

The Spirit of St. George

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church Phoenix, Arizona

Volume 9 Number 2

February 2002

A Message from Father Christopher . . .

*“When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, ‘Why do you question in your hearts?’”
(Luke 5:22)*

This passage from Chapter 5 of the Gospel of Luke is written within the context of the healing of a paralyzed man. The paralytic’s friends wanted to come to Jesus to have him healed, but there was no way to get close, so they lowered the paralytic through the roof of the house in order for the Lord to heal him. With great power and love, the Lord Jesus heals this man, but not quite in the way that you and I might suspect. In fact, it even comes contrary to the way the scribes and Pharisees suspected. Rather than lift the paralytic up to walk, Jesus first says, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” (Luke 5:20) Jesus heals the *true* brokenness of the paralytic – He forgives his sins!

The Pharisees and scribes gathered around him didn’t like this and began to question in their hearts why Jesus would say these things. They were thinking, “Doesn’t he know that only God can forgive sins?” The Lord Jesus recognized what was in their hearts and called them on their questions by proving to them that His power reigns over *both* soul and body. First He heals the paralytic’s sins and then He raises the body. The Lord is mighty indeed!

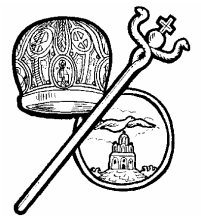
The only defense that the Pharisees might have in doubting the Lord was the fact that they did not profess Jesus to be the Son of God. They questioned Him because they were not willing to believe the gracious, loving and kenotic acts of God for His beloved people. The scribes and Pharisees questioned because they doubted.

If the scribes and Pharisees questioned in their hearts because they did not believe that Jesus is the Lord, what defense do we have? We **know** and **believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Lord Himself incarnate in the flesh. We **know** and **believe** that He is our Master who willingly paid *our*

debt of sin through His Precious and Life-Giving Cross. And we **know** and **believe** that He is able to raise us up on the Last Day into His glorious Kingdom. How then can we question the things that the Lord asks from us in and through His Holy Scriptures? Why do we challenge the teachings and mandates of our His Church, our Orthodox Faith? And most importantly, how can we continue to find ourselves wrapped in the mire of sin, submitting to the temptations of the evil one?

Our challenge is to recognize that we who are faithful *in* the Lord must also be faithful *to* the Lord. That simply means that we cannot be so bold as to question what the Lord has done for us, nor can we question what he asks from us. This does not mean that we do not ask questions, by all means, that is the beauty of the Holy Orthodox Church: in all things she tries to teach us the faith. Whether it is through proper exegesis of Scripture, in our Divine Liturgy or through the classes that our clergy lead, all that the Church does is designed to teach us about God and His Word. But what it does mean is that once we hear and understand the teachings about God, the only thing left for us is to follow and obey Him. We must put our entire trust and faith in God that He is able to do exactly what He said, “For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (John 6:40)

Bishop JOSEPH’S Visitations



Feb 11-15 2002 Clergy Seminar
“Christian Ethics” San Fernando, CA

Feb 15-19 St. Stephen Church – Cupertino, CA
Episcopal Visit

Feb 18 St. Stephen Church – Cupertino, CA
Northern Calif. Deanery Clergy & Wives Retreat

**Parish Council Meeting
Election of Officers
Monday February 4th 7PM**



~ The Ladies Corner ~

As the Arabic Food Festival approaches, we look to all of the ladies of St. George Church for their help with the pastry table as well as the craft and white elephant tables. There will be several work parties scheduled in the future, and we need as much help as we can get.

Donations are also appreciated. Some baking items that we need include butter, flour, eggs, sugar etc. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Nicole Doumani will be heading up the white elephant table. Please check your closets for any small items that you would be willing to donate. We ask that you keep these items at home until the week of the festival, and then see Nicole with your donation.

If you have any ideas for craft items that the ladies could sell, please see Connie Abdoulah. She will be scheduling a craft night in the near future, and we would love to see you all there!

Donations of your time and supplies are a great way to support the Ladies Club and St. George Church. We truly appreciate all of you that make this wonderful festival possible!

