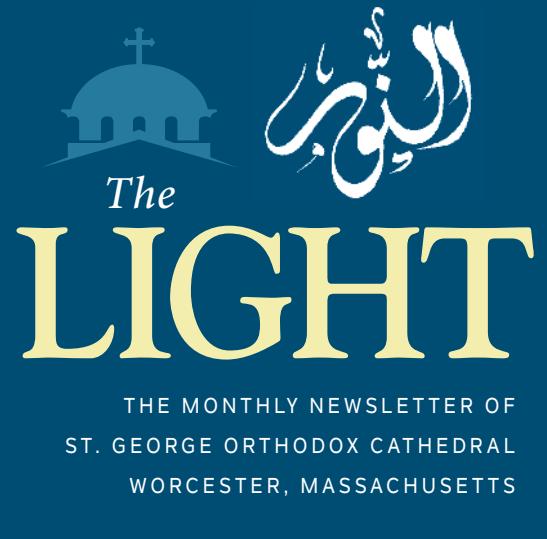


VOLUME 6
ISSUE
03
NOVEMBER 2017

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



STEWARDSHIP - HELP US MEET OUR GOAL FOR 2017

Reflection



Fr. Milad Selim

One of the most important aspects of our Christian life is stewardship. It focuses on our call to offer our time, talent and treasure to God through His Church. *It allows us to thank Him for every earthly and heavenly blessing He bestows upon us* (James

1:17). Our goal at St. George Orthodox Cathedral is to ensure that 100% of our operating budget is supported through stewardship, your generous annual giving. Though we've made great progress toward this goal, and our individual annual pledge amount has increased over the years, we still have a lot of work to do. Nearly 50% of our operating budget is still collected through fundraising events, hall rentals and other sources.

Our focus on outreach for those within and outside of our community, such as Feed My Starving Children, Christmas Food Baskets, IOCC emergency health kits, Syrian Relief Fund, support for local refugees and the building project of St. Elias Church in Lebanon, has encouraged and inspired a number of individuals and foundations to support our Cathedral's efforts and programs. Our church membership is increasing at a remarkable rate. We pray that these ministries

and events have affected you in a positive way also. We recently established the Good Samaritan Fund, a financial resource for active members of our Cathedral who may face unexpected financial hardships. It is funded by every one of our fundraising events, where a tithe (10%) of the profit is automatically designated for this fund. We also continue to tithe to our beloved Antiochian Archdiocese annually, based on our total income, to help support our Archdiocesan ministries.

For this year's stewardship, we had budgeted \$230,000. We have received \$159,000 thus far.

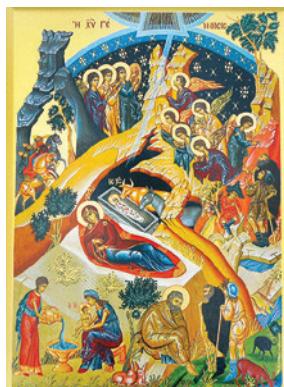
We anticipate receiving \$54,000 before the end of the year, leaving us with a shortfall of \$17,000. In order to continue to grow our ministries and

programs, we are asking you to help us meet our stewardship budget before the end of this year. If you are already a financial steward of our Cathedral, we thank you and kindly ask that you fulfill your stewardship pledge or if not, we ask for your generous offering so that we can meet our goal. Remember, it is not how much we give, but how we give—with cheerfulness, faith and love.

I thank you for taking the time to read this important reflection. Please send in your stewardship contribution today. May God bless you with every earthly and heavenly blessing. **+**

Our goal

at St. George Orthodox Cathedral is to ensure that **100%** of our operating budget is supported through stewardship.



The Nativity Fast Begins

Wednesday, November 15, 2017, is the beginning of this year's Nativity Fast.

The Nativity Fast is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, **not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**

(2 Corinthians 9:7)



FR. SERAPHIM'S
fun facts

A few weeks ago, our parish was blessed with a visit from the "Holy Myrrh-Streaming Hawaii-Iveron Icon." What does all that mean? Let's break it down from back to front.

Fr. Thomas Hopko writes, "The traditional Orthodox icon is not a holy picture. It is not a pictorial portrayal of some Christian saint or event in a 'photocopy' way. It is, on the contrary, the expression of the eternal and divine reality, significance, and purpose of the given person or event depicted." So this particular icon of the Mother of God is an expression of her eternal and divine reality, significance and purpose, which is to direct us to her son, Jesus Christ.

This particular icon originates from Hawaii, and is a copy of the "Iveron icon of the Mother of God," so called because it resides at the Iveron (Georgian) Monastery on Mt. Athos. The original icon, which also

goes by the name "Portaitissa" or "The Gatekeeper," has a very rich, miraculous history of its own, dating back to the 9th century.

