

The Spirit of St. George

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church Phoenix, Arizona

Volume 8 Number 10

December 2001

Meditation on the nativity of the Lord 1969

From, "And He Leads Them" by Metropolitan PHILIP

Lord,

What shall I offer You on Your birthday in return for Your infinite love?
I have neither gold nor silver, neither myrrh nor frankincense.
My house is without a roof. I have no room for You; not even a manger.
My soul is even darker than the clouds of my passion.
My eyes are too dim to look beyond the horizon of myself.
Help me behold Your bright star; "For in thy light shall we see light."

Lord,

You have been knocking on my door for many years,
But I never dared let You in because my garment is not white as snow.
Forgive me if I do not invite You to my table, for my table is full of everything
You despise.
I have denied You more than Peter.
I have doubted You more than Thomas.
I have betrayed You more than Judas.
My hands are empty. My lips are not clean to sing Your praise.
And my heart is wrinkled with sorrow like a withered leaf under autumn's wind.

Lord,

The only thing I can offer You on Your birthday is myself.
Drown me in the ocean of Your love.
Feed me with Your heavenly bread, for the bread of this world will never satisfy
my hunger.
Quench my thirst with Your divine fountain, for the water of this earth will never
satisfy my thirst.
Give me Your eyes to see what You see, Your ears to hear what You hear and
Your heart to love what You love.
Take me with You to Mount Tabor and let me bathe in Your eternal light.

Lord,

"Create a clean heart in me. Cast me not away Thy face,
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and strengthen me with a perfect spirit."
Teach me how to pray in simple words, for only through prayers
I may overcome my loneliness.
Help me to care for the needy, the oppressed, the orphans, the sinners and the
despised whom You love.
As I kneel before Your manager with love and humility I beseech You to listen to
my prayers.

Bishop JOSEPH'S Visitations



December 2 St. Nicholas Day at St. Nicholas
Cathedral – Los Angeles, CA and ordination of Deacon
Tom O'Dea to the Priesthood
December 10-26 Visiting with the three churches in Alaska

Parish Council Meeting

To be held on Monday, December 10th at 7pm

~ The Ladies Corner ~

Merry Christmas from the Ladies Auxiliary! As the Holidays approach us, we'd like to inform you of some upcoming events.

On Monday December 3rd at 7:00PM, the Ladies will host their Annual Cookie Exchange in the Fellowship Hall. All of our ladies at St. George Church are invited to attend! Everyone is asked to bring six-dozen home baked cookies or bars to share. If you don't wish to take home six-dozen, then you may bring just one-dozen to share. We will reveal our Secret-Sister-In-Christ from the past year as well as draw new names for the upcoming year. All those interested in participating in the Secret Sister gift exchange are asked to attend. This is a great time to get to know your fellow Sisters-in-Christ!

The Christmas Luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday December 6th at 11:30am. Please bring a holiday potluck food item to share along with a \$5.00 grab bag to exchange.

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead of us and appreciate your dedication, support and suggestions!
Jennie Sweilem and Ruby Rideout

Food For The Hungry

Won't you be generous during this holiday season and buy a few extras to deposit into the food box located in the Narthex. Remember, non-perishable and canned food items are what we are looking for. This drive is ongoing through Lent.

Reminder Notice

Your yearly Archdiocese Dues and Pledges for 2001 must be paid in full and received in the church office to be posted on our books by December 26th in order to be eligible as a *member in good standing* to vote in the General Election Meeting on January 20, 2002. Pledges and Dues received after December 30, 2001 will not be allowed credit for year-end 2001 tax purposes. If you have any concerns regarding your commitment, please feel free to contact the Treasurer, Sandra Hasbany (602) 277-1963 or Asst. Treasurer Joseph Macoule (480) 380-0896.

Church Records

Baptisms

Christian Jaden Banister 10/28/2001
Parents: Jeremiah & Lina Banister
Diana Rihani 11/11/2001

Parents: Rafat & Ranya Rihani

Marriages

Richard & Tracey Saba, Jr. November 9, 2001

Memorials

Olivia Turc November 25, 2001

Nassif Schaded November 29, 2001

To My Friends at St. George Antiochian

Orthodox Church:



It's that time of year again . . . we have the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life, by participating in the Angel Tree Program. This year, St. George Church has adopted 150 children with the hope of giving them clothes along with their toys. Without your help, these children would not have a "Christmas". Please choose an angel and keep the tag on the gift when you return it on December 16th. Thank you so much for your help in this outreach program for the children.

