that this is, in fact, an act of mercy: we, in the Church, are judged based on all we have been taught and all we have been given, which is everything. Those who are separated from the Church have—in some sense—a lower bar (*See St. Luke 12:48*). And with this in mind, those who take their own lives are treated as being separated from the Church.

The Church has made exceptions, however, in certain situations. The Clergy Guide notes that “The Holy Canons specifically are merciful to those who

suffer from mental illness or some sort of addiction,” and directs that “The Bishop should be consulted on all cases concerning suicide.” The “internal constraints” on free will that Fr. John refers to—mental illness or addiction, in the words of the Clergy Guide—have both medical and spiritual components,

and require both sorts of treatment to keep them from progressing to the point of self-harm or in the worst instances, self-murder. Active participation in the life of the Church, with frequent and sincere confession and communion, are critical to achieving and maintaining spiritual health; in practical terms, fellowship with the Church community and a relationship with your priest can help put even the most desperate situations into perspective. But it's equally vital to address any mental health or addiction issues—it's not an either/or, it's a both/and.

So if you or someone you know may be contemplating suicide, call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** at 1-800-273-8255. Then call your priest. +

“suicide rates have increased steadily... rising by 28% from 1999 to 2016...”

Gain optimal health with
inBalance
Chiropractic & Wellness

Dr. George Debs Dr. Jaelyn Debs
Dr. Saman Pezeshki Dr. Ryan Chin

352 Boston Tpke. 440 Arsenal St.
Shrewsbury Watertown
508-425-3304 617-926-0202

www.inbalancecw.com



Come on in and shop at the St. Nicholas Gift Shop

Great Gifts for all occasions: Baptism, Birthday, Name Day, Graduation, Engagement and much more at reasonable prices!!! Please stop by and see us.

All credit / debit cards accepted. Gift Certificates available.

Landscaping & Retaining Wall Construction

Asphalt Paving • Sealcoating
Snow Plowing & Sanding

Suburban Blacktop
Asphalt Paving & Excavation Contractor

Free Estimates
Ron McDonald, Owner
508-795-3832 | suburbanblacktop.com

Mercadante
FUNERAL HOME
& CHAPEL
Est. 1961

370 Plantation Street, Worcester
508.754.0486
Toll Free 800.854.0486
Fax: 508.798.0394
www.mercadantefuneral.com

El Basha
RESTAURANT & BAR

elbasharestaurant.com

423 Boston Post Rd. Sudbury 978.579.4970	424 Belmont St. Worcester 508.797.0884
2 Connector Rd. Westborough 508.366.2455	256 Park Ave. Worcester 508.795.0222

Now Open 880 Walnut St., Newton | 617.916.9076

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX



WOMEN

Our Women's Club May Meeting and dinner took place at Southgate in Shrewsbury, MA. In the past years some of our ladies have moved to Southgate in Shrewsbury.



We had a wonderful time visiting with them and enjoyed a delicious meal, great company and especially our time together, thank you. May God Bless you and protect you. +

JOIN US FOR
Paint Night

at the Cathedral



Tuesday

July

12

7-9pm
in the Hall

All ages welcome.

BYOB and snacks | \$35 per person

All proceeds will benefit our Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event on August 4, 2018.

Organized by our friends at Art Reach Studio, Worcester

RSVP at coffee hour or by calling the Cathedral at 508.752.9150



Be a part of it.

Sign up to volunteer today.

AUG

4

Go to stgeorgeworcester.org to sign up to volunteer or donate.

SINCE 2014 THERE HAS BEEN

1,500

volunteers from throughout the community

300,000

meals packed in one day

\$66,000

raised to support starving children



Thank you to the Funny4Funds organization and to all who came out on Friday, June 22 to our first ever comedy show at the Cathedral. The event raised close to \$2,500 for Feed My Starving Children and we had some great laughs.



Susan Kalil Collins
Owner / Realtor
508-523-7237

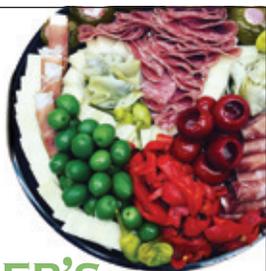


Sales • Vacation Rentals

Collins & Demac
Real Estate

520 Main Street • Shrewsbury

The best parties begin at



ED HYDER'S
Mediterranean Marketplace

408 Pleasant Street, Worcester
508.755.0258 | edhyders.com



Partnering with healthcare organizations to maximize the value of the MEDITECH EHR.

888.837.1300

www.navinhaffty.com

1900 West Park Drive, Suite 180
Westborough



Worcester
28 Lake Avenue
508.756.6916
Fax: 508.754.1883

Westboro
3A Colonial Drive
508.366.8958
Fax: 508.836.4757

Home of the Famous Regatta Club

www.regattadeli.com

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Contact the Cathedral office or organization members for more details.

JUL 12 Paint Night at the Cathedral—all ages
See inside for details.

AUG 16-19 Orthodox Young Professionals Conference
Denver, Colorado

AUG 4 Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack Event
See inside for details.

SEP 14-17 Antiochian Village Adult Camp



ST. GEORGE
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

30 Anna Street, Worcester, MA 01604
508-752-9150 | stgeorgeworc@gmail.com
www.stgeorgeworcester.org

To advertise for \$65/month contact the Cathedral Office.



Follow us on Facebook for up to date information at [stgeorgeworcester](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeworcester)

The
LIGHT

Published Monthly
St. George Orthodox Cathedral
Worcester, MA 01604

The Light is made possible by the generous support of our advertisers. Please mention you saw their ad here. Thank you.



Save the Date

October 1, 2018

Charles M. Dowd
Memorial
Golf Tournament

*Celebrating our 28th anniversary
Parish Dinner after Golf
Everyone welcome*



*Recent Holy Sacraments
Celebrated
at St. George Cathedral*



FUNERALS

Tom Maloof
June 14

George Bayrouy
June 14



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LIGHT
The

Diocese of Worcester and New England
of the Antiochian Christian Archdiocese
of North America

ST. GEORGE
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



30 Anna Street
Worcester, MA 01604

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Worcester, MA
Permit No. 46