



SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

A parish of the Self-Ruled Antiochian
Orthodox Christian Church of North America

Most Rev. Metropolitan Philip, Primate
Very Rev. Father Joseph Kimmett, Pastor

Rev. Deacon Stephen Mathewes
Subdeacon Gheorge Doros
Subdeacon Joseph Kouyoumjian

*It is our pleasure to welcome visitors and friends to our church.
If you would like to know more about our parish,
or the Orthodox Church, please feel free to ask.*

*Orthodox Christians who have confessed their sins
and have prepared themselves by fasting
are invited to receive Communion.*

*Everyone is welcome to venerate the cross and share Holy Bread.
Following Liturgy, please join us in the parish hall
for coffee and refreshments.*

CALENDAR

Services for Madeline Awad -

Monday, Wake at Kfoury Funeral Home, 4:00-8:00 pm
Tuesday, Funeral in church, 10:00 am

Next Sunday -

National Independence Day
Matins & Divine Liturgy, 9:00 / 10:00 am

Fasting -

The Apostles Fast continues today and tomorrow.
The regular fasting discipline is Wednesday and Friday.

27 June 2010



**Fifth Sunday
after
Pentecost**

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Norwood, MA 02062
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StGeorgeNorwood.org

The Orthodox Church Today:

New Research Reveals Some Not-So-Obvious Facts about American Orthodox Christianity.

“The Orthodox Church Today” study released by the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley, California (www.orthodoxinstitute.org) disproves many stereotypes and provides groundbreaking insights into the life of today’s American Orthodox Christian community.

With its historical roots in nineteenth-century Russian Alaska, Orthodox Christianity in the USA today accounts for about 1,200,000–1,300,000 faithful worshipping in 2,200–2,300 local parishes spread all across the nation. “The Orthodox Church Today” is the first national survey-based study of ordinary parishioners in the two largest Orthodox Churches in the USA: the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA) and the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). Combined, the GOA and the OCA account for more than half of all Orthodox Christians and parishes in the USA. Therefore the study reflects to a significant degree the profile of the entire American Orthodox community.

Respondents from more than 100 randomly selected Orthodox parishes situated in various parts of the country participated. The questionnaire focused on the personal, social and religious attitudes of Orthodox parishioners and on patterns of everyday church life in their local parishes. Special attention was paid to the “image” of Orthodox clergy in the eyes of “people in the pews,” and to issues related to “Democracy and Pluralism in the Church,” “Changes and Innovations in the Church,” and “Religious ‘Particularism’ and Ecumenism.” Many comparisons with American Roman Catholics and Protestants make study results especially interesting. Here are some interesting facts about today’s American Orthodox Christianity.

1. The common stereotype is that Orthodox Churches in the USA are “ethnic” churches of certain immigrant communities. The study shows that this no longer the case. Nine out of ten parishioners in both GOA and OCA are American-born. Further, more than one-quarter (29%) of the GOA and a majority of OCA (51%) members today are converts to Orthodoxy – persons born and raised either Protestants or Roman Catholics.

2. Not all Orthodox are equally “Orthodox.” The study found that the gaps between the “left” and the “right” wings in American Orthodoxy are wide and that American Orthodox Christians are deeply divided among themselves in their personal “micro-theologies.” Answering the question, “When you think about your theological position and approach to church life, which word best describes where you stand?” the relative majority (41%) of church members preferred to be in the safe “middle” and described their theological stance and approach to church life as “traditional.” At the same time, quite sizeable factions identified themselves as being either “conservative” (28%) or “moderate-liberal” (31%).

- to be continued next week --

PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

At the PLC in Sturbridge last week our own *Timothy Markatos* was elected *Teen SOYO President* for the Diocese. Congratulations. He is away today, participating the *CrossRoads* program.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE

The Department of Marriage and Family Ministry of the Archdiocese, in conjunction with Conciliar Media Ministries has produced a new booklet on church etiquette. Much of the content will sound familiar, but it is always good to hear things a new way. For the next several weeks, our bulletin will contain excerpts.

Special Considerations During Liturgy

- Refrain from socializing during the Liturgy. Save your greetings and conversations for the fellowship hall. We are in the Liturgy to greet God with our prayers and worship, not to distract others.
- Cell phones and texting are never allowed in the church. If you have a professional reason to carry a phone for emergencies, keep it on mute, not vibrate, and sit near the exit so that leaving for an emergency will not be a distraction to others. Otherwise, turn off your phone before entering the sanctuary.
- Refrain from reserving seats. Allow others to sit as they come into the church, and especially make room for visitors so they will feel welcome.
- Lipstick—Do not wear lipstick while taking Holy Communion, or when kissing the cross, an icon, the priest's or bishop's hand, or any sacred object. It is best not to wear it at all in the church, because of the damage it causes.
- Leg crossing—One should not be too casual in the Divine Liturgy. People from some cultures are offended by the crossing of legs or by arms thrown back over the pew. Keeping your feet on the ground also enables you to remain attentive and to stand when necessary.

HISTORIC ASSEMBLY OF ORTHODOX BISHOPS

Recently, Bishop BASIL spoke with *Ancient Faith Radio* correspondent Matthew Namee about the historic assembly of bishops which took place in the week following Pentecost. His Grace was elected Secretary of the Assembly. Below are excerpts from the interview, which can be heard in full at www.ancientfaith.com

"The bishops delighted in being together and doing the work of the Church."

