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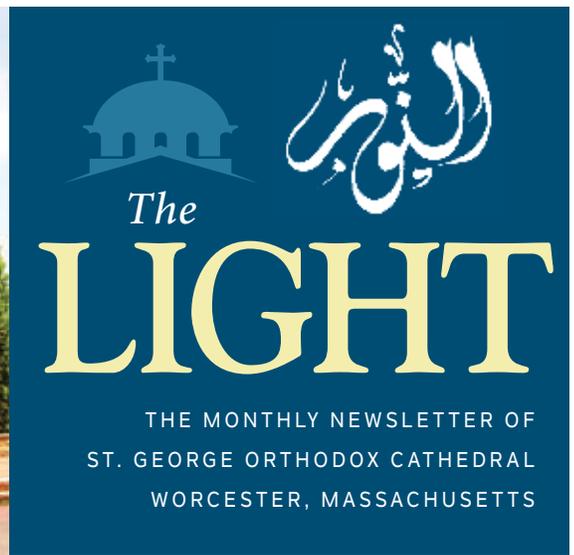
His Eminence
Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

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 Active and Lapsed Parishioner



Fr. Milad Selim

When we speak of church membership, we generally categorize parishioners into different groups based on their level of involvement or activity in the life of the Church. We refer to the one who attends services on a regular basis and contributes his/her time, talent and treasure for the well-being of the church as an active member. The one who attends sporadically, on feast days for example, as somewhat active. And the one who never attends as lapsed or inactive. But then there are those who only attend or call upon the church when they are in need of something or need the church to perform a certain sacrament. Categorizing parishioners based on their activity level is easy, understanding the reasons behind someone's activity level is more difficult, and finding a way to convert someone from being inactive or lapsed to active has proven to be extremely difficult.

This topic has been studied by church leaders around the world for many years. Numerous theories and ideas have been made public. The fact that we live in a secular world or a post-Christian world has definitely played a major role. What the Church teaches is easily rejected by young people who view science as the ultimate proof of existence. Another notion is that the Church is viewed as being closed minded, stuck in an irrelevant history that no longer applies in today's world. These are just a few theories out there attempting to answer the question of why people stop attending church.

To me, the problem starts at a young age.

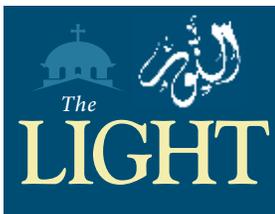
The behavior and priorities parents demonstrate before their children, along with the behavior and priorities church communities exhibit before their parishioners, teaches everyone, adult and children alike, what is valuable and more important. This sad reality is not only about the young people who are no longer attending services, but it is about the older ones also. There are countless number of older parishioners who no longer attend services or even consider themselves members of any church. Many would argue that it is much more difficult to alter the behavior of high school students and older than a child who depends on his/her parents.

This topic amazes me because as a parent, I know that my children need God in their lives. As a parent, I want to give my children a strong foundation in the Orthodox faith, one that will guide and protect them throughout their lives as they go out into the world. Shouldn't this be the goal of every parent—to protect, provide for, equip and send out? Isn't this what the Church does for all of us, Her children? As a community of faith, we need to ask ourselves this same question. Are we doing our job? Are we teaching our families how to pray together, equipping them with the tools they need in order to go out into world and spread the Holy Orthodox faith?

I recently conducted a study that looked over the last 11 years of sending kids to the Antiochian Village and their current involvement within our Cathedral or another Orthodox Church where they may currently live. What I learned from this study confirmed the teachings on the behavior of adolescents, young adults and their parents.

Please see inside for the findings of this research.

The last issue



After nine consecutive years of monthly publication, this will be the last issue of *The Light*. We will look for new exciting ways to share our news and reflections with you. We thank our advertisers and designers, Chris Coury and Jim Casey, for their support over the last nine years and pray for their continued success.



