



St. Anna Orthodox Shrine Youth Weekly Bulletin

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Church Etiquette or Some Things You Should Know While in Church

By: Fr. David Barr

(Part three of four)

Venerating Icons

When you enter the church, it is traditional to venerate the icons. Usually there are icons at the entrance to the church and many churches have icon stands in the front as well. When venerating (kissing) an icon, pay attention to where you kiss. It is not proper to kiss an icon in the face. You wouldn't go up and kiss the Lord or His mother on the lips, would you? You would kiss their hand, and only if they invited you would you even dare to kiss them on the cheek. Pay attention to what you are doing. When you approach an icon to venerate it, kiss the gospel, scroll, or hand cross in the hand of the person in the icon, or kiss the hand or foot of the person depicted. As you venerate an icon, show proper respect to the person depicted in the icon - the same respect you would show the person by venerating him or her in an appropriate place. And remember, blot off your lipstick before kissing.

Talking during Church

Isn't it great to come to church and see friends and family members? But wait until coffee hour to say "Hi" to them. It just isn't appropriate to greet people and have a conversation with them during the services. Besides being disrespectful towards God, it is rude towards the other people in the church who are trying to worship. Talk to God while in church through your prayers, hymns, and thanksgiving, and to your friends in the hall afterwards.

Kiss (Don't Shake) the Priest's or Bishop's Hand

Did you know that the proper way to greet a priest or bishop is to ask his blessing and kiss his right hand? How do you do this? Approach the priest or bishop with your right hand over your left hand and say "Father (or "Master" in the case of the bishop), bless." This is much more appropriate (and traditional) than shaking their hands. After all, the priest and bishop are not just "one of the boys." When you kiss their hands, you show respect for their office - they are the ones who "bless and sanctify" you and who offer the holy gifts on your behalf. So next time you greet your priest or bishop, don't shake his hand, ask for his blessing.

GOYA

GOYA is our junior high and high school youth group. This group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm. Each week the youth break bread together and discuss their faith. Youth also participate in a variety of service projects through youth meetings. Service projects in the past include boxes for soldiers, IOCC kits, and preparing for a variety of events at the Church. GOYA also participates in a variety of other activities including bowling, laser tag, retreats, and more! Join us on a Tuesday evening to take part of good Christian Fellowship!

GOYA Dinner Schedule

Each week at GOYA we have dinner for the kids. We have about 12-15 kids on a typical night. If you are interested in signing up for an open day please let contact Michelle Hawe.

Tue. Nov. 15
Alexiou Family

Tue. Dec. 6

Tue. Dec. 13
Soup Potluck (Bring your favorite Soup to Share)

Tue. Dec. 20
Christmas Party at the Cambra Home

FAITH Testimonials

Our faith is something each of us live and has brought impact to our lives. This week in GOYA we will begin having the junior high and high school students discuss their faith to the video camera. Questions the youth have been encouraged to think about are: what my faith means to me, how my faith impacts me and the decisions I make, what I do to show my faith, and how do I spread my faith. Videos will be posted in the blog section of the website.

Saint Project

Goyans have been asked to select a saint of their choice and research them to share with the rest of the group. This Tuesday GOYAns will sign up for their Tuesday to share their saint story and share what saint they will be doing the project about. Youth have been asked to put together a 2-5 paragraph report about the saint and email it to Michelle Hawe prior to their share date. The written report will be shared on the website and in Generations. We look forward to hearing about some of the saints!!! Thank you to Nikki Menas for starting this new aspect of GOYA off. Nikki spoke about St. Brigid of Kildare. Her project can be viewed on the youth website.

Lenten Retreat 2012

SAVE THE DATE for this year's GOYA Lenten Retreat, March 9-11. More information to come in the upcoming months!

HOPE AND JOY

HOPE

HOPE is our Parish youth group for kindergarten through second grade. This group meets on **the first and third Wednesday of the month from 6 pm to 7:15 pm**. Each week kids are given a few moments to join in fellowship and play together. We then start our evening with a prayer and singing a Church song before the lesson. A lesson consists of a craft project, story, and discussion. The evening concludes with one of the participants closing with prayer.