"The ultimate task was to prepare the Orthodox (Church) of this region...to constitute itself as a canonical, single Church....It is a huge task, one that a vast majority of Orthodox Christians in America have been praying for, hoping for, talking about, for a long, long time."

"It's as if the Mother Churches have said to us, 'Look, you have been asking for this. Before we give it to you, we would like to know, what is your plan?'"

NORWOOD TOWN HEARING

The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at 7:30 PM in Room 34, Harry B. Butters Selectmen Chambers, Norwood Town Hall, 566 Washington Street, Norwood concerning a FY 2010 PARC Grant application to build a new Bathhouse at the Hawes Pool Recreational Area in South Norwood. The proposed project would replace the existing 60-year old bathhouse with a modern, accessible bathhouse that is approximately 1700 square feet in area.

Any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded an opportunity to speak. If unable to attend the public hearing, comments may be forwarded to the Town of Norwood, Office of Community Planning and Economic Development, 566 Washington Street, Norwood, and must be received no later than 4:00 P.M. on June 29, 2010.

HOLY BREAD - The gifts are offered today by the Campbell Family.

COFFEE HOUR - Please stay for refreshments after Liturgy, hosted today by Barbara Campbell and her family.

If you would like to offer holy bread and coffee hour in the coming weeks, please sign the book in the parish hall. Coffee hour can be as simple or elaborate as you choose to make it.

GIFTS TO SAINT GEORGE -

Remember there are envelopes in the narthex and parish hall to facilitate your giving to the church. They are available for stewardship, your special gifts and memorials. Donation forms can also be downloaded from our web-site. Did you know that when donations are made for those outside of our church a card is sent to the person or family being remembered? Your prayers for loved ones are great in their effect and your generosity is well pleasing to God.

If you will be traveling this summer make sure your pledge is up to date before heading out of town.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER -

Pray for the servants of God: Archpriest Nicholas and Pamela (Manikas), Archpriest Michael (Lewis), Archpriest Alexander (Atty), Deacon Elias (Hamaty), Darcey, David (Knipe and family), Tripp (Head), Roger (Eysie), Alan (Andrew), Lana (Joseph), Christina (Adams), Emaline (Eakle), Jamil (Samara), David (Elliott, serving in Iraq), Michael (Eysie), Janis, Timothy (Wright), Kathryn (Howard), Edward (Arees), Nicholas, Claudia (Eysie), Najlae (Solomon), Frances (Giandomenico), Frederick (Howard), Lillie (Kelley), Lovee (Thomas), Sandy (Thomas), Loretta (Thomas), George (Fares), Charles (Howard), Eliana, Anne, Grace, Mary, Ioana, Nicolae, Carrie, Sam, Nicholas, Barbara, John, Felecia, Catherine, Margaret, Brian, Nicole, Marion, Linda, Carrie, Sarah, Josephine, Dean, David, Sterling.

Pray for the newly departed handmaid of God Madeline (Awad).

June 13 Income	Pledges	Donations & Memorials	Tray	Special Collection
\$390.00	\$70.00	\$110.00	\$185.00	N.A.

Council & Parish Leaders

- Christine Byron
- Joseph Eysie
- Barbara Campbell (Secretary)
- Subdeacon Gheorghe Doros
- Andrew Howard (Chairman)
- Richard Plouffe
- Marwan Samman
- John Shalbey jr.
- Linda Thomas (Vice Chair)

Assistant Treasurers:

- Beverly DiFlaminies
- Leeann Plouffe

Chanters - Erik Potter & Rezanne Toumi

Choir Director - David Franciosi

Christmas Card - Doris Copoulos

Church Custodian - Gerry Mullen

Epistle Readers - Lovee Thomas

Food Pantry Rep. - Kay Moseley

Holy Bread - Catherine Keches

IOCC Rep. - Emily Howard

Ladies President - Katie Birtwell

Sacristan - Subdn. Gheorghe Doros

Seminarians - Rabee Toumi &

Deacon Stephen Mathewes

Scholarship Committee - Helen Abril

School Superintendent - Rich Plouffe

Teen Advisor - Emily Howard

Teen President & Diocesan SOYO

President - Timothy Markatos

Teen Treasurer - Nicholas Kimmitt

Usher - Andrew Howard

Web-Master - Ekaterina Oleinik



**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Samson the host to strangers**

EISODIKON

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, save us who sing unto thee, Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (TONE 4)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women Disciples cast from them their parental condemnation, and proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying, Death hath been spoiled. Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

TROPARION OF SAINT GEORGE, PATRON OF OUR COMMUNITY (TONE 4)

As deliverer of captives, and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great-Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, for our souls' salvation.

KONTAKION (TONE 4)

O Undisputed intercessor of Christians, the mediatrix unrejected by the Creator, turn not away from the voice of our petitions, though we be sinners. Come to us in time, who cry to thee in faith, with assistance; for thou art good. Hasten to us with intercessions, O Theotokos, who dost ever intercede for those who honour thee.

EPISTLE AND GOSPEL

Prokeminon and Verse: How magnified are Thy works, O Lord; in wisdom hast Thou made them all. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The Reading is from the Epistle of Apostle Paul to the Romans (10:1-10; 5th Sunday)

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

(8:28-34; 9:1; 5th Sunday)

When Jesus came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.