

this issue

November Reflection P.1

Fr. Milad's Challenge P.3

"Something from the Archives" P.3

Holy Sacraments P.4

His Eminence
Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate

His Grace, Bishop JOHN,
Auxiliary Bishop for Worcester
and New England

Rev. Fr. Milad Selim, Dean

Rev. Arch Dn. Seraphim Solof

Rev. Dn. Anthony Payne



November Reflection

Authority and its Challenges

by Fr. Milad Selim

When speaking to someone about the word authority, there seems to be so many conflicting meanings, feelings and interpretations, though when one looks up its definition in the dictionary, it is rather clear and simple - *The power to give orders or make decisions.*¹ So why do we struggle with authority? Why is it that when we hear this word we raise our guard, open our ears and cautiously respond? I recently asked a group of twenty-five Orthodox teenagers these same questions and I found their answers intriguing. One by one, they associated words like responsibility, guidance, disappointment, power, abuse, shepherding, police, government and employers with the word authority. We then took each one of these words and elaborated on their meaning and relation to authority. What quickly became evident was the fact that none of them wanted a person to lord over them. In other words, they did not mind authority, as long as the person in that authoritative position was willing to guide them while doing the work with them, as opposed to demanding results. Again, the definition is simple, but the feelings and interpretations it carries seem to be more complex.

During His three year ministry on earth, Jesus faced this issue head on. He was challenged, scrutinized, nearly stoned and ultimately spat on and crucified. When He drove out demons, He was accused of doing so through Beelzebul, the prince of demons (Matthew 12:24-28). When He taught in the synagogue, He was questioned by the chief priests about the origin of His authority (Matthew 21:23-27), and He was even driven out of the town to be thrown off of the cliff for the things He was teaching (Luke 4:27). Jesus explained that His authority is given to Him by the Father. All that He had was from the Father. He expressed this numerous times when He said; "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18), "All things have been committed to me by my Father" (Luke 10:22), "For as the Father has life in himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself. And he has given him authority to judge because He is the Son of Man" (John 5:26-27), and perhaps the most profound and radical expression of His authority that led Him to the Cross was when He said, "My teaching

is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?" to which they shouted, "You are demon-possessed" (John 7:16-20).

Jesus, the author of our lives and all things created, came with mighty power to save us from the evil one. At times, He acted with gentleness and patience, other times with anger and criticism. His authority never changed from one instance to the other, instead, His audience did. When He approached the weak and the needy, He gently restored them and commanded them to repent. When He encountered the wicked, He scolded them for their evil way of living, calling them whitewashed tombs, hypocrites and false teachers. Notice how He ultimately died for all of them and gave them all, equally, a new life and a new commandment. His authority over nature, sin, demons, sickness and death was His Father's salvific gift to the world. This gift was, and continues to be, available to all those who desire to follow Him. The question is, can we submit to this authority and follow Him into His kingdom, or do we oppose it due to our desire to be autonomous, thus creating our own path?

As some of the teens expressed, authority can disappoint and be abused, but not always. Christ gave His disciples authority to heal and to forgive sins. Through His Divine providence and Holy Spirit, they appointed individuals to spread His Gospel and build up His Holy Body. Let us determine who has authority over us today. Is Christ at the helm of that list? Do we do His will with complete obedience and trust? Do we have any passions like ego, pride, wealth, lust etc. that have authority over us? If so, let us my beloved, with humility and obedience, submit to Him Who does not disappoint.

Fr. Milad



¹ Merriam-Webster Dictionary



THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS + NOVEMBER 21

Today is the prelude of God's goodwill and the prophecy of the salvation of men. The Virgin appears openly in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. So let us cry to her with loud voices: Rejoice, thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's providence.

+ Troparion of the Feast,
Tone 4





Archdeacon Seraphim's

Fun Fact

Back on September 8, we celebrated the Nativity (birth) of the Virgin Mary. And this month, on November 21, we celebrate the fulfillment of the vow her parents, the "Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna," made in asking God to give them a child in their old age and in their barrenness. They had promised that, if God would give them this gift, this blessing, they would dedicate their child to His service.

This is from the ancient account of Mary's early life, the "Protoevangelium of James":

And the child was two years old, and Joachim said: "Let us take her up to the temple of the Lord, that we may pay the vow that we have vowed, lest perchance the Lord send to us [i.e., warn us of taking too long to fulfill our vow], and our offering be not received." And Anna said: "Let us wait for the third year, in order that the child may not seek for father or mother." And Joachim said: "So let us wait." And the child was three years old, and Joachim said: "Invite the daughters of the Hebrews that are undefiled, and let them take each a lamp, and let them stand with the lamps burning, that the child may not turn back, and her heart be captivated from the temple of the Lord." And they did so until they went up into the temple of the Lord. And the priest received her, and kissed her, and blessed

And what a time it was!

