

The Saint Andrew Bugle

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4700 Canyon Crest Drive, Riverside, California 92507

Dear and Pious Parishioners

Blessings of the Lord!

How thankful we are to the Lord for cooling off the weather! I wish you all a most pleasant fall.

I am so proud of each and every one of you who participated this year in our annual Riverside Greek Fest!

Our festival chair, Mr. George Younes, and his executive leadership staff were simply superb.

More than 12 people are currently inquiring, attending services, coming to our new post-fest "Introduction to Orthodox Christianity" class, and making appointments to speak with me about joining the church.

We have also received beautiful letters and emails from members of the community thanking us for a beautiful and uplifting festival.

The fest got great media coverage: below is a round-up of some (not all!) of the articles about our fest.

Press Enterprise - Article 1

<http://www.pe.com/articles/greek-751072-culture-church.html>

Press Enterprise - Article 2

<http://www.pe.com/articles/greek-751073-butter-add.htm>

The North Star Online - (Article written by Emma Carlsen)

<http://www.thenorthstaronline.com/2014/10/07/2195/>

City Events Page

<http://riversideca.gov/calendar/item.aspx?id=7156>

Go Los Angeles

<http://golosangeles.about.com/od/losangelescalendar/a/GreekFest.htm>

Eventful

<http://events.wkbn.com.eventful.com/riverside/events/riverside-greek-fest-/E0-001-073949566-8>

Riverside Arts Council

<http://www.riversideartscouncil.com/15-favorite-things-to-do.html>

Meetup.com - (15 people from their group attended. Read the comments on their page for a smile).

<http://www.meetup.com/Downtown-Riverside-Neighbors/events/200725302/>

Corona Pointe

<http://coronapointeresort.apartmentblogging.com/2014/09/25/next-weekends-riverside-greek-fest-near-your-apartment-home/>

PlacestogoinRiverside.com

<http://www.placestogoinriverside.com/news/46496-RIVERSIDE-Greek-Fest-returns-with-more-activities-Press-Enterprise/>

YouTube.com (this user has posted several videos of the dancing at this year's festival and part of the Great Vespers service)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/sarantoulis>

The contact with the community, the great food and fun, the kids!, the witness, the art and culture exhibit...sheesh- so many wonderful things- but at the top of the list is working together as a family. I was and am so proud of how we worked together and collectively felt so honored to be of interest to more than 10,000 visitors (and that with 103 degree weather!).

Glory to God. Praise to His Holy Name.

Fr Josiah

V. Rev. Josiah Trenham, Pastor

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For information and schedule of services, go to www.Saintandrew.net

To submit articles contact Lucy Hanna, editor, at lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net

ST. ANDREW COMMUNITY NEWS...

On Wednesday, September 3rd, with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, St. Andrew Church received a visit of a wonderful and historic icon-replica of the "Our Lady of Czestochowa Icon". At the conclusion of the service, everyone had the opportunity to venerate the icon. Dinner and a presentation by Fr. Peter West followed in the fellowship hall on "The Culture of life and Work of Human Life International".

This wonderworking Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos is to be found in a Roman Catholic monastery at Yasna Gora near the city of Czestochowa, Petrov Province. It is believed to be one of the seventy icons painted by the holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke. Tradition says that the icon was taken from Jerusalem when the Romans conquered the city in the year 66, and was hidden in a cave near Pella. The icon was given to St Helen when she visited the Holy Land in 326, and she brought it back to Constantinople with her.



Starting in the eighth century the icon traveled to various places, including Galicia, Bavaria, and Moravia. Prince Leo, who founded the city of Lvov, brought the icon to Russia and placed it in the fortress of Belz. There, many miracles took place before the holy icon. Prince Vladislav of Opolsk acquired the icon when the Poles captured southwestern Russia. At the time that Vladislav ruled in Poland, the Tatars invaded Russia and soon appeared before the gates of the fortress of Belz. The prince ordered the icon to be placed atop the city walls as the Tatars began their siege of the fortress. Blood began dripping from the icon where it had been struck by an arrow or some other projectile. Those who witnessed it were fearfully amazed at the sight. The Tatars began to retreat when a dark haze covered them, and many of them died.

