

October 2024

THE VINE

الكَرْمَةُ

"I AM THE VINE AND YOU ARE
THE BRANCHES" (JOHN 15:5)



1922-2024

أنا هو الكرمة و أنتم الأمتان

The Monthly Newsletter of

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Canton, Ohio

A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Culture of Prayer

His Eminence Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

Does prayer have a culture?

The answer is yes. A person's mentality, shaped by convictions, principles and values, determines how he approaches life. Every human being, consciously or unconsciously, adopts a certain style, outlook, thought process and behavior in managing his affairs. These, taken together, constitute his unique culture which pigments his entire life. The prayerful person, for example, carries his joy and sadness, his pain, health and suffering, his strengths and weaknesses, his environment and society, and everything else that pertains to him, and presents them all to God before anyone else. Then he is inspired to act, relying on the help and grace of his Lord.

As for people who do not pray, they remain in the realm of questioning, doubt, scrutiny, and confusion. Their point of reference is limited to themselves or their closest associates who may also be their own points of reference. Those who choose God to be their reference have a culture different from those who live without God.

Man is ecstatic about himself; his ego is very inflated, especially in this era. Therefore, he needs humility to enter into the life of prayer. If his prayer is sincere, he will feel his smallness before the awe and greatness of God and will become humble, just like the tax collector (Luke 18:10-14).

As for those who do not know how to pray like the tax collector, their inner pride will consume them just like the Pharisee. If you are humble, you will realize prayer's importance to you, acquire its spirit, and consequently live and embody love. Then, you will seek more time for prayer, because for you it is a matter of life. In this sense, Saint John Chrysostom said: "If you do not pray but during the time you allot for prayer, then you do not pray at all." That is, if you limit your prayer to specific scheduled times, and prayer is not your permanent state, then you are still within the scope of duty; you have not yet extended beyond it to the scope of love. Then you become as the Psalm (108:4) says: "I am in prayer."

A person realizes his helplessness amid pain and adversity, so he turns to God and prays for himself and others. If he has reached – or is on his way to reaching – the point where prayer becomes truly his culture, then daily he will offer to God all those who are suffering under the burden of various afflictions, especially when he suffers their agony along with them. However, those who do not experience prayer as an oasis of safety wonder about the cause of pain, doubt divine providence, and flounder in grumbling, complaining, and regret. This is the human condition in wars, in particular. They shout: Where is God? Why doesn't He do this and that? Man expects miracles from God. Under the weight of pain and fear, he wants quick and uncostly solutions. He expects salvation, safety, relief, and solace.

In the face of today's global, economic, moral, political and media confusion, many constantly ask questions such as: Why is this happening? What is the way out? Every person makes requests of God on his own behalf, yet very few will make them on behalf of others. Why? Because we are not accustomed to mentioning our neighbors in our prayers on a regular and committed basis. Believers are tempted to adopt their thoughts and dialog to worldly logic. If they happen to mention God, remembrance of Him often remains limited to empty words, or an outlet for anxiety, anger or despair. However, as long as prayer does not come from a heart that anguishes for others the same as it does for itself, it will not turn into action, nor will it be true prayer, but rather individualistic, self-centered words.

Many view that they have nothing that contributes to mitigating disasters, because their focus begins on their own abilities, strengths and possessions. They are the starting point, not God. God's people know that they have so much to offer, not because they possess a lot, but rather because God's grace fills their big, loving and God-like hearts. As believers, you should feel rich in spirit, and with your love, you can embrace the entire universe. Prayers will strengthen you when you persist daily on presenting to God those who are suffering, mentioning them by name. Through divine grace, you will experience more love for them and true forgiveness for those who offend you. You will also find realistic ways to help alleviate their pain.

Continued on page 2

If I opened my palms before God, I may have nothing but dust, but I believe that God is able to turn it into gold. One of the Arabic Christmas songs says: "Kings poured out all their borrowed money before your cradle, and I spread out my palms filled with dust, filled with heaps of sin and shame. I placed them at your feet, and I stood. Here are my hands empty, my waiting Lord." So, open your hands so that He may fill them with His gifts.

Commit yourself to mentioning others by name in your daily prayers. Train yourself to remember those you met during the day and mention them by name before the Lord in your evening prayers. Concentrate on mentioning people who suffer from all sorts of problems: war, flood, earthquake, volcano, spiritual loss, moral collapse, deviation, family problems, health issues, etc. You will see that you will embrace the universe with your spirit, just as your Christ embraced it before you. Pray with sincere tears, and God will reveal to you the benefits of your prayer. Let prayer change you. If, after years of praying, you remain the same as you were before, then you should realize that prayer has not yet become your culture.

