



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Weekly Newsletter  
Sunday, November 8, 2020

**We Want to Hear from You!**

We are preparing to place the order for 2021 offering envelopes. Please complete this brief, two question survey to help us place an accurate order for envelopes:  
<https://forms.gle/GFtcMcqxi6Ldo2PfA>.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Parish Council – Sunday 11/8 at 1pm  
Office will send Zoom link
- Choir Practice - Tuesday 11/17 at 7pm  
Contact [Matt Gordon](#) for link

**Upcoming Events**

- 12 Baskets (distribution)  
Thursday 11/5 at 8pm  
Contact [Vicki McGraw](#) for more details
- Eastern Dioceses Fall Retreat  
November 12-15  
See [Antiochian.org](#) for more information

**Philly OCF**

- Regular Meeting - Monday 11/9, 8pm  
[Zoom link](#)  
Mtg ID #835 2215 9264  
Password: Fellowship
- Bible study - Tuesday 11/10, 11am  
[Zoom link](#)  
Mtg ID #880 5713 0161  
Password: Scripture

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

Hebrews 2:2-10

Luke 8:41-56

- The following services will be held in the church and streamed on the [website](#):
  - **Wednesday 11/4** – Paraklesis, 6pm
  - **Friday 11/6** – Vespers for St. Raphael of Brooklyn and Prayer Walk
  - **Saturday 11/7** – Orthros and Liturgy (St. Raphael), 9:30am
  - **Saturday 11/7** – Vespers, 5pm
  - **Sunday 11/8** – Orthros and Liturgy, 9:30am
  - \*beginning 11/9, morning prayers will be streamed online on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9am\*
  - **Tuesday 11/10** – Matins, 9:30am
- To attend one of the services listed above at the church, please sign up via Sign Up Genius ([November services](#)). When doing so, please keep in mind the following:
  - reserve the number of slots for family members attending (For example, if there are 3 household members attending, reserve 3 slots.)
  - those who are elderly, have pre-existing conditions, or currently are not feeling well are asked to remain home.
  - children who are too young to keep a mask on are asked to remain home.
- To set up a time to receive communion, please sign up via the [Sign Up Genius](#). Please reserve only one slot per household unit. Prior to arriving at the church for communion, please say the [Morning Prayers](#) and the [Prayers of Preparation before Communion](#).
- Confession is also being scheduled by appointment. To set up an appointment, please email the church office and provide a few dates/times you are available. The office will email you to confirm your appointment time.

**If you attend a service, you must wear a mask/face covering out of care for ourselves, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our neighbors.**

### **Adopt-a-College Student**

We are currently gauging interest from both our college students and parishioners in the Adopt-a-College Student program. If you would like to pray for a student or support them in some other way or if you are a student who would like to be paired with a family, please contact the church office at [office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org](mailto:office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org) to be put on the list.

### **St. Katherine Women's Group**

The Antiochian Women of the East cordially invite all Antiochian Women to join our Fall Retreat and Meeting on November 14, from 11:00am - 1:30pm with Mother Gabriella of the Holy Dormition Monastery as our special guest. [Click here to register!](#)

### **2020 Holiday Drive**

St. George's will once again be supporting People's Emergency Center (PEC) in Philadelphia through our holiday gift drive. Due to COVID-19, PEC is requesting that all donations be mailed to the center, so we will not be collecting items at the church. To donate, [you may visit PEC's website to view the wishlists.](#) Alternatively, you may also make a donation to St. George's online or via cash/check (with the note "PEC holiday drive") no later than December 6<sup>th</sup> and we will direct it to the holiday drive.

### **2020 Thanksgiving Boxes**

St. George's is now collecting donations for Thanksgiving boxes to be donated to PEC. To donate, please make a donation on the church's website or via cash check (with the note "Thanksgiving boxes") no later November 19 so we can deliver the boxes on November 23.