FR. SERAPHIM'S
fun facts

How can it be August already? Well, the days may be getting shorter, but there's no shortage of light and life on the church front!

August 1 marks the beginning of the Dormition Fast, which runs until the Great Feast of the Dormition (or Falling Asleep) of the Mother of God on August 15. This fast is kept very strictly—second only to the fasts of Great Lent and Holy Week. But it is not a dark fast, or a dark period in the life of the Church. It is anything but! This is shown most magnificently in one of the hymns sung at Great Vespers for the feast—a hymn which stands out in that each line is chanted in a different tone:

By the divine command, the God-bearing Apostles were caught up by clouds from every place. When they came to your all-pure body, the source of Life, they kissed

The summer is racing by

it most reverently. The highest Powers of heaven were also present with their Master, and seized with awe, they escorted the inviolate body, the body that had received God in the flesh. In a manner beyond this world, they went before it and invisibly cried out to the ranks above them: "Behold, the Queen of all and Child of God has come! Lift up your gates, and in a manner beyond this world receive the Mother of the ever-lasting Light, for through her was accomplished the salvation of all the mortal race! We cannot gaze upon her, nor is it possible to render honor worthy of her, for her excellence surpasses all understanding." Therefore, immaculate Theotokos, who lives forever with your Son, the life-bearing King, pray ceaselessly to Him to preserve the new people of God, and to save them from every hostile assault, for we have acquired your

intercession, and to the ages, in manifest splendor, we call you blessed."

We don't fast out of sadness or mourning—but out of reverence and great wonder, recognizing that "we cannot gaze upon her, nor is it possible to render honor worthy of her, for her excellence surpasses all understanding."

In addition to the Fast and Feast of the Dormition, August is marked by the Great Feast of the Transfiguration on August 6, which is precisely 40 days before—and thus connected to—the Great Feast of the Elevation of the Cross on September 14. We commemorate the Beheading of St. John the Baptist on August 29, a strict fast day on whatever day of the week it falls and church year, which begins anew on September 1. But that is a story for next month! +



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SEPT
29



Join us for a few laughs.

We once again have partnered with the Funny4Funds organization for another great comedy show at the Cathedral. Last year the event raised close to \$2,500 for Feed My Starving Children, let's see if we can beat that.

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Reflection

Research: Active and Lapsed Parishioner

109 different campers attended the Antiochian Village over the last 11 years.

54 campers no longer attend services or connected to a church, all are in their 20s - 50% (10 in College)

42 are active (20 under the age of 15, 10 of which attended camp for first time) - 39%

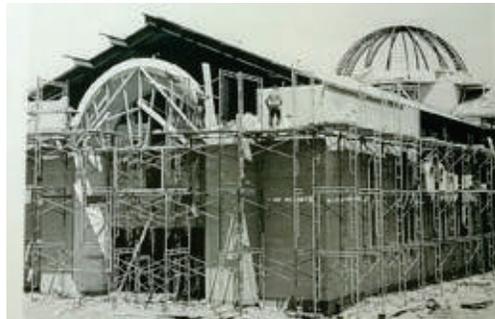
13 attend sporadically, a few times a year - 12%

Conclusion

- Those who stayed connected to camp for several years stayed connected in the life of the Church.
- Those who go away for college come back feeling disconnected and out of place.

- Those who became active came back because they were asked to serve or help with something specific.
- 90% of those who are active have parents who are very active in the life of the church Liturgically and Sacramentally.
- 83% of those who are not active have parents who are not active in the life of the Church.