Gather as a Christian community with your brothers and sisters to pray for the peace of the world and for the souls who inhabit it. Offer along with them supplications for specific problems. Hold vigils in parishes and say The Jesus Prayer. Let the faithful encourage priests and vice versa to call for intensified prayers on days of hardship. Let everyone, with one heart and one mind, pray with their prayer ropes, invoking God's mercy for the world. The disciples of Saint Silouan the Athonite pray, collectively, in their monastery in Great Britain, to this day: "O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and have mercy on your world."

When I was a priest, I used to, along with some brothers, open the parish church every evening to hold evening prayers. There was not a day when the church was vacant of parishioners, even on days when I had to travel or be absent. Sometimes the church would almost be full. People are in need for a prayer climate; this is the Church's duty, both clergy and believers, to provide. Let us create an atmosphere of prayer and celebrate the splendor of our liturgical services. Let us be present in our prayers to the world and to all those who suffer. Why don't we turn our homes into churches?

Saint Silouan the Athonite once was told that the monks were troubled by the communist persecution of the Church. He replied: "I, too, was very troubled at first about what was happening. But after much prayer and supplication, this thought came to me: God loves everyone beyond description. He is the ruler of times, events, everything and everyone. He allowed this persecution for the good of the future. I cannot understand this, nor can I stop it. I have nothing but prayer and love." He advised his brethren to have the same.

This is the culture of prayer!



THE STARK COUNTY ORTHODOX CLERGY BROTHERHOOD INVITES YOU TO
A DOCUMENTARY DOUBLE FEATURE



Amphilochios
SAINT OF PATMOS



SACRED ALASKA



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2024

DOORS OPEN: 5 PM | SHOWING STARTS: 5:30 PM

ADMISSION: \$7 IN ADVANCE OR \$10 AT THE DOOR

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.CANTONPALACETHEATRE.ORG, OVER THE PHONE OR IN PERSON MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10AM TO 4PM.
(FOR ADVANCE PURCHASES IN BULK OF 10 OR MORE, THERE WOULD ALSO BE A 20% DISCOUNT IN ADDITION TO THE \$7 ADVANCE PRICE)

CANTON PALACE THEATRE
605 Market Avenue N | Canton, OH 44702

Amphilochios: Saint of Patmos

Amphilochios is a thirty-minute documentary exploring the life and spiritual legacy of the beloved twentieth-century saint, filmed over the course of the first celebration of his April feast day in 2019. St. Amphilochios (1889-1970) was a tireless spiritual father to the Dodecanese (a group of Greek islands), a confessor of bishops and patriarchs, a missionary, and a founder of orphanages and monasteries. Dr. Patitsas - a native of Kent, Ohio - came to know about the saint over thirty years ago and was inspired to bring awareness of this holy life to a greater audience. "We had a unique opportunity to film the inaugural feast of the saint at the monastery he founded," says Dr. Patitsas. "It was important to capture the witness of those who knew the saint while he was alive."

Runtime: 30 minutes in Greek with English Subtitles

Sacred Alaska

"Sacred Alaska" is an award-winning documentary that offers an intimate look into Native Alaskan culture and spirituality. It showcases the profound influence of Orthodoxy, introduced by Russian monks in the late 18th century, on Alaskan society. The film highlights the unique way Alaskans have woven their indigenous beliefs with Orthodox traditions, deeply influencing their worldview. Central to this is the concept of learning to become a "real person." Through beautiful cinematography and powerful storytelling, "Sacred Alaska" underscores the profound, sacred bond between the Alaskan people, their faith, and the formidable landscape they call home.

Runtime: 88 minutes in English

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2024 - 5:30 PM

CANTON PALACE THEATRE

605 Market Avenue N | Canton, OH 44702

BLESSED EXHALTATION OF THE CROSS



Thank you to Faiz Simone for organizing the bonfire and Shafeeka Shaheen for the basil.



SUNDAY SCHDDL



SUNDAY SCHOOL
FALL OUTING
RAMSEYER
FARMS

**4000 Ramseyer Lane,
Wooster, OH 44691**

**October 6, 2-7 pm
(Sunday hours
at the farm, 1-7 pm)**

Group picture at 4 p.m.
Campfire snacks

Memory Eternal!

Our prayers and condolences to Youssef, Huda, Samira and the
Abou-Ghanam family on the recent passing of their
great-nephew Nasoh Aboud.