Yours in Christ, Tammy Belt

All are invited to a Special New Years Eve Celebration!

Please join us for a wonderful evening of Swing Dancing,
Dabke, and Dining Under the Stars! December 31, 2001
at 7:30 pm

St. George Fellowship Hall.

Adults: \$65 Children under 12: \$15

No Host Bar

~Menu~

Caesar Salad

Prime Rib

Chicken Marsala

Fettuccini Alfredo

Roasted Potatoes/Seasonal Vegetables

Chocolate Fudge, Carrot & Lemon Raspberry Cakes

Champagne Toast at Midnight!

Followed by

Coffee, Danish and Muffins

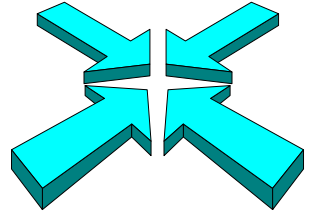
*A children's area will be set up in the Sunday School
rooms, complete with licensed baby sitters, a Pizza Party
and New Years crafts!*

Tickets sold after Liturgy in the Hall or

Contact: Natascha Karadsheh (602) 224-3764, Ruby
Rideout (623) 972-5000 or Jennie Sweilem (480) 373-8123

YOUTH CONNECTION

Where we meet to catch the Young Spirit of St. George



“LET THE CHILDREN COME...”



*****Nativity Cabaret*****

Sunday, December 23rd

Immediately following Divine Liturgy in the church hall.

Come join us for a short program of entertaining songs and skits honoring your children as our Lord enters this world as a blessed babe.

A WONDERFUL CAST INCLUDING:

- ALL the Sunday School Children
 - Our church choir
 - Our supportive audience!

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN ARE IN CHURCH ON
DECEMBER 16TH
FOR DRESS REHEARSAL. THANK YOU!**

A Few Words About . . . [Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home.](#)

This book was given to me as a gift from a precious preschool student and, what a gift it has been! The author of the book is Fr. Anthony Coniaris, a Greek Orthodox priest for over fifty years. Fr. Coniaris very clearly points out that anything this is important to a person is “brought home”—that when something is truly dear to us we take care to keep it close. Fr. Coniaris then asks how can we grow with God if we do not bring Him home? We pray to God, we attend Divine Liturgy in celebration of God, we build churches to worship God but, do we bring Him home? In his book Fr. Coniaris emphasizes that the home is the first church and encourages parents to take responsibility for the rearing of their children with an Orthodox Christian upbringing. He discusses fasting, feast days, sacraments, Bible reading, and church traditions in a fashion that will help parents relate important lessons to their children. Additionally, Fr. Coniaris provides great ideas for “hands-on” activities each family can participate in to enhance teachings. Although this book was originally published almost three decades ago, its message is timeless! If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this book for yourself or a friend, check at the bookstore. Shannon David

PATHWAYS

***registration period: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2ND – DECEMBER 23RD

ANY QUESTIONS???

Please see Shannon David, Tammy Belt, or Katrina Bitar to turn in your registration form.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Wednesday, January 9- kick-off social
- Wednesday, January 16- pathways program begins!

A MESSAGE FROM MATTHEW

Katrina – December 2001

“You are the Light of World... so let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”-Matthew 5:14,16

Have you ever been so sure that you knew where something was in your bedroom that you walked in to get it without turning on the light...and you ended up tripping and falling? Sometimes we are so sure that we can find our way on our own that we neglect to turn the light on so that we may clearly see the right path to take. In this passage, our Lord is telling us that we need to let Him, the Light, guide us in our own lives so that others will see our “good works” and turn on their lights as well. We must wholeheartedly believe in the effect that any individual, regardless of age, can have on the lives of others.

The most important thing to remember is that our candle must be lit before we can light someone else’s. Take small steps daily, as a family, to increase the brightness of your light. You may be the only Jesus some may ever see!

LIVE FROM THE CLASSROOM!

The first and second grade Sunday School class has had a very busy Fall. We have spent the first few months learning about Loving God, following the title of our textbook. So far, we have learned about Jesus’ commandment to love one another as He has loved us and we have been exploring ways to put this in to practice in our daily lives. We have learned about loving our families and friends and how we can express love for strangers by giving to the poor and needy. In November and December our focus is on showing our love for God in church and participating in the sacraments. It seems only fitting that first and second graders, who have so much love to give, should learn the importance of loving God and others. Christina Saily, 1st & 2nd grade teacher

WHAT’S GOIN’ ON ???