This coming week HOPE will be discussing being thankful, how we show we are thankful, and make thankful turkeys.

JOY

JOY is our youth group for third through sixth grade. This group meets on the **second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**. Each week our youth gather in fellowship, prayer, and discussion! A night of youth group consists of socializing time, prayer, discussion, story of a saint, and activity. The evening concludes with a snack and prayer. There will be no JOY the week of Thanksgiving.

Parish Retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch

Next weekend, Nov. 18-20 the parish will head to the Ranch for a retreat. Costs of the retreat are single: \$145, double: \$270, and family of four: \$295. Contact Michelle Hawe if you are interested in attending.

Nativity Play

We are busy preparing for the annual Youth Nativity Play. The play will be held on **Saturday, December 17** at the conclusion of Great Vespers (6 pm) with a light reception to follow the play. Our next mandatory practice is Wednesday, November 30. Please contact Angeliki Rosenberg or Michelle Hawe with any questions or you are interested in helping with the play.

Learning the Psalms

As Orthodox Christians it is important that we learn the text of the bible. Every six weeks we will try to have grade levels learn a new psalm or prayer. For the first time through we will have 3rd-6th grade learn Psalm 148. The text can be found on page 777 of the Youth Orthodox Study Bible or on the youth website. On Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 pm we will have the kids recite the Psalm. Each child that memorizes the Psalm and shares it they will earn a \$2 gift certificate to get a scoop of ice cream. Students will also receive a certificate.

Movie Night

“The Polar Express”

On Friday, December 2nd we will have our 2nd Youth Movie Night. We will be showing and reading, “The Polar Express.” Reading of the book will happen at 6:30 pm and movie will start at 6:45 pm. There will be pizza, hot chocolate, and popcorn for the kids to enjoy. Make sure to wear your fun seasonal pajamas and bring your sleeping bag to sprawl out on the floor. If you would like to make a donation for the evening please see Michelle Hawe as soon as possible.

St. Nicholas Day Project

For the first time this year our parish Church School will be doing a St. Nicholas Day project. This activity will be a way for all of our youth to participate in spreading the good word about St. Nicholas. The goal is for youth to put together small bags of treats and tie them with a small card that shares the story of St. Nicholas. These bags of treats will be given out with the food baskets this year and to under privileged young people in the Roseville area.

We are collecting holiday candy (individually wrapped) and candy canes through Fri., Dec. 2. There is a drop off box in the Narthex. Thank you for all your help!

Religious Education News

Last Sunday, our 4th – 12th grade students will be gifted their very own Youth Orthodox Study Bible. These bibles will travel with the student between Church school and home.

Students will also receive a E100 Challenge Card which provides 100 readings for the child to read over the course of the year. Children are encouraged to begin with the card over the next few weeks. Quizzes will be available on the website and in the Sunday School classrooms to allow kids the opportunity to critically think about what they are reading. This is a great opportunity for our youth to get to know the bible and learn to read it daily.

Staff Meeting following Divine Services today.

COLLEGE CONFERENCE 2011

RAISE ME
ABOVE
THIS WORLD'S
CONFUSION



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT



St. Nicholas Ranch | Dunlap, Calif.

December 27 - 30

Earlybird rate until Dec. 15: \$215 Regular: \$240

Featuring Fr. Josiah Trenham, Pastor of St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Riverside, Calif.

Antiochian Village | Bolivar, Penn.

December 28 - 31

Earlybird rate until Dec. 15: \$240 Regular: \$265

Featuring His Grace Bishop Michael Dahulich, Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York & New Jersey in the Orthodox Church in America

Diakonia Center | Salem, S.C.

December 28 - 31

Earlybird rate until Dec. 15: \$210 Regular: \$235

Featuring Fr. Michael Nasser, Pastor of Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission in Bowling Green, Ky.

FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION VISIT WWW.OCF.NET