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study in the Library 11 am	3	4 Paraklesis Service 6:30 pm	5 Great Vespers 5 pm
6 Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am Fall Outing 2 pm Ramseyer Farms	7 Catechism Class, 6-7:30 pm in the Library	8 Parish Council Meeting 6 pm	9 Bible Study in the Library 11 am Basketball Practice 6:30 pm	10	11 Paraklesis Service 6:30 pm	12 Great Vespers 5 pm
13 Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am Teen Discussion (Corbin Home) 6:30 pm	14	15	16 Bible Study in the Library 11 am	17 Fr. Michael @ Fall Gathering /	18 Clergy Retreat	19 St. Gregory Palamas Monastery Parish Retreat 11 am - 2 pm Great Vespers 5 pm
20 Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am Teen Soyo 	21 St. George Volunteer Day at the Food Bank, 9 am-11:30 Catechism Class, 6-7:30 pm in the Library	22	23 Bible Study in the Library 11 am Basketball Practice 6:30 pm	24	25 St. Demetrios Matins 5:30 pm Liturgy 6:30 pm	26 Great Vespers 5 pm
27 Matins 9 am Liturgy 10 am	28 Akathist to the Theotokos: Healer of Cancer 6:30 pm	29	30 Bible Study in the Library 11 am	31 Food Ministry 9 am		

gather together

Ladies Thanksgiving Gathering

Sunday, November 3rd at the Desert Inn at Noon.

Mixed grill platters
with chicken, beef & shrimp
will be served, along with dessert.
Price is \$25 per person.
Alcohol, coffee & soft drinks are extra.



Please contact **Leila Andrews** for reservations.
Deadline is Sunday, October 27th.



Veteran's Day is November 11th.

The Ladies of St George are hosting a project to support veterans in our area through the American Legion Riders, a motorcycle group that provide many diverse services to veterans including assistance of any kind to individual families, Christmas gifts for Vets, scholarships, protecting the sanctity of military funerals and memorial services, raising money for hospitals, shelters youth programs and participating in the annual POW/MIA Rally called "Rolling Thunder" in Washington DC each Memorial Day weekend.

In honor of this day and the heroes who have served our country, Father Michael will have a special blessing during the service on November 10th. If you would like to have your veteran, living or deceased, acknowledged - please submit their name and yours by Nov 3rd to the church office or to Carol Shaheen along with \$10 per name. The monies collected will be matched by Ladies funds and donated to the American Legion Riders – Post 44. We must never forget the men and women who sacrificed their freedom so that we can have ours!

St. George Parish Retreat

Saturday, October 19

11am-2pm

St. Gregory Palamas Monastery

934 County Road 2256
Perrysville, Ohio 44864

Arrival/Church Tour, Akathist Prayers

Lunch and Discussion

*Dress code: no logos/writing on clothes. Men-no shorts/t-shirts. Women-wear long dresses/skirts, cover shoulders and wear a head scarf.


*Please RSVP to Fr. Michael or call/email the church office by Sunday, October 13.

+St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Canton, Ohio

**Orthodox Christian Women (OCW)
Annual Welcome and Fellowship Tea**
Sunday October 13, 2024 2PM
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
3204 Ridgewood Road, Fairlawn

Please join us for an afternoon of faith and friendship. All are welcome!

**Christianity in China:
An Orthodox Christian Perspective**
Presented by Fr. Dcn. James Gresh
Fr. Dcn. James will discuss his experience with mission work in China.




For more information call:
Sandy Menhorn 330-354-7792 or Nancy Studebaker 330-655-9638

**St. John Chrysostom
Annual Retreat**
Saturday, November 9, 2024

Retreat Theme:
Addictions and the Passions
How Unhealthy Connections Affect Us Spiritually

Speaker: Fr. Dimitrios Moraitis



10:00 AM - Welcome & Breakfast	1:30 PM - 3rd Session - What Addition Takes Away from Us Spiritually
10:30 AM - 1st Session - Addiction and the Passions	2:30 PM - Wrap Up - Final Q & A
11:30 AM - 2nd Session - What are the Root Causes of Addiction	3:00 PM - Service of the 9th Hour
12:30 PM - Lunch	3:30 PM - Departure

Father Dimitrios Moraitis is the parish priest of the St. Nicholas Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He received his bachelors from Hellenic college and graduated as Valedictorian in 1996. He received his Masters of Divinity from Holy Cross in 1998 and his Doctor of Ministry from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2006. His doctoral dissertation entitled "Returning the Lost Sheep: Ministry to the Alcoholic and Addict, an Orthodox Perspective," was published in 2013 and is one of the required books of the pastoral theology class, in which he guest lectures at Holy Cross. Fr. Dimitrios is also a clinician and the Spiritual Director at the Washburn House, a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and addicts in Worcester, MA. He has done hundreds of interventions, and led dozens of retreats on the topic of addiction.

