

VOLUME 7

ISSUE

02

OCTOBER 2018

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



Reflection

## The Matthew 25 Challenge



Fr. Milad Selim

In this chapter of the Bible, Jesus presents us with a map showing us the path toward His Kingdom. In the beginning of the chapter, He compares His Kingdom to ten virgins, five wise and five foolish. The foolish ones were not prepared for His arrival, while the wise ones prepared their lamps and filled them with oil. He later compares the Kingdom to a man traveling to a far country who called his servants over in order to entrust them with his goods. He gave the first five talents, the second two talents and the third one talent. He expected them to care for and multiply them and to offer them back to him upon his return. The passage tells us that the one who received five talents made five more, the one with two made two more, and the one with one talent kept his talent hidden and did not offer him anything in return. These two parables are given to us as a way to remind us that the Son of Man will come to judge the living and the dead at an hour we do not expect. When that time comes, we ought to be prepared for it as the wise virgins did. They remained vigilant all night, awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom. The chapter then continues with, in my opinion, one of the most powerful messages in the entire Bible, loving the least of the brethren - the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick and prisoner. On the day of our final judgment, He will separate those who have served the least of the brethren from those who have not. He will say to those on His right side, "Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world", and to those on the left, "Depart from

me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels".

This chapter is the foundation of our Christian life. As relational beings, we come to know ourselves and others by entering into a relationship with Christ, and we know Him through the face of the neighbor - the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick and prisoner. The early church of Antioch flourished under this identity, along with Her rich theology and traditions. The Church appointed ministers to care for those in need, both spiritually and materially. likewise, the local church is called to live the Gospel in a similar way. A church community must look

to encounter Christ through the face of the neighbor, the least of the brethren. Therefore, the church community becomes more than Sunday Liturgy, coffee hour and hours-long committee meetings. The identity of a church community is revealed through the actions of Her people who gather around the Eucharist and one another, selflessly serving one another and living in harmony

according to God's will.

Here at our Cathedral, I'm always reviewing and evaluating the quality and effectiveness of our organizations and ministries. One of the traps many churches fall into, is doing things the way they have always been done. Our world is changing at a pace never seen before. With the availability of technology, people are more connected than ever, and yet, they seem to be a world apart. Our children no longer play on the "hill", and we no longer walk to church. Our doors aren't always open for parishioners or the priest to visit at any time. Our children are being taught to challenge the teachings of the Church, with no regards to how that will affect their salvation. As a church community, we must do more! +

As relational beings, we come to know ourselves and others by entering into a relationship with Christ



*By the grace of God* and with the blessing of Fr. Milad, our Cathedral will host a three-day Middle Eastern Festival from June 7th -9th in 2019. It has been 25 years since the Cathedral hosted a festival of this size. Christine ElHousson has been appointed as the chairperson of the festival. Mark your calendar and be ready to serve.



**FR. SERAPHIM'S**  
*fun facts*

So, hopefully I convinced you last month of the importance of going to confession, whether on a periodic basis (for general checkups and chronic spiritual conditions) or immediately and perhaps repeatedly (in the acute event of some grave sin or temptation to sin). But, you may be wondering—perhaps with some hope for a pass!—why do I have to confess to a priest? Why isn't it enough for me to confess my sins to God?

First, let's be clear. You are confessing your sins to God. As your priest might say to you, in one of the prayers that are part of the formal sacrament of confession: "Behold, child, Christ stands invisibly before you to hear your confession... I am only the witness, that I may bear witness before Him of all that you tell me." It is our Lord Jesus Christ, in fact, who hears your confession. And "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

# Isn't it enough to confess my sins to God?

(1 John 1:9) But as a witness, your priest can do three things for you that won't/can't/don't happen without him.

First, he helps to hold us accountable. It's one thing for me to whisper to God in the privacy of prayer the things I've done wrong, the things I'm ashamed of, enumerating the ways in which I've let Him, other people and myself down. It's another thing entirely for me to suck it up and say those words to another human being. They become more real, harder to avoid and escape: I say the words to another person, and I own them. That's critically important in making the confession "work."

Second, he can offer us good advice—spiritual counsel. Originally, the sacrament of confession and spiritual counseling were distinct activities, but over time, they came together... and that's a beautiful thing. As part of the same prayer before confession cited above, the priest says: "Be not ashamed, neither be afraid, and hide nothing from me. Rather, do not fear to tell me all that you have done, so that you may receive forgiveness from our Lord

As a witness to your confession, your priest can do three things for you that won't/can't/don't happen without him.

Jesus Christ." Once I've shared with him "all that I have done," he can give me good advice on how to avoid backsliding or falling into greater sin. Just like your doctor can prescribe medications

and lifestyle changes to help us address any medical issues, so our priest can prescribe spiritual medications and practices to help restore us to health.