Following this miraculous deliverance, Prince Vladislav planned to take the icon to Slesia and to place it in his castle at Opolsk. As preparations for the transfer were being made, Vladislav was overcome with an inexplicable fear. He began to pray before the holy icon, and that night he was told in a vision to take the icon to Yasna Gora near Czestochowa. Vladislav built a monastery at Yasna Gora in 1382 and gave the icon to an order of Roman Catholic monks.

Many years later, followers of John Hus attacked Czestochowa and plundered the monastery. When they attempted to carry the Czestochowa Icon away in a cart, the horses refused to move from the spot, held back by some invisible power. One of the Hussites became angry and threw the icon onto the ground, while another stabbed the face of the Virgin with his sword. The first man was struck dead, and the hand of the second man shriveled up. The other invaders also suffered punishment from God. Some of them died on the spot, while others became blind. Although many of the monastery's treasures were stolen by the Hussites, the wonderworking Czestochowa Icon was left behind.

King Carl X Gustav of Sweden occupied most of Poland in the seventeenth century, and his forces remained virtually undefeated until they fought a battle near Yasna Gora and the monastery where the icon was kept. With the help of the Most Holy Theotokos, the Poles were able to overcome the Swedes and end the war in 1656. At Lvov, King Jan Casimir officially decreed that the Mother of God was the Queen of Poland, and that the nation was under her protection.

Many miracles have been worked by the Czestochowa Icon, and are recorded in a book which is kept at the Czestochowa monastery. Copies of the icon are found in many Orthodox and Roman Catholic monasteries. Some of these copies are venerated in the village of Pisarevkain in the Volhynia Province (June 29 and September 8), at Verhnaya Syrovatka in the Kharkov Province, at Tyrov in the Vinits Province (Holy Spirit day), in the Kazan Cathedral at St Petersburg, and in several other places.

On Sunday, September 14, we bowed down in worship as we celebrated the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Colby Powell, son of Stan and Jeanne Skrocki, received a blessing from Fr. Josiah along with prayers from all his St. Andrew parish family prior to his deployment to Afghanistan. May God protect Colby and grant him many years.



Many years Vincent and Megan...

Congratulations to Vincent Stoyas and Megan Green who were united in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, September 21, 2014. Many years to the newly-weds and to their families.



Welcome to the world....

Congratulations to Jason and Lauren Covarrubias on the birth of their son, Maximus, born September 30, 2014. Many years to baby Maximus, his parents and his big sisters, Sophia and Zoe.

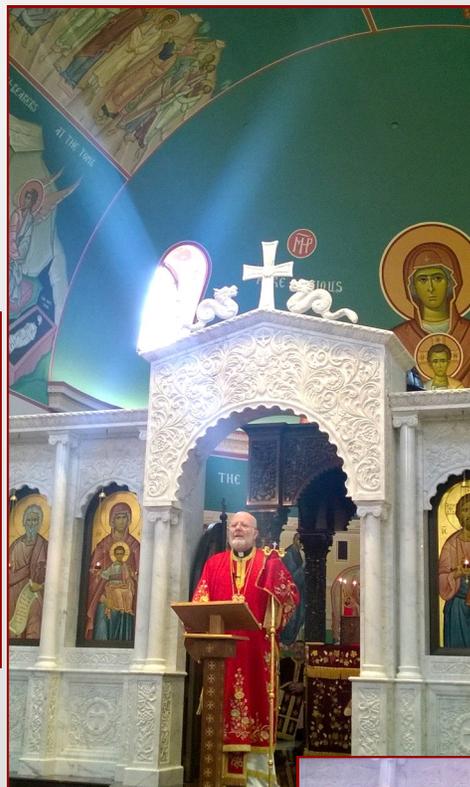
Metropolitan JOSEPH visits St. Andrew....

On Sunday, September 21, His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH visited St. Andrew for the first since his election on July 3rd, 2014 as Metropolitan of New York and All North America. Following the Great Doxology, His Eminence tonsured Basil Trenham to be a Reader and elevated Reader Tomas Hernandez to be a Subdeacon.



As His Eminence delivered his inspiring homily, we couldn't help but notice the light converging on him from two directions as he spoke about the troubles of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East. A light from God assuring us of His presence here and around the world.

Below, Mathilda Mueller greeting His Eminence after the children presented him with a folder containing artwork made by them.



At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Josiah presented His Eminence with two gifts. A \$2,000 gift in his honor to aid the war victims in Syria. The second gift is a frame with two pictures taken when His Eminence consecrated the St. Andrew Temple on December 2, 2011.