This brings us to the most interesting aspect of the icon that visited us: it is actively "myrrh-streaming." Over the course of the church's history, the relics of various saints have been known to exude myrrh, which is a fine and fragrant oil. The most famous of these is probably St. Demetrios of Thessaloniki. His relics

Holy Myrrh-Streaming Hawaii-Iveron Icon



continue to produce myrrh to this day, so plenteously that his title in Greek ("Myrobletes") is often translated "Myrrh-gushing," not just "Myrrh-streaming." Certain icons exude myrrh as well, often

(but not always) manifesting as tears, and usually accompanied by a beautiful aroma, most often of roses.

Miraculous happenings like this often bring us joy, but they can also be confusing. What does this mean? What is the significance? What is God or the saint trying to tell us? And do I have to believe in things like this in order to be Orthodox?

Myrrh-streaming icons aren't anything we have dogmas about—there are no official teachings, rules or regulations. They proceed not from any law, but from grace alone, from the love and kindness and mercy of God, of the Mother of God, and of the saints. They're a gift, a consolation, a kindness—a token of love! (At times, they can be a warning, too—they should always provoke humility, self-examination and repentance.) And you don't have to believe in them to be Orthodox—but they're quite real, so why would you not? Babies cry real tears—we can see them. It's not a matter of faith but of fact. Sometimes icons weep real tears, and stream fragrant myrrh—we can see it, and it smells like heaven. What's not to believe? +



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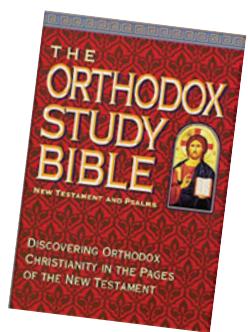
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Our Women's Club meeting is on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 6:00 PM in the Cathedral Hall. Our Guest Speaker is Dr. Kerry Wilkins, who will be speaking on Autism. Admission is free and refreshments will be served, so please join us and bring a friend for this informative meeting.

Our group continues to assemble health kits that will be distributed by the IOCC to help the victims from the recent Hurricanes that left so much devastation in many places. If you would like to make a monetary donation for the health kits, please see one of the Officers of the Women's Club, thank you. +

CHURCH SCHOOL

Beginning on November 12th, Church School students will no longer sit with their teachers during the Divine Liturgy. Instead, all students will enter the Cathedral at 10 AM and sit with their parents. Students whose parents are not present at the Divine Liturgy will not be supervised by anyone. The purpose for this change is to allow and encourage families to worship together, developing a strong faith-based family bond. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

WHAT IS PERFECTION IN LOVE?

Love your enemies in such a way that you would desire to make them your brothers ... For so did He love, Who hanging on the Cross, said
“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

(St. Augustine, Sermons on I John, I.9)

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SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
YAM

After a brief summer hiatus, the Young Adult Fellowship hosted a 4-week Paraklesis service every Wednesday in October. The prayer of supplication to the Virgin Mary was offered for all those currently struggling with any addiction personally or have someone in their lives struggling with an addiction. Each service was concluded with a Trisagion service for all those we have lost to an addiction and a reflection from Fr. Milad. At the third service, we were honored to have the Hawaiian Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon visiting the Cathedral and present for all to receive anointing with its oil. Our Young Adults were active in greeting those attending the services and chanting the beautiful hymns of the Paraklesis. We have some exciting events in the works for the next few months and encourage you to keep a look out!

If you are interested in joining the Young Adult Fellowship or have an event in mind, please email SaintGeorgeYAM@gmail.com or see Colette Houssan.

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BAPTISMS

Mila Jeorgos
09/23/2017

John Jeorgos, Elvira Sulce

Isabella Caroline Paldino

09/30/2017

Nicholas Michael Paldino
Stephanie Risiott



FUNERALS

Mary (Ansara) Rizkalla
09/27/17

George Mahassel

10/6/17

UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact the Cathedral office or organization members for more details.

**NOV
7**

Women's Club Meeting



**NOV
18**

Teen SOYO
Apple Pie Baking

Place you order by
Nov. 12. See any of
the teens for more
information.

**NOV
30**

Men's Club Meeting

*Wisdom
is with the aged...*

**SUNDAY
Nov. 12**

Join us for dinner as we celebrate our
Respected Elders for their Love, Wisdom
and Their Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hosted by the St. George Women's & Men's Club

Please make your reservations.

Pamela Samara: pms@townisp.com

Directly Following
Divine Liturgy
in the Hall



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The
LIGHT

NOVEMBER 2017
Published Monthly
St. George Orthodox Cathedral
Worcester, MA 01604
Volume 6 | Issue 3

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ST. GEORGE



November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Vespers 5 pm
5 Feast of St. Raphael Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	6	7 Women's Club Meeting 6pm	8	9	10	11 Vespers 5 pm
12 Elders appreciation Luncheon Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	13 Parish Council Meeting 7 pm	14	15 Nativity Fast Begins 11/15-12/24	16	17	18 SOYO Apple Pie Making Vespers 5 pm
19 Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	20 Evening Divine Liturgy 6 pm	21 Entrance of the Theotokos	22	23 Thanksgiving Day 	24	25 Vespers 5 pm
26 No Church School Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	27	28	29	30 Men's Club Meeting 6pm	1	2 Vespers 5 pm