

# the Light



NOVEMBER 2023  
NEWSLETTER



**ANNUAL AMEN  
VIRTUAL RETREAT**

December 9, 2023  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm EDT - Zoom



**CAMP ST. THEKLA WINTER  
CAMP 2024 (WAMP)**

February 16-19, 2024  
[REGISTER HERE!](#)

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## Parish Spotlight

**CHRIST THE SAVIOR CHURCH**

### CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Anthony Perkins

**FEAST DAY:** St. Raphael of Brooklyn, the first Saturday of November

**EMAIL:** [father.anthony@yahoo.com](mailto:father.anthony@yahoo.com)

**WEBSITE:** [orthodoxanderson.org](http://orthodoxanderson.org)



## Christ the Savior Church | Anderson, SC

Christ the Savior parish in Anderson, South Carolina (the Electric City!) began in the 1990s as a local group of Christians found their way from Episcopalianism into Anglicanism and then, under the leadership of Fr. Cassian Dunlop, from Anglicanism into the Orthodox Church. They spent their first few months in the Western Rite but, under the leadership of Fr. David Randolph of blessed memory, soon changed to the Byzantine Rite. Fr. David served as the priest and rector of the parish for twenty years (1998 to 2018) and had a profound effect on its culture. He had a real heart for those on the edges, even spending time living with the homeless so that he could better understand and serve them. The

mission had specific ministries for the needy and imprisoned, and Fr. David spent a significant amount of his time serving them.

After a few years, the mission outgrew its initial location. They were able to find, purchase, and renovate a former medical facility across from the hospital and at the edge of a revitalized downtown. Thanks to the generosity of its members, the parish now owns this building outright. After Fr. David retired and moved to Florida in 2018, local clergy served the parish, including Fr. Gregory Mathewes-Green and, starting in the summer of 2019, Fr. Anthony Perkins. During this time, the parish was sustained by a handful

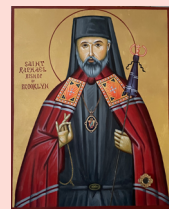
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*(Christ the Savior - continued from page 1)*

of committed members. This was a difficult time. Attendance was low enough that it never had to turn anyone away during the rigors of the COVID restrictions.

Thanks, and glory to God, over the last couple of years, the parish has recovered. In 2023, Fr. Anthony Perkins began serving the parish full-time (he is on loan from the UOC-USA). This year we are averaging thirty-five people on Sundays and have eleven catechumens and nine regular inquirers. We have reconfigured our space several times recently to make more room and we look forward to planting a new mission within the next few years.

While our members, catechumens, and inquirers enjoy our adult education classes, Sunday Church school, homeschool co-op, and Sunday potlucks, the heart of our community is our worship. We have put a lot of effort into beautifying our nave and altar with fresh paint, stenciling, iconography, and altar vestments. The effect has been powerful! We have also put a lot of attention on our chanting and music through the help of our wonderful choir, which has grown in proportion

to the rest of the parish. The music we use mirrors the diversity of our parish. We use a mix of Antiochian/Byzantine, Obikhod (common), and Western melodies, but the proportion of this mix will become increasingly Antiochian/Byzantine as we get better at it.

A unique thing about our architecture is our iconostasis; it was built using the parish's old Western Rite communion rails. This gives us the ability to change the color of the cloths that hang behind them to match the liturgical season. We are also blessed with thematic stained glass windows, designed and installed by Khouria Betty Randolph. We have several icons that were painted by members, to include one of our patrons, St. Raphael of Brooklyn, which has a reliquary installed in it for veneration. We have a large (4' diameter) icon of Christ Pantocrator ready to be installed on the ceiling and hope to replace the drop ceiling within the next couple of years. We are currently in the process of building a library in the upstairs section of our building.

It is a memorial to Fr. David and has benefited from Khouria Betty's generous gift to us of Fr. David's large collection of books.