### **12 Baskets**

If you would like to participate in the 12 Baskets ministry, please contact the [church office](#) to sign up.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The 2020-21 Sunday School year will begin on Sunday, November 8, and all students will be studying the 12 Great Feasts of the church. Classes will rotate through an activity each week, and everything will be done remotely. The schedule for November is listed below. Parents will be receiving additional information from your child(ren)'s teacher and the church office later this week prior to the first session.

**To register your child(ren) and to ensure we have updated contact information for parents, please fill out this brief form:** <https://forms.gle/HmNKu2Fa2TpPm6Jz6>

**Feast:** Entrance of the Theotokos (11/21)

#### **November 8**

- Elementary school: At home resources
- Middle school: Ask Abouna
- High school: Class (via Zoom)

#### **November 15**

- Elementary school: Class (via Zoom)
- Middle school: At home resources
- High school: Ask Abouna

#### **November 22**

- Elementary school: Ask Abouna
- Middle school: Class (via Zoom)
- High school: At home resources

#### **November 29**

No Sunday School

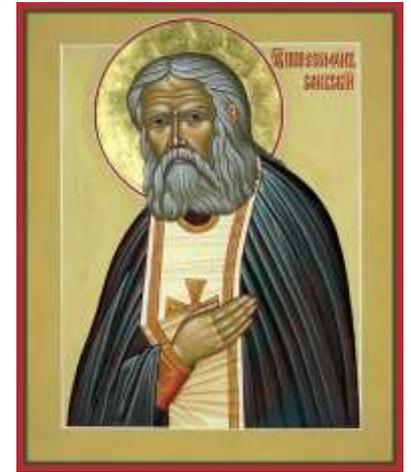
## **Church History**

*This week we continue a series on the Essentials of Faith. The hope is that we can all learn and be edified, and come to a “knowledge of the Truth” (1 Tim. 2:4), and to witness to the things of faith that were “delivered to the saints” (Jud. 1:3) in the Church, which is the “pillar and ground of Truth”. (1 Tim. 3:15) May God bless the labor. These lessons are taken from Fr. Thomas Hopko’s series The Orthodox Faith.*

### **Saint Seraphim of Sarov**

Probably the greatest Russian saint of the 19th century, who has been called by some the greatest saint in all of Russian Church history, was Saint Seraphim of Sarov (1759–1833). Saint Seraphim became a monk at the age of 19. He lived for many years by himself in a hut he built in the woods near the Sarov monastery, devoting himself to intense prayer, fasting, and spiritual exercise. He continued living there for several years even after being terribly beaten by robbers, who later repented after he forgave them.

In 1810 the abbot of the monastery ordered Saint Seraphim to return to the monastery where he continued his life of seclusion and silence, reading through the New Testament once a week, and being granted many spiritual visions. In 1825 he opened the doors of his enclosure to receive visitors, whom he greeted with the radiant joy of the resurrected Christ and the Holy Spirit. Soon the crowds of visitors were so great that he moved to the Near Hermitage, where he continued to minister to the massive stream of pilgrims—people from all walks of life, rich and poor, high-born and low-born—coming for healing and spiritual guidance. In his spiritual instructions St Seraphim identified the purpose of the Christian life as “*the acquisition of the Holy Spirit*.”



### **From Saint Seraphim’s conversation with Nicholas Motovilov, a married layman**

And Father Seraphim continued, “When the Spirit of God comes down and confers upon a person the fullness of His presence, the human soul, as does anything else that He may touch, overflows with an inexpressible joy. . . .

“Yet however comforting this joy which you now feel in your heart may be, it can never compare with that joy of which the Lord Himself spoke through the mouth of His Apostle when he said, ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him’ (1 Cor 2.9).

“We have been given a mere foretaste of that joy right now; and if it has filled our souls with such a sweetness, well-being, and happiness, then what shall we say of that joy which is prepared in Heaven for those who mourn here on earth? You too have shed enough tears in your life here on earth, and just look at the joy with which the Lord now consoles you!”