

VOL. 2 | OCTOBER 2021

THE DELIVERER

A Monthly Newsletter of St. George Upper Darby



OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- OCLI check-in - 10/2
- St. Katherine Women - 10/3
- Fellowship of St. Moses the Black 28th Annual Conference - 10/8-9
- Parish Council - 10/17
- Teen SOYO Bowling Night - 10/30

The Protection of the Virgin Mary

by Fr. Joel Gillam

Legend has it that during one of the many sieges by the Slavs that plagued the city of Constantinople, the patriarch and the emperor gathered the people together to pray for their safety. It was during this time they composed what would eventually become the Akathist Hymn, the same hymn we sing on the first five Fridays of Lent. During the battle, Mary appeared over the city and the Slavs were defeated. Many of our brothers and sisters in the West might ask, "What is this devotion to Mary?" Still others might ask, if her appearance saved the city, "Do we celebrate her enough?"

The answer to both questions lies in the person of Mary and more importantly the person of her son, Jesus. For those who are Protestant, veneration of Mary, a mere mortal, is not a regular thing. Some who are Roman

(Article continued on page 2)

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believe that Mary should be counted as "co-Redeemer" with Christ. The Orthodox Church is more moderate and venerates Mary for two reasons: 1) she is the first example of a Christian; and 2) she is the mother of the Son of God.

Christ said that John the Baptist was the greatest man born of women, but that the least "born in the kingdom" was greater than he. Mary is the least of the kingdom and she is greater than John. This is seen in the way the gospels treat them both. John announces the coming of the Messiah, but Mary, in the Annunciation, submits to God's will using virtually the same words that Jesus uses in the garden when He prays about His coming Cross. Thus Mary, who is less than the Son of God, imitates Jesus' example in a foreshadowing of his, and thus the Church's, submission to the Father.

Furthermore she is Christ's mother. The fifth commandment is, "Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother." On this basis Mary deserves our respect. Do any of us suppose that we are in a spiritual state that we can bear the Messiah? Yet as Christians that is exactly what we are called to do. And if we are to honor our mothers, who give birth to imperfect children, then should we not respect even more the mother of the perfect human being, the mother of the "new Adam" who redeems us all?

Finally, we must always remember that the reverence we show Mary is because of her Son. She is an example of one who follows Christ and she is the mother of Christ. Both are true. But, it is Christ, the eternal Son and Word of God, that is important. Mary, and all humanity, are fulfilled and transfigured by His work. That is why the Church does not exalt her more than it does. Jesus is the Sacrifice and Jesus is the Redeemer, and it is the culmination of God's work that is accomplished not yours or mine or Mary's. She is respected because she is the first to imitate the true Savior.

MINISTRY UPDATES

OCF - Welcome to our College Students!

We are so excited to welcome our college students back to St. George! As we have done in prior years, we are hosting our Adopt a College Student program, which pairs local college students with families at St. George for support during the academic year. If you are interested and able in supporting a student, [please fill out this brief form](#) so we can pair you with a student!

Maintenance Committee - Masonry Work in church

For the past several weeks, a crew has been onsite to do some masonry work to repair cracks in the stone and some crumbling mortar on the outside of the church. You'll soon notice some scaffolding inside the church as they move into the sanctuary to repair some of the large cracks within the next month. If you have questions about the project, you can connect with the Maintenance Committee chair, Gary Sarkessian, via email at sarky99@msn.com.

October Greeters and Readers

October 3

Greeters: Gabrielle Gillam and Randa Ibrahim
Reader: Lucy San Chirico

October 10

Greeters: TBD
Reader: TBD

October 17

Greeters: TBD
Reader: Brigid San Chirico

October 24

Greeters: TBD
Reader: TBD

October 31

Greeters: TBD
Reader: TBD

Interested in being a greeter? Contact Ed Donahue at edjdonahue@gmail.com

Interested in being a reader? Contact Matt Gordon at mvgordon2@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Fellowship of St. Moses the Black's 28th Annual Conference - October 8-9

Registration is now open for the annual conference of the Fellowship of St. Moses the Black. This year's conference will be held in a virtual format again. For a complete conference schedule and to register, please visit <http://mosestheblack.org/conferences/2021-conference>.