SOYO: -*SATURDAY, DEC. 1ST - 5pm Vespers, Dinner, & Rap Session at the Haddad’s home.*
-*FRIDAY-SUNDAY, DEC. 7TH-9TH. Southern CA Deanery SOYO Winter Retreat*
-*SUNDAY, DEC. 16TH- Christmas Caroling visits to the Shut-ins, Meeting, & Christmas Party*

JOY: -*Any 1ST-6TH graders who would like to receive GRACE POINTS for being part of a “JUNIOR CHOIR” here at St. George, please let Katrina know.*
-*“JOY bringing joy”- This will be the mission and vision of the JOY group this year. We need your participation to fulfill it!*

HOPE: *Get togethers will be on THURSDAY MORNINGS @ 10AM*
**December 20th meeting will be at Katrina Bitar’s apt.*



Christmas Flowers

If you would like to make a donation for memorial Poinsettias to decorate the church on Christmas Eve, Please complete the following and give to Evelyn Kosobud at the bookstore or mail into the Church office:

Christmas Flowers: 4530 E. Gold Dust Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85028

Please make all donation checks separate for flowers. Thank you.

Deadline will be December 20th

Your Name _____

For the health of _____

For the memory of _____

Donation: \$20 _____ \$10 _____ \$5 _____

On IOCC Sunday November 18th ~ Donations collected were \$1162.00.
Have you given your Christmas Gift of Love yet? IOCC P.O. Box 630225 Baltimore, MD 21263-0225

December 2001

	Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16 St. Ignatius Day	Dec 23	Dec 24	Dec 30
Epistle Reader	Eph. 5:8-19 Jim Bogues	Gal. 4:22-27 Larry Haddy	Col.3:4-11 Richard Nichols	Heb. 11:9-10; 7:23, 32-40 Philip Abdoulah	Gal.4:4-7 Sherine David Scott Ferris	Gal. 1:11-19 Becky Abrahams
Greeters	Richard & Marion Saba	Ray & Rose Marie Toronto	Tony & Bonnie Karraz	Philip & Connie Abdoulah	Aziz & Michael Haddad	Adel & Enaam Hweimel
Ushers	Michael Haddad Suzanne Sayegh Lillian Macoule Bruce Florence Louis Hasbany James Saliba	Maram Quomsieh Evelyn Kosobud Anna Bronnenkant George Maloley Michael Daivd Joe Abraham	Sally Ghiz Mary Karadsheh Marion Saba John Doumani John Karadsheh Fred Hakimeh	Eva Quomsieh Enaam Hweimel Margaret Raymond David Ghiz Farhat David Dale Belt	Molly Abrahams Lynda Haddad Marion Saba George Freije Louis Hasbany Shadi Karraz	Kathy Sayegh Suzanne Sayegh Abe Assad Tony Karraz Sam Hanna
Altar Servers	Andy Leahu Ronnie Sayegh Danny Sayegh Joseph Hasou Odeh Sayegh	Mathew Saliba Alex Saliba David Yates Joseph Sayegh Michael Aboud- Rihani	Simon Abraham Drew Bronnenkant Chris Doumani Rick Koury Rami Koury	Philip Bolanos Basil Dahlan Jordan Gray Bryan Johnson Musa Sayegh	Simon Abrahams Danny Sayegh Mathew Saliba Alex Saliba Chris Doumani	Andy Leahu Ronnie Sayegh Danny Sayegh Joseph Hasou Odeh Sayegh
Hall Lock-up	Sandy Hasbany	John Doumani	Ralph Clair	Sam Hanna	Mike Ziton	Aziz Haddad
Coffee Hour	Ralph & Dina Sayegh	Connie Abdoulah Marybeth Saliba	The Order of St. Ignatius	Hannah & Sam Sahawneh		Jim & Briggette DeRienzo Ralph & Camilia Saigh

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Phoenix, AZ 85028-4221

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Office Hours 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Monday thru Friday

The Rev. Fr. Christopher Salamy
(602) 765-6069

Church Services

Great Vespers Saturdays 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Orthros (matins) 8:50 a.m.
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Confession: Sundays 9:00-9:25 a.m.
or by appointment.

All articles for submission must be in to the office on the 15th of each month. If you do not have your article ready to hand in, it will not be included in that month's newsletter. Please call or send name and address changes to the church office.

Monday December 24th
6:30 pm Orthros
Divine Liturgy at 7:30 pm
For The
Incarnation of Jesus Christ

