

Pastoral Message from Fr. George for 6.9.23



Pentecost is undoubtedly an event taking place in history. It also sets out the fundamental features of the Church's theology and mission, which continue to be relevant to us today. For example, Pentecost provides the Church with its basic structure and organization. The Head of the Church is Christ. The Church, in its worldly dimensions, is headed by the Apostles. Our link to the Apostles stems from what is called apostolic succession.

With the sacrament of the laying on of hands, which we continue to do in ordinations even today, an unbroken connection is established between the

Apostles and us. Through apostolic succession, the mission of the Church in a given location is overseen by the Bishop. The Bishop is the successor of the Apostles. In our tradition, when we celebrate the Divine Liturgy and other services, the Bishop stands in the place of Christ. Within our parishes and communities, we often meet a Priest, not a Bishop. Practically speaking, the Priest is called to administer the sacraments on behalf of a Bishop. All sacraments conducted by the Priest are tied to the Bishop's authority and status within the apostolic succession. Every time we go to Church, every time we attend a sacrament, we experience Pentecost. We live the mission of the Church as it was set out by Christ Himself. Just like Christ led his disciples in establishing the Eucharist during the Mystical Supper, the Bishop conducts the Divine Liturgy with the presbyters, deacons, and all the people of God in our churches today.

At the same time, the notion of community remains an integral part of the Church. The hierarchical structure of the Church is dependent on a community of faithful. The models for leadership and worship in the Church are premised on community. Christians live and pray in communities, together with others. The most important sacrament in the Church, the Divine Liturgy, takes place within the community. All the liturgical prayers, the common chalice we are called to drink from, reinforce this collective perspective. For its part, Christ-like leadership, which entails sacrifice in service to others, presupposes community. In the Church, Bishops, Priests, and lay leaders are called to serve the people of God, the community of believers. The pastoral and spiritual needs of the community of believers always come first. (From Archdiocese Department of Religious Education)



6 facts about the icon of the Pentecost



The Holy Spirit is represented through the 12 rays coming from the mandorla (the semicircle at the top) or through the tongues of fire shown above each Apostle, or through both elements in some icons.



The position of the Apostles seated in a semicircle suggests harmony.



The inverse perspective prevents the apostles in the back from being painted smaller. They are actually depicted slightly larger, particularly Sts Peter and Paul.



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The kingly figure at the bottom is Cosmos, who personifies all people of all nations.



The empty seat in the middle belongs to Christ who is invisibly present.



Although St Paul was not present, he is included to show he was in complete communion with the others.



HOLY PENTECOST



Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,
present in all places and filling all things,
treasury of good things and giver of life: come;
take Your abode in us; cleanse us of every
stain, and save our souls, O Good one.

Recent Highlights of Our Parishioners “On the Road”



Saints Constantine and Helen Romanian Orthodox Church in Lilburn, GA, hosted the Pan-Orthodox Pentecost Vespers & Picnic for Orthodox Churches throughout the Atlanta metro area on Saturday, June 3rd from 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. St. Christopher Church had 14 parishioners present.

Fr. George Ac sente, Pastor of Saints Constantine and Helen Church in Lilburn, thanks all Atlanta Orthodox parishes and parishioners for their participation. They included the Annunciation Cathedral and Saint John the Wonderworker Church in Atlanta, St. James Church in Buford, Saints Nicholas, Irene and Raphael Church in Cumming, St. Philothei Church in Athens, and St. Christopher Church in Peachtree City.

The host parish served a traditional Romanian grilled "mititei" (cevapi), along with chicken, hotdogs, potato salad, spanakopites, and delicious desserts. Thank you!




Fr. George, Fr. Paul, Fr. Steven, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Christos, Fr. Barnabas, & Fr. George celebrated Pentecost Vespers with the Gospel read in three languages.



Faithful from seven Orthodox parishes throughout the Atlanta metro area were present.



Saints Constantine & Helen Church began 30 years ago. The sanctuary was built 15 years ago. Fr. George and members of St. Christopher Church's Building Committee interviewed Fr. George and his parishioners regarding its design to help us with our future church planning.



Pentecost Picnic


JUNE 3, 2023

VESPERS AT 3:00 PM

PICNIC TO FOLLOW


S.S. Constantine and Helen
Romanian Orthodox Church

664 Dickens Rd. NW, Lilburn, GA



Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made
fisherman all-wise, by sending down upon them
the Holy Spirit, and through them, drawing all
the world into Your net.

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
AND TO RSVP



This is a Pan-Orthodox AIOPA event
Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring their families.

A sister parish commented to us during the picnic how St. Christopher Church always had lots of its faithful participate in our Pan-Orthodox events... thanks be to God for this blessing!



Fr. George offered the Prayer for the picnic, assisted by Brother Clergy from Atlanta's Orthodox parishes. The weather was perfect for a late afternoon picnic on the spacious grounds along with incredible hospitality of Saints Constantine & Helen Church's faithful.





Thanks to our parishioners who drove to Lilburn to represent our parish at this blessed event.





Our parishioners enjoyed fellowship and great food with brothers and sisters in Christ!





We commend our parents and grandparents for bringing their children to join us!



More Highlights of Our Parishioners “On the Road”



Parishioners at Archangel Michael Chapel on May 31, 2023. Fr. George celebrated the Feast of St. Hermias the Martyr, followed by brunch at J. Christopher's in Brookhaven.

More Highlights of Our Parishioners “On the Road”



Parishioners at Broadway Diner, May 29, 2023. Thanks to Presbyteria Marinda & Fr. George for hosting the luncheon in honor of Marinda's Name Day – St. Theodosia.

