



THE BASIL LEAF

St. Basil The Great Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Parish Happenings:

Christ is Risen! Blessed Holy Week and Glorious Pascha was how we began April. The services during this time were as beautiful as ever with a fantastic choir and chanters. We thank them all very much for their hard work and sweet sounding voices. Also, we take the time to recognize Tatyana Aninka-Dick and those women who decorated the bier, Irina Schaffer for providing the Paschal eggs, and Merson Lulseged for organizing the Easter Egg hunt. (continued on p. 2)

The Place Of Beauty

Fr. James Purdie

We've recently hosted our inaugural Sacred Arts Festival in which we highlighted the sacred art of our worship, theology, and Church. When I think of the place beauty occupies in the Church, I need to be careful not to focus too much on just one thing. We have icons, decorative carpentry, ornate liturgical items, the hymnodic sounds of the choir and chanters, sweet smelling incense, flames dancing from the tips of candles, vestments, and liturgical movements. All of these are beautiful in and of themselves, but it is their interplay that is most beautiful. (Continued on p. 3)

All outer beauty fades; the true beauty does not. "The imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit" mentioned by Saint Peter survives the ravages of time, and the inexorable grave. It is to this beauty that God calls all of us. And it is this beauty which calls forth the admiration of our heavenly Bridegroom: in the Song of Songs, He speaks to His bride and says, "You are altogether beautiful, my love, and there is no flaw in you" [Songs 4:7].



Left: Jeff Edens leads an icon demonstration at the Sacred Arts Festival. Jeff gave us a glimpse into egg tempera, gold leafing, and fresco work. His talks, demonstrations, and displays were very informative. He certainly whipped interest and appreciation for what it takes to write icons. Did someone say "Icon workshops!?"

Right: Parishioners and guests sit down to lunch provided by Larisa Fritts at the Sacred Arts Festival. Besides the art, the festival also gave us a chance to meet and learn about new people. In turn, we were able to introduce them to our community and Orthodoxy in general.



Parish Happenings (continued from p.1)

Also, thank you to all those who served in the altar, provided food, or otherwise contributed to service to God and His third day resurrection.

Pascha and Holy Week were also special this year because the iconostasis icons were installed. These icons were being touched up and written by Randi Sidor-Rose. Randi is writing the icons for the iconostasis while Jeff Edens works throughout the rest of the Church. We also have the Deacons' doors icons of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, and they will be installed once the doors are fashioned and put in.



You will also notice that the floor has been installed in the narthex area, and the bookstore is up and running. These things came together just in time for our Sacred Arts Festival. Thanks to James Crawford, Chuck & Julie Simerick, and Terry Slezak who work so hard to bring the narthex together.

Our Inaugural Sacred Arts Festival took place Friday the 20th & Saturday the 21st. On Friday evening we heard Byzantine chant from the chanters of Annunciation Greek Cathedral (Norfolk), and witnessed an icon demonstration by Jeff Edens. Saturday was busy! We read two lectures by Fr. James, saw two icon demonstrations by Jeff Edens, and heard our own amazing choir, as well as the choir from Sts. Constantine & Helen. (continued on p. 3)



PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE DIOCESES OF NEW YORK AND CHARLESTON

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE HERTITAGE &
CONFERENCE CENTER ~ JUNE 27 - JULY
1, 2018

Worship	Cookout	Oratorical Festival
Golf Outing	Bookstore & Venders	Geo-Caching
Children & Adult Workshops	Bible Bowl	
Bonfires and S'mores	Young Adult Wine & Appetizer Socia	

HOSTED BY: ST. PHILIP CHURCH (SOUDERTON), ST. GEORGE CHURCH (UPPER DARBY) & HOLY ASCENSION CHURCH (WEST CHESTER)

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Parish Happenings (continued from p. 2)

All the while people were free to look at exhibits and peruse the two bookstores we had running, Sts. Constantine & Helen's and ours, which made \$266.50 its opening weekend. Of course we had lunch at the festival Saturday afternoon, and we thank Larisa Fritts for putting together a great spread. Thank you James Crawford for organizing the event. James himself thanks everyone for a great job well done. We certainly want your feedback on the festival, so please see James with your thoughts on the timing, content, advertising, or with ideas to on how to make a great festival even better.

Lastly, please keep a few things in mind: May 20th is the last day of Sunday School, and the Antiochian Women also have a meeting that day. Dn. Christopher will be leading a new adult-ed class "The Unity of Christ and the Implications for Salvation (survey of the 3rd and 4th Ecumenical Councils)" beginning May 6th.

The Place Of Beauty (continued from p. 1)

Our guests at the Sacred Arts Festival heard lectures, saw demonstrations, purchased icons, and heard music. That is wonderful, but how truly awesome it is for us to experience all those things together as the Church. We are the Church in and as we celebrate the Divine Liturgy. It is in the Liturgy that we focus not on individual trees, but where we experience and encounter the forest- the Divine master piece- in which we are one with God and His people.

The Sacred Arts Festival was not a fundraiser. It was a chance for the community to be introduced to some of the trees that make up our forest. But it is for as the Church to fully partake of that forest. We have beauty to offer the world, but such beauty ultimately finds its fulfillment in the sacraments; as we are being the Church.

Individually, the sacred arts have a certain beauty that can experienced on their own, but when they are put together in their proper context before the altar of the God, endowed with the Holy Sprit, is where we partake of Jesus Christ- that's beauty.

Sacred Music Institute 2018

Wednesday, July 11 – Sunday, July 15

Early Bird Registration will close on June 3, 2018.

After June 3, the registration fee will increase by \$50.

Registration will close completely on July 5, 2018.

Scholarship Information: Limited scholarships are available for both adults and teens. Applications are available at antiochian.org/sacredmusic; the application deadline is May 16. If you are selected for a scholarship, we will send you a code so that you may register without charge.

Dates to Remember

Great Vespers, Saturdays 6:30 PM. Matins, Sundays, 9:25 AM.
Divine Liturgy, Sundays, 10:30 AM.
Sunday School & Adult Ed, Sundays following Liturgy.

- April** 28 Youth Equipped to Serve (YES), Teen SOYO ministry.
29 Chrismation of Megan Temple, 10:25pm
Baptism of Sampson Lipscomb, 1:15pm

- May** 6 Parish Council, after fellowship hour
13 Mother's Day
16 Vesperal Liturgy for Feast of the Ascension, 6:30pm
20 Last day of Sunday school
27 Pentecost

- June** 3 Parish Council, after fellowship hour
4 Apostles Fast Begins
27 Parish Life Conference beings

- July** 1 Parish Life Conference ends
Parish Council, after fellowship hour
11 Sacred Music Institute beings
15 Sacred Music Institute ends
16 Fr. James leaves for Clergy Symposium