God has truly blessed the community of Christ the Savior in Anderson, South Carolina. We love Him, each other, and all His children. We hope that you will visit so that we can share and grow in that same love together!





# NAB Book Club

## CALLING ALL ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN!

This year our NAB ladies have chosen a wonderful read for all of us. Invite all your ladies to join your Antiochian Women's Book Club this year and read and discuss "Pearl of Great Price". I am sure that we will all grow deeper in our faith by examining this incredible life lived not too long ago by St. Maria of Paris.

Sh. Shell Keim  
DOMSE Antiochian Women President



## Antiochian Women's BOOK STUDY SELECTION



# The Liturgical Kitchen

## FASTING CHOCOLATE CAKE Recipe sent in by Sh. Shell Keim

As many of you may know, this cake is a staple in the Orthodox Kitchen during fasting times. If you are new to the Orthodox Church or have been looking for a great snack when entertaining this Nativity Season, here ya go!



### Fasting Chocolate Cake

#### Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 6 Tbsp cocoa
- 2 cups water
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 Tbsp vinegar

#### Instructions

##### Step 1

Lord, bless my work.

##### Step 2

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl add dry ingredients, stirring to combine. Add wet ingredients in order of appearance, stirring to combine.

##### Step 3

Pour directly into two 8x8 pans or an **UNGREASED** 9x13 pan. Bake 30-35 minutes for two pans, or 50 minutes for a 13x9, until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean.

Enjoy!



# Words from Sayedna Nicholas

The Gospel reading according to St. Luke (8:27-39) can be startling if we delve into its meaning in relation to the previous chapter. It discusses intellectual faith verses true faith in a subtle way. A legion of demons had possessed a man. Those demons, when faced with Jesus, affirmed that He is "the Son of the Most High God." (Luke 8:28) Astonishingly enough, they had faith in Jesus as the Son of the Most High God!

However, compare that with the lack of faith on the part of the Pharisee in the previous chapter. He did not acknowledge that Jesus is even a prophet, let alone the Son of God. "Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, 'This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.'" (Luke 7:39) As you may know, Pharisees were highly educated in the Scriptures, including the prophecies, and kept all the rules. This Pharisee did not have faith in Jesus as the Son of God, as did all the Pharisees.

Furthermore, compare the demons' faith with St. John the Baptist's in chapter seven. St. John was not certain that Jesus was the Son of God despite his righteous self and his famous asceticism in the wilderness, eating honey and locusts. Moreover, he was "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'" (Mark 1:4) Despite all of that, the Baptist did not have faith in Jesus. "And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus saying, 'Are you the coming One, or do we look for another?'" (Luke 7:19) Even St. John the Baptist did not have faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

Up to chapter eight of the Gospel according to St. Luke, the demons had more faith in Jesus than the afore mentioned Pharisee and St. John the Baptist! This is startling! This is shocking! However, is the faith of the demons a true faith?

Well, it is just an intellectual faith that is not applied in actual life. It did not save them! The demons "begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. So, they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them [a herd of swine], and He did." (Luke 8:32) Notice how they begged Jesus submissively to do that and Jesus listened to them and granted them their request! "The demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake and drowned." (Luke 8:33) The demons' intellectual faith did not save them!

This story should call us to self-reflection and self-scrutiny! Do we have an intellectual faith or do we have a true faith? What distinguishes between the two types of faiths? Well! Let me share with you a true story that I have shared repeatedly. It drives the point home.

Do we have intellectual faith or do we have true faith? What distinguishes between the two types of faiths?

During the 19th century, a daredevil decided to cross from the U.S. side of Niagara Falls to the Canadian side on a cable that was strung high above the Falls, without a safety net. He advertised thoroughly to draw in a large crowd. That he did! He crossed on the cable all the way to Canada.