Furthermore, the above study highlights the importance of parents' involvement in the life of their children. We must do a better job educating families on the importance of prayer and faith within their homes. +



In 1968, construction of the new church complex began with a groundbreaking ceremony at our current location on Anna St. George Hayeck, of Hayeck Building & Realty Company, had presented plans to the Board of Directors and the Building Commission, then committed to build the church. Edward Nabhan, Building Commission Chairman, led fundraising teams, and \$500,000 in

total was pledged by every parish family. Another \$400,000 was taken out in a mortgage. The site planning, building plans, costs, and financing were put together and the cornerstone was laid. Within two years, there would be a facility consisting of a domed Byzantine style church, Sunday School classrooms, offices, kitchen, and multi-purpose halls. +



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



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UPCOMINGEVENTS

Contact the Cathedral office or organization members for more details.

AUG 24	Holy Trinity's 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance	SEPT 30	Charles M. Dowd Memorial Golf Tournament
SEPT 19	FMSC Funny 4 Funds Fundraiser	OCT 3-5	FMSC MobilePack Event



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ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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www.stgeorgeworcester.org

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The
LIGHT

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St. George Orthodox Cathedral
Worcester, MA 01604

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Save the Date

Charles M. Dowd Memorial
Golf Tournament

SEPT
30

*Celebrating our 29th
anniversary*

*Parish Dinner after Golf
Everyone welcome*



*Recent Holy Sacraments
Celebrated at
St. George Cathedral*



BAPTISM

(Matthew) Ryan Nasrah
July 14
Father: Michael Naser Nasrah
Mother: Lane Denise John



MARRIAGE

Kaitlin Brazell & Fady Khouzami
July 13

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of the Antiochian Christian Archdiocese
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HOLY TRINITY NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

25th Anniversary

Dinner Dance Celebration

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019

ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL 30 ANNA STREET WORCESTER, MA

Cocktails 6pm Dinner 7pm

Tables of 10 \$75 per person

Formal Invitation to Follow



HOLY TRINITY NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER

25th Anniversary Dinner Dance Celebration

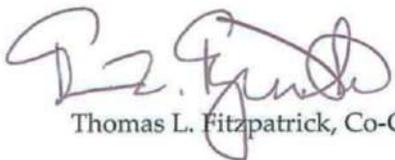
Holy Trinity Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (HTNRC) is blessed to be celebrating its *25th Anniversary* as a skilled nursing facility. In celebration of this great milestone, HTNRC will be hosting a Dinner Dance on Saturday, August 24, 2019.

Over the past 25 years HTNRC has received many awards and high marks by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and US News. Most recently HTNRC was recognized by the Department of Public Health as a *Deficiency Free Nursing Home*. As a nonprofit institution, HTNRC relies greatly on the generosity of donors like you to support our efforts to provide the best possible care and services to our residents.

We ask you to join us as we celebrate 25 years of providing compassionate, qualitative skilled nursing care and rehabilitation services to those in need in Central MA. Consider placing an Ad in our Program Book. We would be honored to feature you and/or your business. Your participation will go a long way in helping us continue to provide the programs and services that are so important to our residents.

The Program Book will be distributed to all attendees that evening along with being available on our website and social media. Your support will be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,


Thomas L. Fitzpatrick, Co-Chair


Georgia Parafestas, Co-Chair


Kristina Niedbala, Co-Chair

Contributions are tax deductible. Holy Trinity is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit Charitable organization

300 Barber Ave, Worcester, MA 01606

Email: Kmironidis@htnr.net

TEL: 508.852.1000

www.htnr.net



HOLY TRINITY NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER

25th Anniversary Dinner Dance Celebration

Below are the sponsorship levels. You can place an ad “in honor of,” “in memory of,” or advertise your business. Your business will be featured on our website and our social media platforms.

