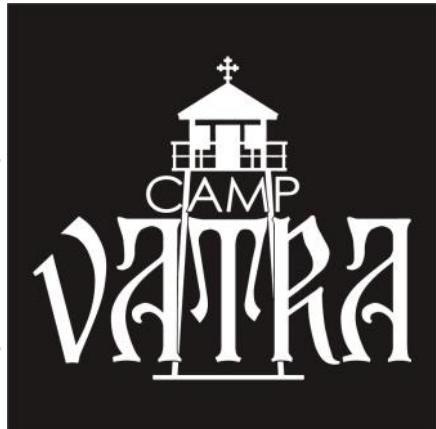


The Veil

What I learned at Camp Vatra 2016

Father David Subu

While it's still fresh in my mind and summer is still upon us, I will share about Camp Vatra (Grass Lake, MI) and the youth ministry our diocese has there. I attended "Senior Camp" (Ages 14-16) this year. We had 35 student campers and 15 volunteer counselor staff plus Fr. Dan Hoarste (Dept. of Youth and Young Adult Ministries), myself (Dept. Religious education), Psa. Mary-Ellen Rosco (Camp Vatra Junior) for all two weeks. In addition, we were joined by several clergy and monastics throughout the camp. Fr. John Konkle and Mother Macrina came from nearby Holy Dormition monastery and taught for a number of days, and Mother Paula and Sister Christine from Transfiguration in Ellwood City, PA, also came for two days. Sister Christine is a former long-time Vatra camper herself, which I think made an extra impression on the kids. They also had the opportunity to view the documentary film "7 Words" about Fr. Gheorghe Calciu which we premiered here at St. Mary's last fall and it made quite an impact on many of them.



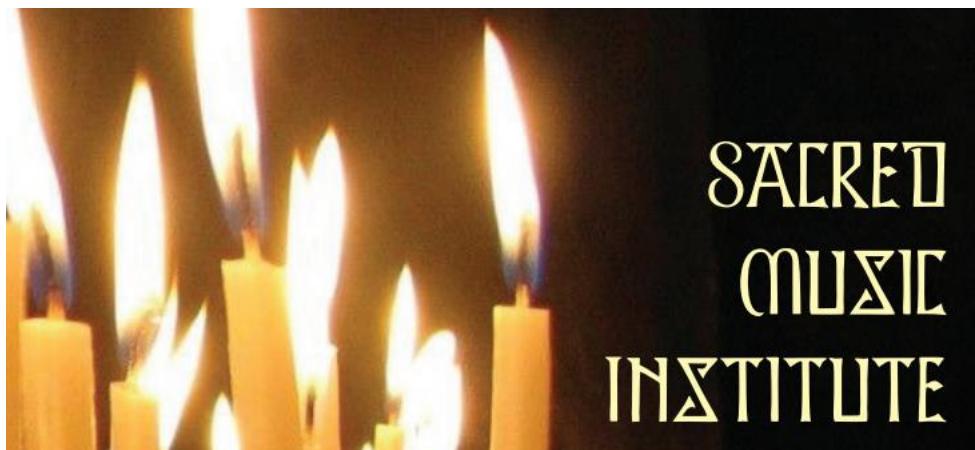
A day at Camp Vatra begins early at 8 am with morning prayers in the Pioneer Chapel followed by flag raising, where we sing the national anthems of Canada, Romania, and the United States. Then breakfast and classes make up the morning. Lunch at 1 PM is followed by various activities such as sports, arts and crafts, or field trips. In the evening we had vespers followed by the flag lowering and dinner, then various evening activities each night.

This year I taught a 10 session course affectionately entitled "Defense against the Dark Arts" which was a study on spiritual warfare, the basics of Patristic Christian psychology, the identification of thoughts, temptations, vices and passions and how to combat them through prayer and repentance. The course was designed with the assistance of our Philokalia Book Study group (look up and join the *Philokalics Anonymous* group in "the City" for more information) with whom I shared my progress over the two weeks. There was even an exam (I'm so mean!) and I am happy to say that all students passed (some barely!) My goal was to design a course I could not only use at summer camp but become the basis of a course to be taught here at St. Mary's for both our high school class and adult education. I do not think I am exaggerating when I say they get some of the best and most rigorous educational programming at Vatra of all Orthodox Church camps.

It is not all study though—after all, it is summer camp! The weather was superb all two weeks, with only one night of rain (the area has been in drought which was a blessing—Michigan mosquitos can get to be like piranhas). We got to go to Portage Lake state park twice where the beach is lovely. Lakes and rivers are essential to summer recreation in Michigan! On July 4 we had Camp Olympics and an old fashioned cook out where we ate outside under the trees, and ended the day with a bonfire. All weekend you could see fireworks from nearby townships.