Upon his arrival, he asked the crowd several times whether they had faith in him to cross on the high-strung cable from the U.S. side to the Canadian side. The crowd replied resoundingly, eagerly, and repeatedly that they had full faith in him. He asked again whether they had faith in him to cross on the high-strung cable back to the U.S. side with a person on his back. The crowd again, replied resoundingly, eagerly, and repeatedly that they had full faith in him. He repeated his question to the crowd several times and the reply was continually more enthusiastic and more emphatic. He then asked the crowd, "Which one of you will be on my back?" At this

*(continued on page 5)*



# Teen SOYO

OFFICER  
INTRODUCTION:  
TREASURER

Analeigh Baca  
St. Ignatius Orthodox Church  
Franklin, TN

Hey, DOMSE! My name is Analeigh Baca, and I'm this year's Teen SOYO Treasurer! I live in Franklin, Tennessee, and I attend Saint Ignatius Orthodox Church here in Franklin. I'm currently seventeen, in my junior year of high school, and I'm homeschooled along with the rest of my four younger siblings. I love to sing in the choir and chant in church, especially with my dad and my sisters! When I'm not at school, I work in the kitchen of a local cafe in my town. One of my favorite places in the world is the Antiochian Village. I started going to summer camp when I was nine, and I will be attending my last year as a camper next summer! I take every opportunity I get to visit there, including being a coach at the Special Olympics program at the end of the summer. I'm so excited to be a part of DOMSE Teen SOYO this year with such an amazing group of people! Teens, be sure to follow [@domsesoyo](#) on Instagram!



# Sacred Music Corner



the  
**Pentecostarion**  
from Pascha  
to Pentecost

With the blessing of Metropolitan SABA,  
the Department of Sacred Music  
invites you to join us for the annual

**Winter Sacred Music Institute**

**February 22-25, 2024**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Hosted by  
**St. George Cathedral**  
Coral Gables, Florida



**WINTER CAMP  
IS COMING!**

February 16 - 19, 2024

Wamp registration is here!  
Register your children, ages 12-17, for a  
weekend of spiritual growth and fun!

**Registration: Opens 9:00pm ET Nov. 1st  
Closes 11:59pm ET Jan. 5th**

<https://events.circuitree.com/campsthekla>

This year,  
Winter Camp will be  
held at the Diakonia  
Retreat Center in  
Salem, South Carolina-  
just 30 minutes from  
Asbury Hills!  
455 Quail Ridge Rd.  
Salem, SC 29676




(Sayedna - continued from page 4)

point, the crowd had utter silence! Intellectual faith is evident in this story, but the crowd would not apply their faith in his ability in their actions and recoiled from doing so, just like the demons!

Compare and contrast the crowd's faith and the demons' faith on one side with the faith depicted by the healed man on the other "Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.' And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him." (Luke 8:38-39) Self-scrutiny should result in one of two conclusions: I have an intellectual faith that may not lead to salvation since I don't apply it in my life as actions OR I have a true faith that is a work in progress, and I apply it in my life as actions so that I may progress on my journey to become God-like, which can take place by working on acquiring God's attributes, the Virtues. It is better that I am the judge of that now and on a continual basis so that I may correct my path rather than postpone such verdict to Judgment Day where I will not be able to change course!

**May God bless you and may  
the Holy Trinity protect you all!**

+BISHOP NICHOLAS



**THE ANTIUCHIAN MEN  
CONFERENCE & RETREAT**

# THE AUDACITY OF MANHOOD:

STRENGTH THROUGH VIRTUOUS WORK

## March 7-9, 2024

**WOODLAND CHRISTIAN CAMP  
& RETREAT CENTER • TEMPLE, GA**

**GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

**His Grace, Bishop NICHOLAS**

**Fr. Stephen De Young**

**Fr. Hans Jacobse**

**Fr. Jacob Andoun**

## Upcoming Events

### NOVEMBER

#### AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

November 16, 2023  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT - Zoom

#### AMEN LEADERSHIP AND LOCAL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING

November 28, 2023  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EST - Zoom

### DECEMBER

#### ANNUAL AMEN VIRTUAL RETREAT

December 9, 2023  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm EST - Zoom  
Details to come!

#### AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

December 21, 2023  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT - Zoom

## 2024

### JANUARY

#### AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

January 18, 2024  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT - Zoom

### FEBRUARY

#### AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

February 15, 2024  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT - Zoom

#### CAMP ST. THEKLA WINTER CAMP 2024 (WAMP)

February 16-19, 2024 - Details to come!

### MARCH

#### AMEN CONFERENCE & RETREAT

March 7 - 9, 2024  
Woodland Christian Camp &  
Retreat Center, Temple, GA  
In person. [REGISTER HERE!](#)

#### AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

March 21, 2024  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT - Zoom

#### SOYO LENTEN VIRTUAL RETREAT 2024

March 30, 2024  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT - Zoom  
Details to come!



# Theology Editor's Corner

As Christians, most of us know that our Lord Jesus Christ commands us to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, for all the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments (Mat. 22:37-40). And while these commandments seem simple enough on the surface, it is a difficult thing to learn to love God and one another in the same way that He always loves every one of us. But here, one of the best Patristic sources for understanding the love that God commands from us is St. Maximos the Confessor's Four Hundred Texts on Love, which is in the second volume of The Philokalia. In this text, St. Maximos says,

"The person who loves God cannot help loving every man as himself, even though he is grieved by the passions of those who are not yet purified. But when they amend their lives, his delight is indescribable and knows no bounds... If we detect any trace of hatred in our hearts against any man whatsoever for committing any fault, we are utterly estranged from the love of God, since love for God absolutely precludes us from hating any man... Blessed is he who can love all men equally... God, who is by nature good and dispassionate, loves all men equally as His handiwork. But He glorifies the virtuous man because in his will he is united to God. At the same time, in His goodness He is merciful to the sinner and by chastising him in this life brings him back to the path of virtue. Similarly, a man of good and dispassionate judgment also loves all men equally. He loves the virtuous man because of his nature and the probity of his intention; and he loves the sinner, too, because of his nature and because in His compassion He pities him for foolishly stumbling in darkness... He who has genuinely renounced worldly things, and lovingly and sincerely serves his neighbor, is soon set free from every passion, and made a partaker of God's love and knowledge." (54-55)

In a time of hatred and war it is important for us to remember that our loyalty is to God alone, and that He is a Good God and the Lover of Mankind. Earthly rulers, nations, and politicians have always called on us to hate our enemies, but this is not the way of our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us while we were still sinners (Rom. 5:8) and cried out from the Cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) May each one of us love one another as God has loved us (John 13:34), so that by dying with Christ, we may also live with Him! (Gal. 2:20) May God have mercy on all who suffer, and bring a speedy end to all hatred, oppression, and violence!

## Upcoming Events *(cont.)*

### APRIL

#### AMEN LENTEN VIRTUAL RETREAT 2024

April 6, 2024  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT - Zoom  
Details to come!

#### YAF LENTEN RETREAT 2024

April 13, 2024  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT - Zoom  
Details to come!

#### AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

April 18, 2024  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT - Zoom

#### AW'S LENTEN RETREAT 2024

April 20, 2024  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm EDT - Zoom  
Details to come!

### MAY

#### AMEN VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

May 16, 2024  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm EDT - Zoom

### JUNE

#### 2024 DOMSE SCHOLARSHIPS!

June 1 - July 1, 2024

[CLICK HERE FOR INFO!](#)

#### DOMSE 2024 PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE (PLC)

June 12 - 15, 2024  
St. Stephen Orthodox Church  
Hiram, GA - Details to come!

#### CAMP ST. THEKLA 2024 - SESSION 1

June 23 - 29, 2024 Details to come!

#### CAMP ST. THEKLA 2024 - SESSION 2

June 30 - July 6, 2024 - Details to come!

**IF YOU HAVE ARTICLES OR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LIGHT NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL THEM TO [DOMSENEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DOMSENEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM)**

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