The 2014 Riverside Greek Fest may now be history...
but the memories are sure to last!

Although the weather was hot, sitting under the tent with cooling mist spraying from all sides allowed the attendees to relax, eat and visit comfortably.



Friendships were solidified, new ones forged and a good time had by all. Parishioners got together in unity and love to put on an amazing “open house” to the community. Our guests were impressed by the friendliness of our people, the richness of our multi-cultural backgrounds and yes, the delicious food. They were awed by the beauty of our temple and richness of the traditions of the Orthodox Church which Fr. Josiah and our trained docents excellently explained.

The children's section was a great hit with the children enjoying the face-painting, slides and other activities.

It was also heartwarming to see our youth working together and having a good time at the same time.

Father/son team working together and loving it...



Mural of Kafenio (coffee house) by Darren Corrigan. Looks a lot like the walkways in Mykonos?



Marriage: The Great Sacrament

A Sermon delivered in the Church of St. Nicholas, Trikala, Greece, 17 January, 1971
By Archimandrite Aimilianos of Simonopetra, Mount Athos

Continued from the September Bugle:

There is another serious matter to which you should also pay attention: heredity. Get to know well the father, the mother, the grandfather, the grandmother, the uncle. Also, the basic material prerequisites should be there. Above all, pay attention to the person's faith. Does he or she have faith? Has the person whom you're thinking of making the companion of your life have ideals? If Christ means nothing to him, how are you going to be able to enter his heart? If he has not been able to value Christ, do you think he will value you? Holy Scripture says to the husband that the wife should be "of your testament" (Mal 2.14), that is, of your faith, your religion, so that she can join you to God. It is only then that you can have, as the Church Fathers say, a marriage "with the consent of the bishop" [3], that is, with the approval of the Church, and not simply a formal license.

Discuss things in advance with your spiritual father. Examine every detail with him, and he will stand by your side as a true friend, and, when you reach the desired goal, then your marriage will be a gift from God (cf. 1 Cor 7.7). God gives his own gift to each one of us. He leads one person to marriage and another to virginity. Not that God makes the choice by saying "you go here", and "you go there", but he gives us the nerve to choose what our heart desires, and the courage and the strength to carry it out.

If you choose your spouse in this way, then thank God. Bring him into touch with your spiritual father. If you don't have one, the two of you should choose a spiritual father together, who will be your Elder, your father, the one who will remind you of, and show you God.

You will have many difficulties in life. There will be a storm of issues. Worries will surround you, and maintaining your Christian life will not be easy. But don't worry. God will help you. Do what is within your power. Can you read a spiritual book for five minutes a day? Then read. Can you pray for five minutes a day? Pray. And if you can't manage five minutes, pray for two. The rest is God's affair.

When you see difficulties in your marriage, when you see that you're making no progress in your spiritual life, don't despair. But neither should you be content with whatever progress you may have already made. Lift up your heart to God. Imitate those who have given every-

thing to God, and do what you can to be like them, even if all you can do is to desire in your heart to be like them. Leave the action to Christ. And when you advance in this way, you will truly sense what is the purpose of marriage. Otherwise, as a blind person wanders about, so too will you wander in life.

What then is the purpose of marriage? I will tell you three of its main aims. First of all, marriage is a path of pain. The companionship of man and wife is called a "yoking together" (syzygia), that is, the two of them labor under a shared burden. Marriage is a journeying together, a shared portion of pain, and, of course, a joy. But usually it's six chords of our life which sound a sorrowful note, and only one which is joyous. Man and wife will drink from the same cup of upheaval, sadness, and failure. During the marriage ceremony, the priest gives the newly-weds to drink from the same cup, called the "common cup" [4], because together they will bear the burdens of marriage. The cup is also called "union" [5], because they are joined together to share life's joys and sorrows.

When two people get married, it's as if they're saying: Together we will go forward, hand in hand, through good times and bad. We will have dark hours, hours of sorrow filled with burdens, monotonous hours. But in the depths of the night, we continue to believe in the sun and the light. Oh, my dear friends, who can say that his life has not been marked by difficult moments? But it is no small thing to know that, in your difficult moments, in your worries, in your temptations, you will be holding in your hand the hand of your beloved. The New Testament says that every man will have pain, especially those who enter into marriage.