...Continued on page 5...

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Sacred Music Institute 2016

Subdeacon Nicholas Jones

The Sacred Music Institute (SMI) is an annual extended weekend full of music workshops, rehearsals, and lectures on the music and theology of the Orthodox Church. It is a time for music hobbyists and professionals to meet each other, discuss problems and successes, and get added motivation for the musical service of God and His church. This has become an integral program of our St. Mary's choir, and is subsidized by the choir budget. This year, the event took place from Wednesday, July 13 through Sunday, July 17, with Subdeacon Nicholas Jones and Doris Schepian in attendance.

Normally, it is an amazing experience, especially since all of the Divine Services are sung by the entire congregation of music people; it is something else to have a Liturgy in a packed chapel full of singers! (This time there was Liturgy every day, along with Vespers every evening). This year was even more amazing, since the attendance was higher than ever. His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph, head of the Antiochian Archdiocese in North America, mandated that at least two people from every parish attend! He is adamant that the music of the church be done with beauty and accuracy. Subdeacon Nicholas gave 8.5 hours of lectures on Byzantine Notation during the weekend, helped lead one of the Vespers services, and was in charge of some small discussion groups. Doris Schepian attended many lectures/workshops on conducting (it was a multi-session course!).

The keynote addresses were given by His Grace, Bishop Anthony, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest. His plenary talks are always full of love and insight into the theology of our services and the human person. It was a wonderful weekend. If you are interested, many of the larger lectures are recorded, and are now posted on the SMI YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFVmHAEMAIWfOoWo0jbCbxg>



My Trip to Greece

Subdeacon Nicholas Jones

Normally, people travel to Europe for at least a week...to relax and travel, and at least get past jet lag. In contrast, I went for 3 days on personal business, to test my knowledge as a chanter of Byzantine Music in the New World. I went to perform 60 pages of music in front of a panel of musicologists, chant teachers, and professional chanters and to answer their questions on certain topics of music theory. How did I do? Well, you'll find out soon enough.

On the weekend of Pentecost, I took a trip to Athens, Greece. Leaving on Thursday, I arrived on Friday to 100+ degree weather, and went straight to the Acropolis with my friend, Stephen. It was quite amazing, if you ever get the chance to go. There was also a wonderful video detailing the original colors of the structure and the processions of ceremonial worship; it was quite similar to certain aspects of Orthodox worship, which should be no surprise. The new Acropolis Museum is also quite nice, with views underneath the floor of further excavation. Later that night, we began to go over the details of the next day's exam with our teacher and friend, George Theodoridis. There is much more to tell about this exciting evening, but that's not why you're reading, I don't think.

Stephen is a medical doctor, and I have a PhD...yet we both felt completely unprepared for the exam that awaited us. We had been given very little information, and were given 60 pages of music to practice (with very little overlap between us). But we pushed on, and studied for the unknown.

On Saturday morning, we drove to the Egaleo Conservatory (Ωδείο Αιγάλεω), the largest conservatory in western Attica. In a room with no air conditioning, we individually chanted our program and answered personal background and theory questions from six examiners. The exam itself took only 30 minutes, as they picked key excerpts from the music to listen to. Once satisfied, we were thanked, and sat outside, as our teacher got called into the head of the school's office...we both thought, "Well, that's not good." We were later told that he was called in to sign our diploma, with all designations prepared just in case: Excellent, Very Good, Good, and Fail. We exited the conservatory, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, each with a Degree in Byzantine Chant with the designation of Excellent!

There is much more to the story, of course, but I figured it would be better to clarify a few things. In Greece, you study to become a chanter. As far as I have been told, it is a five year program, a bit longer than a musical degree here, and without a chanting degree from a conservatory, you cannot officially chant at the chanter's stand. Chanting is a profession, and it is full of a lot of knowledgeable and experienced people. It was very obvious that our examiners loved and lived this music. We, of course, are still just hobbyists.

...continued on next page...



Subdeacon Nicholas Jones continued...

While neither Stephen nor I really know why we decided to do this, having an exam to prepare for was an amazing motivation. We both learned more in the two weeks leading up to the exam than we had in the two prior years of ad hoc studying. It was a good push that we needed to fill in the gaps in our learning, and to humble us to realize how much we still don't know. What is next? God knows, and we put our trust in Him. But, in the Byzantine World, a Master's in Byzantine Music follows. Just before our exam, a 70-year old female head chanter went for that degree. She was beyond awesome...yet, quite gracious. We still have a far journey ahead, irrespective of our musical destination.