St. George Weekend

October 17-18, 2015

We have celebrated another completely successful St. George Weekend, October 17th and 18th!!! Once again, like last year's event our parish came together as one and this time we celebrated the blessed service to our parish of our Archdeacon Seraphim Solof.

The committee which continues to grow each year dedicated hours of time and talents to the success and wasn't it nice to watch our parishioners of all ages dance the night away to the music of the 30's and 40's from Dan Gabel and the Abeltones.

Speaking for my committee, it was indeed our pleasure to provide our best to this event for our parish... To Celebrate, to have Another Home Run Dinner and most of all to have our Faithful Parish in Fellowship. A 'Happening' again took place and All our Parish can take a bow!

*Thank You to All who made this a Success.
Dr. George Wood, Chairman.*



November Word Search by Kh. Nichole

ADVENT FAST
COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING
PATIENCE
ARCHANGELS
TURKEY
JOY
UNITY
EVANGELIST MATTHEW
ABSTINENCE
ANTIOCHIAN
WONDERWORKER
FAMILY
UNMERCENARIES
PATRIARCH

L A S I Y C A K S H U E E N E N I
P V A N N I E T E T T G A S C G M
A J N N L N Y N C Y C I T E N R Y
T B I O E I E G Y O H R P I E U W
R U S A A I K E M C U E V R I A C
I K U T G S R M O T U I W A T N H
A F Y T I N U I M F G E S N A M T
R A D V E N T F A S T M I E P C K
C M N C I N E I K U O I F C T E H
H I I T A W O N D E R W O R K E R
E L Y O J M A R C H A N G E L S S
T Y A R A H T K A E C N A M I N N
W E H T T A M T S I L E G N A V E
E N V T D A A B A T W N A U O M T
S A N T E N M D U U N N T H B D V
Y A A U T T R A I I A A K D I J S
P I N I A H E I N I I R A S U R R

SUBURBAN BLACKTOP LLC

Asphalt Paving & Excavation Contractor

Residential / Commercial

Asphalt Paving • Sealcoating • Repairs and Patching
Drainage • Snow Plowing • Salt/ Sanding
Landscaping • Retaining Wall Construction



Call to Schedule Free Estimate
Days, Nights, Weekends

Ron McDonald, Owner

242 Fairmont Ave. • Worc. 01604
Cell: 603-235-3569 Ph: 508-795-3832
Email: rj_mcdonald@msn.com



Susan Kalil Collins
Owner / Realtor
508-523-7237



Sales • Vacation Rentals

Collins & Demac
Real Estate

520 Main Street • Shrewsbury

FULL & HALF CASE DISCOUNTS

ON OVER 600
FINE WINES

Ed Hyder's

Mediterranean
Marketplace
408 Pleasant St.,
Worcester

508-755-0258

Philip G. Haddad, Jr.,*

MILES
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Serving
Worcester
County

508 • 829 • 4434
800 • 983 • 4434

Richard Mansfield,
Director / President

* Lic-Type 6

www.milesfuneralhome.com



This Month's Challenge:

The Nativity Fast is from November 15th to December 24th. As a family, discuss the importance of fasting for us as Orthodox Christians and determine how each person, based on their age, health and experience with fasting, should fast this year.

Food for thought

The Nativity fast is a joyful fast as we anticipate the birth of our Lord and Savior. It is one of the four fasting periods in our Church and due to its joyous nature, it is less strict. Fasting is not completely about giving things up; it is about gaining joy and control over the things that control us. It is not a punishment for the sins we have committed nor is it a way to please God. It's an opportunity for our families to refocus our lives and attention on the true reason we celebrate Christmas. It is not just for the ordained or the monastic, the righteous or the sinner. The Church gives all of us this gift to help us overcome sin and regain control over our lives. Share these few words with your family and enjoy God's gift.

Something to think about...

"Love is the bridge between you and everything."

—Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi
13th-century Persian poet



Continued from previous page

her, saying: "The Lord has magnified thy name in all generations. In thee, on the last of the days, the Lord will manifest His redemption to the sons of Israel." And he set her down upon the third step of the altar, and the Lord God sent grace upon her; and she danced with her feet, and all the house of Israel loved her. And her parents went down marveling, and praising the Lord God, because the child had not turned back. And Mary was in the temple of the Lord as if she were a dove that dwelt there, and she received food from the hand of an angel.

SOMETHING FROM THE ARCHIVES

St. George Men's Club...and friends
(Date of Photo Unknown)

How many of these gentlemen can you identify?

Names as identified on back of photo

Front row: Nimr Nabhan, Robert Samara, George Lian, Dr. Taft Antoun, Albert Maykel, Dr. Serunian, Ward Abbott

Back row: Fred Abodeely, George Nimee, Joseph Lian, John Mansour, "Hap" Ghiz, James Birbara, Michael Abodeely, Sam Mussalam

Are you looking to learn more about the Orthodox faith?