Connect Conference

The Connect Conference will return in-person this year in Dallas, TX, from October 8-10. For more information about this Pan-Orthodox conference for young adults and to register, visit www.connectorthodox.org.

Orthodoxy on Tap Potluck

Orthodoxy on Tap is hosting a potluck on Saturday, October 23 at St. George from 2-5pm. Sign up and let us know what you can bring - we can't wait to see you there!

Teen SOYO Bowling Night - October 30

Calling all teens! St. George's Teen SOYO group will be hosting a bowling night on Saturday, October 30, after Vespers.

Coming in November

Stay tuned for more details about our annual Thanksgiving box and holiday gift drives!

ST VLADIMIR'S SEMINARY
COMES TO CLEVELAND!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021
REGISTER FREE

ORTHODOXY & EVANGELISM

Educational Event &
Book Launch

Also Featuring:

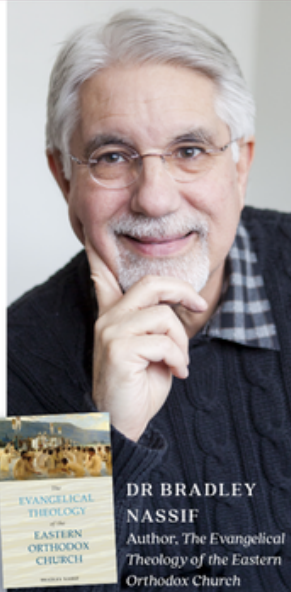
VERY REV. DR CHAD HATFIELD
President, St Vladimir's Seminary

VERY REV. DR ERIC TOSI
Chair, Commission on Missions & Evangelism
(OCA Diocese of NY/NJ)

ATTEND IN PERSON OR ONLINE
LUNCH PROVIDED FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDEES
ST MARY ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
3256 WARREN RD, CLEVELAND, OH

SVOTS.EDU/EVENTS

*HELP RAISE \$30K TO EDUCATE SEMINARIANS!



DR BRADLEY
NASSIF
Author, *The Evangelical
Theology of the Eastern
Orthodox Church*

 **Antiochian
Village**
worship | fellowship | education | love

Winter Family Camp Registration is Open!

Winter Family Camp will be held at the Antiochian Village from January 14-17, 2022. Fr. Paul Abernathy, parish priest at St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church in Pittsburgh, will be the guest speaker for the weekend. You can register online today on the Antiochian Village's website.

October 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 OCLI 10:30am Vespers 5pm Wedding Rehearsal 6pm Orthodoxy 101 6:30pm
3 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am SKW 12pm Wedding 2pm	4 Maintenance Committee 8pm	5 Matins 9am Akathist 7pm Choir Practice 7pm	6 Paraklesis 6pm	7 3rd Hour 9am 12 Baskets 8pm	8	9 No Vespers Orthodoxy 101 6:30pm
10 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am	11 Fellowship of St. Moses the Black 7pm	12 Matins 9am Akathist 7pm Orthodoxy on Tap 7pm	13	14 3rd Hour 9am	15	16 Baptism 11:30am Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6:30pm
17 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am Parish Council 12:30pm	18	19 Matins 9am Akathist 7pm Choir Practice 7pm	20	21 3rd Hour 9am Icon Committee 7:30pm	22	23 Vespers 5pm Orthodoxy 101 6:30pm
24 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am	25	26 Matins 9am Akathist 7pm Choir Practice 7pm	27	28 3rd Hour 9am	29	30 Vespers 5pm Teen SOYO bowling night 6pm Orthodoxy 101 6:30pm
31 Orthros & Liturgy 9:30am						

To view the full calendar, visit www.saintgeorgeupperdarby.org

Not on our mailing list? Contact Caitlin at office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org to add your name to our mailing list.