Sacred Music Institute

Doris Schepian

This being my first time at SMI, I was extremely excited, especially since I was so blessed to be able to room with my Godmother who is the choir director at St. Paul's Antiochian Orthodox church in Emmaus, PA. We learned new, beautiful music by the likes of Nazo Zakkak (<http://www.nazozakkak.com/music/>) - truly ethereal. Singing the Liturgies each day with an entire congregation of singers was pretty nice, but I have to admit that constantly focusing on music and the conductor must have been a bit of a distraction during the worship services for some of us. There is nothing like coming into the Orthodox church as a visitor and experiencing such beauty. It often takes time for the singer to adapt to their new role so as to be able to once again focus on what is being sung. At least that has been, and still is, my experience!

Since I have the great Nicholas Jones, PhD, who was recently awarded a degree in chant with excellent designation from Greece, at my very own parish, I opted to take the Conducting track in lieu of the Byzantine chant track. Although I have a background in music, I never studied conducting, which has been of interest to me lately and therefore was delighted to have the opportunity to learn some basics at SMI. The teacher's were very kind and even split the class for those who were very beginners like myself. We learned some crazy exercises to train our brains for conducting with both hands!

SMI was a wonderful experience, Bishop Anthony was hilarious, many new friends were made, and God was glorified by our work!





Father David, Camp Vatra, continued...

On Saturday, July 9, we held a very moving memorial service in the Vatra cemetery at the Chivot monument (a Romanian style gazebo with an altar table), and blessed the graves of the former campers now buried there (one of whom is from our parish). Some of the kids really were dealing with some heavy grief, having recently lost friends or family, and the experience of standing side by side and sharing the grief together helped many tears that needed to be shed come free.

On Sunday, July 10, we got on a bus and attended church in Grand Rapids at the Annunciation parish, where our campers sang the liturgy beautifully. Then we spent the rest of the day at Michigan's Adventure amusement park, the perfect way to end a lovely Sunday. The camp was divided into seven groups of five with two counselors each and given the task of checking in with Fr. Dan by means of clever "selfies" every hour or so. Everything went so well, I hope that we can continue trips like this and hope we can secure funding for them in the future.

I was most impressed by the quality of our counselor staff this year. I could really see the work of the last ten years coming to fruition in the new generation of servant-leaders. They had an excellent spirit of camaraderie and were excellent role models. Vatra counselors take on a number of jobs: nurses, kitchen staff, dorm parents, arts/crafts teachers, sport coordinators, landscapers and janitors, as well as chaperones. Oana Grigoras, the camp nurse (and daughter of Fr. Adrian Grigoras in Elkins Park, PA), gave an excellent presentation on OCF. On the last night they put together an excellent slide show of the whole camp experience including a very funny and well-choreographed music video of all their adventures (i.e. jobs expected and unexpected). Many of the senior campers stay on the second two weeks of Junior Camp to serve as volunteer staff, and I publicly commended to them, the Senior Camp counselors as role models to emulate. And I encouraged the parents to continue to support the Camp program, as I do to all of you.

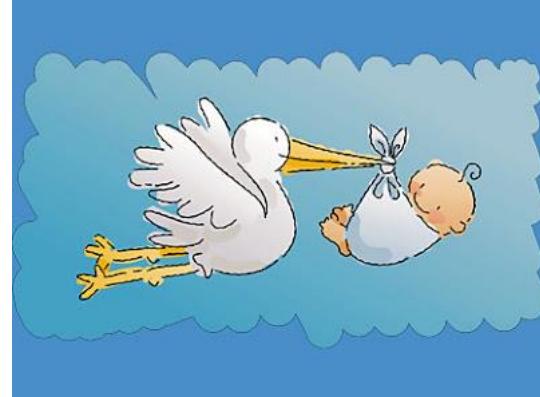
Two weeks at Summer Camp is, as you might expect, exhausting. It is also inspiring, uplifting, enriching, and re-energizing for ministry. I hope all of our middle schoolers and teens will get the chance to attend a great Orthodox summer camp, and I am excited to help any of you find a camp that meets your needs and availability. The friendships they can make there can last a lifetime and the experience provides them the opportunity to make the faith their own in a way that simply *cannot* happen in the parish alone. Do not be afraid to push a child (or grandchild) who is disinterested—we all needed to be pushed out of our comfort zones at that age (and most of us still do!) Your kids will thank you for it when they are older and wiser. Their spiritual formation is the most important part of your job as a parent—more so than any professional or academic formation you can provide. Do not neglect it!

May God bless you and all of our young people with His grace and love for mankind!



God Grant You Many Years!