Archdeacon Seraphim is teaching Orthodox Basics to those looking to embrace the Orthodox Faith. Join him every week in the hall at 9 am after Sunday School prayers.

All are welcome.

SELL MOMS HOUSE.COM™

Helping Families Transition

Downsizing and Selling From Daunting to DONE!

David J. Dowd
President & Founder
(774) 696-6124
david@sellmomshouse.com

So each year on November 21, we celebrate the Great Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple, just as the church has celebrated this feast from ancient times.

Speaking of feasts, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank His Grace, Bishop John, Fr. Milad, Dn. Anthony, Jaime, Dr. George Wood, the St. George Weekend Committee, the Men's and Women's Clubs, the Church School, and all of you for making my Silver Anniversary celebration so very special and unforgettable for me, Marta, Lizzie and Joe. I am so blessed, and I thank God for each and every one of you!

navin, haffty & associates

Providing Consulting Services for the MEDITECH market

1900 West Park Dr., Ste. 180
Westborough, MA 01581
888.837.1300

www.navinhaffty.com

REGATTA
DELI & SANDWICH SHOPPE

Regatta Deli Worcester
28 Lake Avenue
Phone (508)756-6916
Fax (508)754-1883

Regatta Deli Westboro
3A Colonial Drive
Phone (508)366-8958
Fax (508)836-4757

Home of the Famous Regatta Club

Mercadante FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
Est. 1961

370 Plantation Street
Worcester 01605

Tel: 508.754.0486
Toll Free: 800.854.0486
Fax: 508.798.0394

www.mercadantefuneral.com





Barbara Hines
REALTOR® BROKER Associate



Real Estate
Seller and Buyer
Representation

Office: 508-365-5306 • Mobile: 978-479-8415
barbarahines@remax.net
www.barbarahines.com

inBalance

Chiropractic & Wellness

Structural and Lifestyle
Therapies for Optimal Health

Chiropractic • Lifestyle Therapy
Nutrition • Exercise • Massage Therapy

Dr. George A. Debs
Dr. Jaclyn L. Debs

352 Boston Turnpike • Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-425-3304
www.inbalancecw.com

The Light

November 2015 • Published Monthly
St. George Orthodox Cathedral
Worcester, MA 01604
Vol. No. 4 • Issue No. 03

SAVE THE DATE...

Contact the Cathedral Office or organization members for more details or refer to the weekly online bulletin for updates and more information.

**Reservations may be required
for some events!**

Teen SOYO Apple Pie Prep & Bake

Saturday, November 21

Diocesan Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 5

Trip to NYC

Saturday, December 12

5th Annual Christmas Food Baskets

Thursday December 17

Unpack the Truck

Friday, December 18

Pack the Food Baskets

Saturday, December 19

Deliver the Food Baskets



Follow us on Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeworcester>



HOLY SACRAMENTS of the Orthodox Church

• BAPTISMS •

Rudy Bachir Apollon 9/26/2015

Rudy Apollon

Amira Tokatli

• WEDDINGS •

John Jeorgos

Elvisa Sulce

10/10/2015

Patrick Logan

Miriam Hyder

10/11/2015

• FUNERALS •

Corey J. Rodriguez 9/24/2015

Elsie R. Haddad 10/6/2015

Pauline R. Debs 10/10/2015

Najeb Haddad 10/22/2015

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The
LIGHT

www.StGeorgeWorcester.org
508.753.5623 fax
508.752.9150 ph
Worcester, MA 01604
30 Anna Street

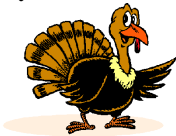
OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Worcester, MA
Permit No. 46

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	2	3 Women's Club meeting 6 pm	4	5	6	7 Feast of St. Raphael Vespers 5 pm
8 Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	9 Parish Council 7 pm	10 Endowment Fund Meeting 7 pm	11 Christmas Concert Rehearsal 7 pm	12	13	14 Vespers 5 pm
15 Nativity Fast Begins 11/15-12/24 Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	16	17	18 Christmas Concert Rehearsal 7 pm	19 Church School Christmas Concert Rehearsal 6:00 pm - 7:30pm	20 <i>The Prefeast of the Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple Divine Liturgy 6:30 pm</i>	21 Teen SOYO Apple Pie Baking 7:30 am Marriage Seminar 10 am - 4 pm Vespers 5 pm Entry of the Theotokos
22 Church School: 9 am Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day 	27	28 Vespers 5 pm
29 No Church School Orthros: 9 am Liturgy: 10 am Christmas Concert Rehearsal - Dedham 2-5pm	30	1 Women's Club meeting 6 pm	2	3 Church School Christmas Concert Rehearsal 6:00 pm - 7:30pm	4 Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal 7 pm	5 Vespers 5 pm Diocesan Christmas Concert at the Cathedral 6 pm