- EVENT SPONSOR (7.5”W x 10”H) \$ 2,500**
 - Listed as Event Sponsor on cover of our Program Book
 - Full color page ad (inside front cover, inside back cover or outside back cover).
 - Banner with your name and logo prominently displayed at the event
- Full Page **GOLD** (7.5”W x 10”H) \$ 1,000
- Full Page (B&W)- (7.5”W x 10”H) \$ 500
- Half Page (B&W)- (7.5”W x 4.75”H)..... \$ 300
- Quarter Page (B&W) - (4.75”W x 3.5”H) \$ 200
- Eighth Page (B&W)- (2.5”W x 3.5”H) \$ 100

ARTWORK/AD REQUIREMENTS

- Email High Resolution Artwork (jpeg, pdf, png.)
- Need Ad Created? Contact kmironidis@htnr.net
- Artwork Attached. High quality, hard copy is attached (will be scanned).
- Message Attached

**Ads must be received by:
August 1, 2019**

Full Page 7.5" x 10" <u>Gold</u> - \$1000 B&W Page - \$ 500	1/2 Page 7.5" x 4.75" \$300
	1/4 Page 4.75" x 3.5" \$200
	1/8 Page \$100 2.5" x 3.5"

PAYMENT INFORMATION

AMOUNT: \$ _____

- Check Credit Card (*circle one*) MASTER CARD VISA AMEX

Credit Card NUMBER _____ EXP DATE _____

Business Name _____ Contact _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check payable to and Mail to: Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
300 Barber Avenue, Worcester, MA 01606 www.htnr.net



St. George Orthodox Cathedral

Event # 1910-139MI

Location: Worcester MA

On October 5, 2019 St. George's Orthodox Cathedral will be hosting its 5th annual **Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™ event**. On that day, 500 volunteers will gather in three sessions to pack 100,000 meals for starving children around the world. In order to make this happen, we need to raise \$22,000 through fundraising and donations each year.

One of our annual fundraisers for this event is a Comedy Night that we host with the help of Funny 4 Funds.

This event is taking place on September 19, 2019. At The Hall at St. George.

We need sponsors for this event.

We have three sponsorship levels:

Bronze Sponsor **\$50-\$99**

Silver Sponsor **\$100-\$199**

Gold Sponsor **\$200 and up**

Your donation includes the following:

- Your name or company displayed on all tables and on the show banner.
- Your name or company name mentioned at the opening of the show by the Emcee
- Any business cards or literature will be placed on each table

Your tax deductible donation will help us reach our goal of bringing 100,000 life-saving meals to children in dire need throughout the world. In short, your donation can mean the difference between a child having a meal or not.

If you have any questions regarding our Funny 4 Funds fundraiser, please don't hesitate to contact our event coordinator, Kim Joyce either by phone at 508-294-4429 or by e-mail at kimberlyjoyce1@verizon.net.

Donations can be made online at funny4funds.com/events . Simply pick our event then click the blue sponsor button.

Checks can be mailed to: St. George's Orthodox Cathedral, 30 Anna Street, Worcester MA 01604 or given to a committee member. Please note FMSC Mobile Pack # 1910-139MI on the check.

A Flyer for the Comedy Night as well as our Mobile pack event is attached.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

FMSC Mobile Pack Event Committee

Feed My Starving Children
fmsc.org/mobilepack

Feeding God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit



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**For more information, please contact
Kimberly Joyce: 508-294-4429**



St. George Orthodox Cathedral MobilePack Event



We are raising \$22,000 to pack 100,000 meals for starving children in 70 countries and we encourage you and your family to join us in this life-altering event. Children as young as 5 years of age are welcomed to volunteer.

500
VOLUNTEERS

Your participation will help change the world, one meal at a time!

100,000
MEALS

The only location to host this event in the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts

1 VERY SPECIAL DAY



Donate and register to volunteer at stgeorgeworcester.org or mail a check to Feed My Starving Children Attn: MobilePack #1910-139MI 401 93rd Avenue NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

Checks should be payable to FMSC, memo line MobilePack #1910-139MI.

Follow us on Facebook at [St. George Orthodox Cathedral MobilePack](#)



HOST St. George Orthodox Cathedral

WHEN October 5, 2019

WHERE 30 Anna St., Worcester, MA 01604

TO REGISTER & FIND OUT MORE FMSC.ORG/MOBILEPACK



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