Doug Matty
Jonathan Matty
John Koory
Alex Yuskavage
Timothy Yuskavage
Catherine Walter
Roseanna Cox
Debra Hile
Cristina Boicu
Cathy Dujmovic
Sophia Cleary
Juliana Subu
Ava Hope Birchfield



Anniversaries:

Jeff and Eva Beranek
Jonathan and Lori Jacobson
George and Eleni Woglom
Fr. David and Psa. Stephanie
Subu

Babies!

Wallace Shepherd Hardy, son of Rich and Christiana Hardy, was born on June 23.

Nicholas Evan McCarty, son of Jeff and Megan McCarty, was born on June 16.



TICKETS ON SALE! Keep an eye on your mailbox...You will receive an invitation in the mail for this year's Masquerade Dinner Dance Auction! Tickets are \$50 (suggested donation) each. Saturday, October 1st at St. Luke's in McLean, VA. Please see Dionne Manos or Stephanie Elko.

AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 • 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy • 11am - 12pm Fellowship	1 • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 8am - 2pm FOCUS Summer Feeding Program • 7pm - 8pm Paraclesis (Confession available)	2 • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 8am - 2pm FOCUS Summer Feeding Program • 7pm - 8pm Paraclesis (Confession available)	3 • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 8am - 2pm FOCUS Summer Feeding Program • 7pm - 8pm Paraclesis (Confession available)	4 • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 8am - 2pm FOCUS Summer Feeding Program • 7pm - 8pm Paraclesis (Confession available)	5 • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 8am - 2pm FOCUS Summer Feeding Program • 7pm - 8pm Great Vespers with Litya • 5pm - 6pm Vespers	6 • Transfiguration of Our Lord • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 10am - 11am Festal Liturgy with Blessing of Fruit • 5pm - 6pm Vespers
7 • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy • 11am - 12pm Fellowship	8 • Orthodox Youth Camp (Hagerstown, MD) • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 7pm - 8pm Paraclesis	9 • Orthodox Youth Camp (Hagerstown, MD) • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 7pm - 8pm Paraclesis	10 • Orthodox Youth Camp (Hagerstown, MD) • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 7pm - 8pm Paraclesis	11 • Orthodox Youth Camp (Hagerstown, MD) • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 7pm - 8pm Paraclesis	12 • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 7pm - 8pm Paraclesis	13 • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 5pm - 6pm Vespers with Group Confession
14 • Dormition Fast (Aug 1-15) • 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy • 11am - 12pm Fellowship	15 • Dormition of Theotokos • 10am - 11am Festal Liturgy • 7pm - 7:30pm Akathist (Brancoveanu martyrs) • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class	16 • Brancoveanu Martyrs	17 • 7pm - 7:30pm Vespers • 7:30pm - 8pm Molieben: Jacobson	18	19 • 5pm - 6pm Vespers	20
21 • 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy • 11am - 12pm Fellowship	22 • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class	23 • St. Irenaeus of Lyons • 7pm - 8:30pm Parish Council	24 • Office Closed	25 • Office Closed	26 • Sts. Adrian and Natalia • Office Closed	27 • 5pm - 6pm Vespers
28 • St. Moses the Black • 9:30am - 11am Divine Liturgy • 11am - 12pm Fellowship	29 • Beheading of St. John the Baptist (strict fast) • 7am - 8am Divine Liturgy • 7pm - 8pm Byzantine Chant Class	30 • St. Alexander Nevsky	31 • St. Cyprian of Carthage	1 • Episcopate Congress (Vatra)	2 • Episcopate Congress (Vatra)	3 • Episcopate Congress (Vatra)

Please view the website calendar for the most up to date information



A Brief Ode to The City

Jonathan Chaves

St. Augustine would find very odd
Modern computers, internet—all that gear;
With quill alone he set out to uprear
The very first and greatest City of God.

He it was who had the deep idea
Of such a structure, where the Holy Ghost
Would act as Mayor, also as the Host
To welcome pilgrims: "Put your roots down here!"

The Adam Old in old Jerusalem
Would fester while the Adam New would thrive
In New Jerusalem, once more alive
As we were meant to be when to condemn

Us God was moved, so that we were expelled
From Paradise. A City new, for our Lord's sacred sake
Was contemplated too by William Blake.
Let's hear again his song from church-bells knelled:

"I will not cease from Mental Fight,
Nor shall my Sword sleep in my hand:
Till we have built Jerusalem,
In Englands green & pleasant Land."

And now in our pleasant land we too
Build The City, starting from one brick,
And placing these with care—work slow, not quick—
With patience, 'til Jerusalem's in view.