And finally, having heard our sincere confession, our priest can assure us of God's forgiveness, of our reconciliation to Him and to His church:

God it was who pardoned David through Nathan the Prophet when he confessed his sins, Peter who wept bitterly for his denial, the Harlot weeping at his feet, the Publican and the Prodigal; may the same God forgive thee all things, through me a sinner, both in this world and in the world to come, and set thee uncondemned before his dread Judgment Seat. Now, having no further care for the sins which thou hast confessed, depart in peace.

More beautiful words, we will never hear! +

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WOMEN

**Technology that Unites, Divides, and Binds Us:  
How We Are More Disconnected and Addicted than  
Ever in This Connected World**

On September 11, 2018, the Women's Club invited Jamil Samara to speak about Technology that Unites, Divides, and Bind Us: How we are more disconnected and addicted than ever in this connected world.

Though the digital tools which surround us claim to create a more connected world, they are in fact a two-edged sword that inhibit connection by creating barriers, preventing real relationships, self-knowledge, and revelation. The websites, apps, phones, tablets, and more that we've developed to free and assist us in the digital realm, in fact, can actually bind us and lead us to addiction. In the workshop, we

explored the opportunities and challenges that technology offers when it comes to attaining self-knowledge, building relationships with friends and family, knowing God, and forming community with one another.

Jamil Samara is the Director of the Department of Internet Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Originally from St. George Cathedral in Worcester, he is currently an active member of St. Mary Orthodox Church of Cambridge, MA. Professionally, he is interested in contemplating the convergence of technology and faith and strives to further develop tools and services that benefit the Orthodox Church and faithful worldwide. Jamil Samara's presentation was very informative and it was a pleasure having him as our guest speaker.

The next meeting will be held on October 2, 2018 at 6:00 PM. Please contact Pam Samara for reservations during the coffee hour. Our speaker is Collette Houssan who will be giving an interactive presentation on CPR.



**Bashara K. Forzley** owned and operated the B. K. Forzley Dry Goods store in Grafton Square. Pictured in front of the store is his son Mitchell (see below) sitting in the back seat of the car and Bashara's delivery truck. +



**Correction:** In August, some items from the Syrian-American Drum Corps were pictured in this column. Thank you to Rose Haddad who identified one of the musical instruments as a fife, similar to the one her father, Naimer Haddad, played.



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If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

*"The devil does not hunt after those who are lost; he hunts after those who are aware, those who are close to God. He takes from them trust in God and begins to afflict them with self-assurance, logic, thinking, criticism. Therefore we should not trust our logical minds."*

-Saint Paisios of Mt. Athos



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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

Contact the Cathedral office or organization members for more details.

**OCT 5-7** Diocese Family Camp at St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, Contoocook, NH

**OCT 19-21** Bazaar & Food Fair at St. George, West Roxbury, MA

**OCT 5-7** Teen SOYO Fall Camp at Contoocook, NH

**OCT 28** Metropolitan JOSEPH visits St. George Cathedral. (see right)



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Recent Holy Sacraments Celebrated at St. George Cathedral



### BAPTISMS

**James E. Arous**  
08/28/2018  
Father: Edward Arous  
Mother: Laura Spring

## Join us for Liturgy on October 28

in celebration with His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America, His Grace, Bishop JOHN and our community. Delicious full course luncheon follows Hierarchal Divine Liturgy... All parishioners welcomed.

\$20.00 for Adult | \$10.00 for Children

Reservations in advance with payment by October 24th, 2018.  
508-752-9150 or www.stgeorgeworcester.org.



## We will Celebrate

Can you believe it has been 50 years since the Cathedral's construction began in 1968? On view will be a photo montage of our 25th Anniversary Celebration.

Our 50th Anniversary of the consecration of the Cathedral will be in 2020.



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

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# October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> <b>The Holy Protection of the Theotokos</b>  <b>Golf Tournament and Dinner</b>	<b>2</b>  Women's Club 6pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Diocesan Family &amp; Teen SOYO Camps</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Diocesan Family &amp; Teen SOYO Camps</b>  Vespers 5 pm
<b>7 Parish-wide Spiritual Brew during coffee hour</b> Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	<b>8</b> <b>Columbus Day</b>  Parish Council Meeting 7 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>No Vespers</b>
<b>14</b> Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am <b>Woman's Club bake sale after Liturgy</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Vespers 5 pm
<b>21</b> Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Teen SOYO movie night and pizza</b>	<b>25</b>  Men's Club 6pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>The Balamand Foundation Dinner</b>  Vespers 5 pm
<b>28 Metropolitan JOSEPH's Visit &amp; luncheon</b> Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  Vespers 5 pm