On March 17th, the Ladies will be hosting a Spaghetti Luncheon to benefit the Project Mexico Orphanage. The luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following Divine Liturgy. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

We would also like to wish our dear Treasurer Evelyn Kosobud a very happy birthday. She will be celebrating her 80th birthday this year! Evelyn is a true asset to our ladies society, and may God grant her many more years!

President ~ Jennifer Sweilem

Church Records

Baptisms:

Elias John Anderson 12/31/2001
Parents: Keith & Randa Anderson

Edward Dean Baker 1/5/2002
Parents: Jeffrey & Jennifer Baker

Marriages:

Eddie & Sandy Khoury 1-12-2002

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

People go hungry everyday, not just on holidays. We are always collecting food for the hungry here at St. George Church. Please, let's remember to bring not just canned goods, but paper products as well. The food banks hand out so many varied items to people in need, food, personal items, disposable diapers and the like. Just bring your donations to the Food For Hungry box in the Narthex and the Ladies Auxiliary will transport it to the local food bank. Thank you for your generosity to others in need. Isn't that what it's all about, helping our neighbor!



**A Christian is a Mind through which
Jesus thinks,
A Heart through which Jesus loves,
A Voice through which Jesus speaks,
A Hand, through which Jesus helps.**

The weekly bulletin submissions for Holy Bread Offerings or any organization announcements will have a **new deadline of Thursday morning by 10:00am**. Anything faxed over or phoned in after the deadline will not be included that weeks bulletin. A reminder that all articles submitted for the monthly newsletter must be into the office by the 15th of the prior month to meet printing deadlines for The Spirit Newsletter. Please help us to keep these deadlines by submitting all materials ahead of time. Call the office if you have questions on e-mailing material over for submission.

February 2002



Sunday February 3

Epistle Reader	I Timothy 4:9-15	James Saliba, Jr.
Greeters		Joseph & Lillian Macoule
Ushers	Maram Quomsieh, Lillian Macoule, Salwa Nassar, Eddie Hweimel, Jim Bogues, James Saliba, Jr.	
Altar Servers	Mathew Saliba, Alex Saliba, David Yates, Joseph Sayegh, Michael Aboud-Rihani	
Hall Lock-up		Mike Ziton
Coffee Hour		Teen SOYO (IOCC Super Bowl Sunday)

Sunday February 10

Epistle Reader	II Timothy 2:1-10	Kenneth Haddad, Shadi Karraz
Greeters		Aziz & Michael Haddad
Ushers	Eva Quomsieh, Evelyn Kosobud, Anna Bronnenkant, George Maloley, Joe Abraham, Louis Hasbany	
Altar Servers	Simon Abrahams, Drew Bronnenkant, Chris Doumani, Rick Koury, Rami Koury	
Hall Lock-up		John Karadsheh
Coffee Hour		Kassab & Futha Saigh

Sunday February 17

Epistle Reader	II Cor. 6:16-18, 7:1	Marion Saba
Greeters		Abe & Colette Assad
Ushers	Molly Abrahams, Sally Ghiz, Lynda Haddad, Michael David, Sam Hanna, Tony Karraz	
Altar Servers	Philip Bolanos, Jordan Gray, Basil Dahlan, Musa Sayegh, Bryan Johnson	
Hall Lock-up		Sandy Hasbany
Coffee Hour		Bob & Sarah Foster

Sunday February 24

Epistle Reader	II Cor. 4:6-15	Bruce Florence
Greeters		Richard & Sherry Nichols
Ushers	Kathy Sayegh, Marion Saba, Enaam Hweimel, Bruce Florence, Abe Assad, David Ghiz	
Altar Servers	Andy Leahu, Ronnie Sayegh, Danny Sayegh, Joseph Hasou, Odeh Sayegh	
Hall Lock-up		John Doumani
Coffee Hour		Nora Sweiss, Ruby & Mike Rideout

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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.

Evening Divine Liturgy
Friday, Feb 1, 2002 at 6:30
pm

Presentation of Jesus
Christ
into the Temple