RSVP to Holy Trinity's Church Office
Sponsored by Korae Ladies Society
330-494-8770 by November 1st

"SOCK"tober
Share a pair during the month of October!



It's a SOCK drive!
Did you know socks are one of the most needed items in homeless shelters?

Please donate new or gently used socks
Men's - Women's - Children's - Toddler's
at the St George Hall throughout the month of October.

All socks will be donated for distribution through
Refuge of Hope Clothing Center

26th Annual



Midwest Basketball Tournament November 8-10, 2024

Division I: Ages 12-15 / Division II: Ages 15-18 / Division III: Ages 19+

Friday, November 8 (Hyatt Place Hotel)

7 pm: Registration begins (Hotel Lobby)

8 pm: Pizza (Registration area)

8:30 pm: Discussion and Games (Meeting Room)

Saturday, November 9

7 am -10 am: Breakfast available at Hotel

8 am: Basketball Tournament begins (at Basketball locations)

12 pm: Lunch (at Basketball locations)

6 pm: Great Vespers (St. George)

7 pm: Banquet/Awards Presentation/Hafli (St. George)

Sunday, November 10 (St. George)

8:45 am: Matins

10 am: Divine Liturgy

Brunch and Farewell

Early Registration: \$50 (by November 1)
Registration: \$60
(Includes all meals and events)

Hotel Information: Hyatt Place
5421 Whipple Ave. NW Canton, OH 44720 330-244-1700
Group Rate: \$139/night (mention St. George Basketball)
Our block of rooms will be reserved for us until Oct. 8.

Secondary Hotel Information: Courtyard by Marriott
4375 Metro Circle NW Canton, OH 44720 330-494-6494
Group Rate: \$114/night (mention St. George Basketball)
Our block of rooms will be reserved for us until Oct. 9
[Click here to reserve your room online.](#)

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
1118 Cherry Ave. NE Canton, OH 44704
330-455-8482
stgeorgecanton@sbcglobal.net

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT:

Can you, would you, won't you give a little... or more, to our kids to help with the cost of sponsoring the basketball tournament?

Here are some of the tournament costs: *Friday night snacks, *Saturday Basketball gym rental & referees, *Saturday Lunch for the teams, *Saturday night hafli decorations, *Saturday night banquet/hafli food and drinks, *Sunday brunch, *Weekend Admittance Bracelets

Whatever you are able to give: \$20, \$30, \$40, \$100, or more? You can make your checks out to St. George Teen Soyo.

Yes! It would be so greatly appreciated!

Cookie Donations

We are in need of cookie donations (no nuts) for the Tournament. Please bring them to the office by Nov. 7.

Pease contact Jamie Shaheen to see how you can help.
Thank you!



Banquet/Hafli – Saturday, Nov. 9
in our Church Social Hall

\$25 per Adult (\$30 after Nov.4)
Children 5-18 \$20 (\$25 after Nov. 4)
Children 4 and under, Free

Contact the office for
reservations or purchase your tickets
on Sunday during Coffee Hour.

The St. George Antiochian Orthodox
Church of Canton, Ohio
1118 Cherry Avenue NE

Upcoming events

Basketball Tournament - November 8-10, 2024

MIDWEST DIOCESE FAMILY FALL GATHERING
ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, GRAND RAPIDS, MI

OCTOBER 18-20, 2024 (stnicholasgr.com/fall-gathering/)

Live Streaming of Services on our Facebook page.

(You don't need a Facebook account to access the page and view the videos)

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Canton, Ohio

<https://www.facebook.com/st.georgeantiochiancanton/>

Online Word magazine:

www.antiochian.org/theword

Subscription to Word Magazine:

<https://forms.gle/ZcYq1HD1tPp7SXHT9>

Online Giving Option

St. George Church has an online

giving/stewardship option on our website.

God bless you for your support and we sincerely thank you
for your contribution.



Online Stewardship Option:

<http://www.stgeorgecanton.com/stewardship.html>

You can also set up a bill pay through your bank and
an automated check will come to the church (a free service).

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

1118-1122 Cherry Ave. N.E. Canton, Ohio 44704 - 1036

Office hours are 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Phone: 330 455 8482

Email: stgeorgecanton@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.stgeorgecanton.com

Like our St. George facebook site.

[https://www.facebook.com/
st.georgeantiochiancanton](https://www.facebook.com/st.georgeantiochiancanton)