More Highlights of Our Parishioners “On the Road”



Parishioners at Let's EAT! at Broadway Diner, May 28, 2023. Thanks to Kirk and Dedee for hosting the luncheon in memory of Panayiota MacDougall.
May Pat's memory be eternal!

More Highlights of Our Parishioners “On the Road”



**Parishioners at Angelo's Mediterranean Restaurant, May 27, 2023,
following the visitation in Griffin for Maria Tagalos Ramsaier-Kirk.
May Mary's memory be eternal!**

More Highlights of Our Parishioners “On the Road”



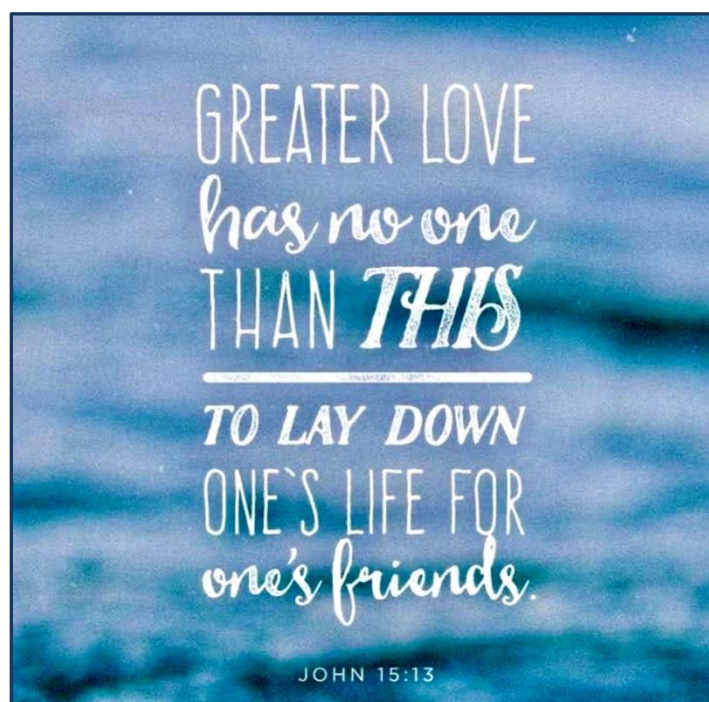
Parishioners at Archangel Michael Chapel, May 20, 2023. Fr. George baptized Andrew & Stephanie Farmakis' two children with Reed & Stephanie Farmakis serving as their Godparents.

More Highlights of Our Parishioners “On the Road”



Parishioners at Archangel Michael Chapel, May 10, 2023.

Fr. George celebrated the Feast of Mid-Pentecost and thanks our St. Christopher parishioners who joined us (including those not pictured).



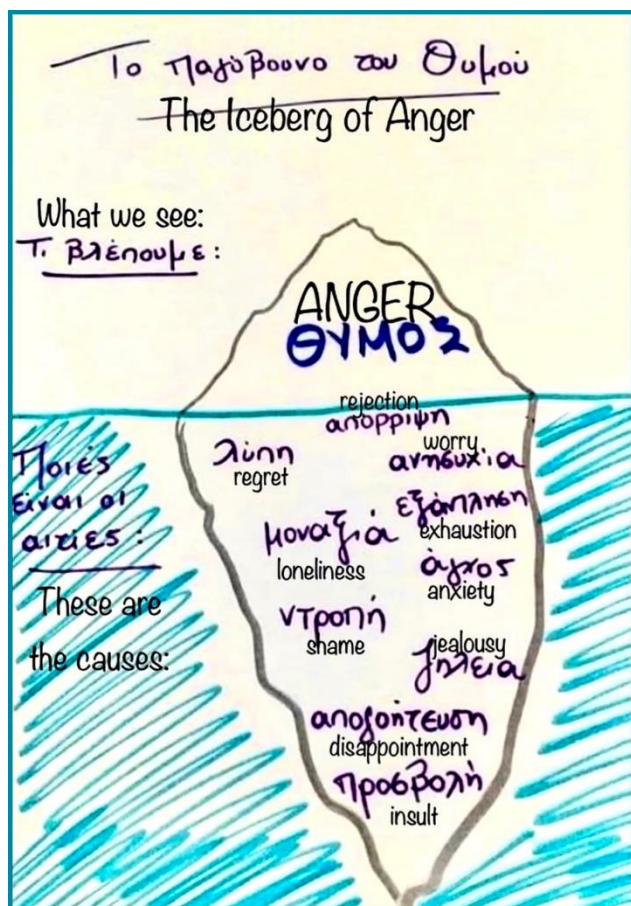
St. Paisios' Counsel on Grumbling

Grumbling is caused by misery, and it can be put aside by doxology (giving praise). Grumbling begets grumbling and doxology begets doxology. When someone doesn't grumble over a problem troubling him, but rather praises God, then the devil gets frustrated and goes off to someone else who grumbles, to cause everything to go even worse for him. You see, the more one grumbles, the more one falls into ruin.

Sometimes the devil deceives us and makes us unable to be pleased with anything; however, one can celebrate all things in a spiritual manner, with doxology, and secure God's constant blessing.

+ St. Paisios of Mt. Athos, *Elder Paisios of Mount Athos Spiritual Councils IV: Family Life*

St. Paisios offers a magnificent response to grumbling. Before we put it aside, consider the following graphic, "The Iceberg of Anger". It depicts anger and some of its underlying causes.



Likewise, I offer an informative article, *"How to Determine the Cause of Your Anger"* from www.verywellhealth.com. It explains anger's causes and triggers; it also covers anger issues and how to manage this emotion. [Click here to read this article.](#)