"Are you free from a wife?"—which means, are you unmarried?—asks the Apostle Paul. "Then do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you are not doing anything wrong, it is no sin. And if a girl marries, she does not sin, but those who marry will have hardships to endure, and my aim is to spare you" (1 Cor 7.27-28). Remember: from the moment you marry, he says, you will have much pain, you will suffer, and your life will be a cross, but a cross blossoming with flowers. Your marriage will have its joys, its smiles, and its beautiful things. But during the days of sunshine, remember that all the love-

ly flowers conceal a cross, which can emerge into your sunshine at any moment.

Life is not a party, as some people think, and after they get married take a fall from heaven to earth. Marriage is a vast ocean, and you don't know where it will wash you up. You take the person whom you've chosen with fear and trembling, and with great care, and after a year, two years, five years, you discover that he's fooled you.

It is an adulteration of marriage for us to think that it is a road to happiness, as if it were a denial of the cross. The joy of marriage is for husband and wife to put their shoulders to the wheel and together go forward on the uphill road of life. "You haven't suffered? Then you haven't loved", says certain poet. Only those who suffer can really love. And that's why sadness is a necessary feature of marriage. "Marriage", in the words of an ancient philosopher, "is a world made beautiful by hope, and strengthened by misfortune". Just as steel is fashioned in a furnace, just so is a person roved in marriage, in the fire of difficulties. When you see your marriage from a distance, everything seems wonderful. But when you get closer, you'll see just how many difficult moments it has.

God says that "it is not good for the man to be alone" (Gen 2.18), and so he placed a companion at his side, someone to help him throughout his life, especially in his struggles of faith, because in order to keep your faith, you must suffer and endure much pain. God sends his grace to all of us. He sends it, however, when he sees that we are willing to suffer. Some people, as soon as they see obstacles, run away. They forget God and the Church. But faith, God, and the Church, are not a shirt that you take off as soon as you start to sweat.

Marriage, then, is a journey through sorrows and joys. When the sorrows seem overwhelming, then you should remember that God is with you. He will take up your cross. It was he who placed the crown of marriage on your head. But when we ask God about something, he doesn't always supply the solution right away. He leads us forward very slowly. Sometime he takes years. We have to experience pain, otherwise life would have no meaning. But be of good cheer, for Christ is suffering with you, and the Holy Spirit, "through your groanings is pleading on your behalf" (cf. Rom 8.26).

Second, marriage is a journey of love. It is the creation of a new human being, a new person, for, as the Gospel says, "the two will be as one flesh" (Mt 19.5; Mk 10.7). God unites two people, and makes them one. From this union of two people, who agree to synchronize their

footsteps and harmonize the beating of their hearts, a new human being emerges. Through such profound and spontaneous love, the one becomes a presence, a living reality, in the heart of the other. "I am married" means that I cannot live a single day, even a few moments, without the companion of my life. My husband, my wife, is a part of my being, of my flesh, of my soul. He or she complements me. He or she is the thought of my mind. He or she is the reason for which my heart beats.

The couple exchanges rings to show that, in life's changes, they will remain united. Each wears a ring with the name of the other written on it, which is placed on the finger from which a vein runs directly to the heart. That is, the name of the other is written on his own heart. The one, we could say, gives the blood of his heart to the other. He or she encloses the other within the core of his being.

"What do you do?" a novelist was once asked. He was taken aback. "What do I do? What a strange question! I love Olga, my wife". The husband lives to love his wife, and the wife lives to love her husband.

The most fundamental thing in marriage is love, and love is about uniting two into one. God abhors separation and divorce. He wants unbroken unity (cf. Mt 19.3-9; Mk 10.2-12). The priest takes the rings off the left finger, puts them on the right, and then again on the left, and finally he puts them back on the right hand. He begins and ends with the right hand, because this is the hand with which we chiefly act. It also means that the other now has my hand. I don't do anything that my spouse doesn't want. I am bound up with the other. I live for the other, and for that reason I tolerate his faults. A person who can't put up with another can't marry.

What does my partner want? What interests him? What gives him pleasure? That should also interest and please me as well. I also look for opportunities to give him little delights. How will I please my husband today? How will I please my wife today? This is the question which a married person must ask every day. She is concerned about his worries, his interests, his job, his friends, so that they can have everything in common. He gladly gives way to her. Because he loves her, he goes to bed last and gets up first in the morning. He regards her parents as his own, and loves them and is devoted to them, because he knows that marriage is difficult for parents. It always makes them cry, because it separates them from their child.

To be continued next month



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