

# The *St. Panteleimon* F E L L O W S H I P

A Society for the Practice of Orthodox Christian Healthcare



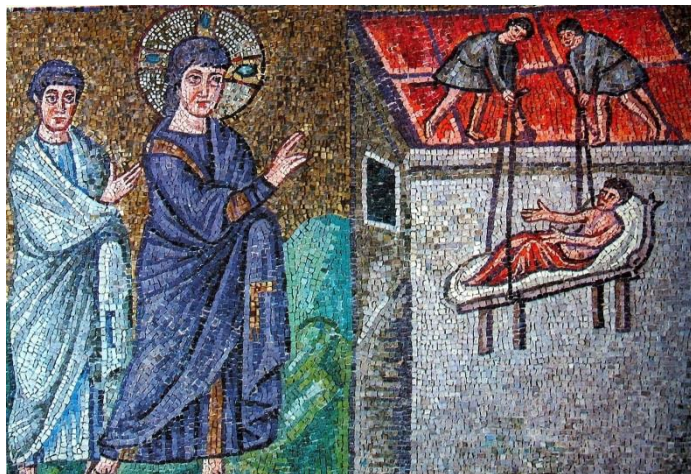
FIRST EDITION – FEAST OF NATIVITY 2014

## GREETINGS, ORTHODOX HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS!

With the approval of His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH and His Grace Bishop BASIL (Antiochian Archdiocese of North America), the St. Panteleimon Fellowship has been launched for the benefit of all Orthodox health care professionals. This new organization has emerged from the coordinated efforts of Deacon Luke Stauffer, MD of St. Thomas Orthodox Mission in Fredericksburg, TX and Father Symeon Kees of St. George Orthodox Church in Houston, TX.

The Great Martyr Panteleimon, a physician counted among the Unmercenary Healers of the Church, is our patron. Orthodox physicians, nurses, and all others who work in health care are invited into the Fellowship. Since the Church has always held the healing of the soul and body together, Orthodox clergy are certainly welcome. While our organization is currently rooted in the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America, all Orthodox Christians from our sister canonical jurisdiction are welcome. Indeed, the founders hope that the efforts of the Fellowship will create opportunities for health care professionals to share the Orthodox Way to non-Orthodox workers as well.

If you would like to be added to our email list, contact Alexandra Funchess (cafunchess@gmail.com).



CHRIST HEALING THE PARALYTIC, 6<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MOSAIC

**“Let us confess the presence of  
Him who is both King and  
Physician. For Jesus the King  
when about to become our  
Physician, girded Himself with the  
linen of humanity, and healed that  
which was sick.”**

**- St. Cyril of Jerusalem**

# INTRODUCTIONS

## Director



Dn. Luke Jay Stauffer, MD serves as a General Surgeon at the University of Texas Cancer Center in Frederickburg, TX. He is a graduate of the St. Stephen's Course at the Antiochian House of Studies and holds a Master in Applied Theology degree from the Balamand University in Lebanon. Dn. Luke wrote his Master's thesis on "Spirituality in Medicine" and delivered a presentation on spirituality, healing, and medicine at this year's Antiochian Archdiocese Clergy Symposium. His studies in the area of medicine and healing according to the Tradition inspired him to work toward connecting the many Orthodox Christians who work in the Health Care field. Dn. Luke, who has been married to his wife for 27 years, has five wonderful children. He is a veteran of the United States Navy and community Scout leader.

## Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Symeon Kees lives and serves just a few miles from the Texas Medical Center, the largest medical complex in the world. As a priest and husband of a physician, he has seen the need for professionals who train and work in secular Western medical institutions to learn the history and ethos of Orthodox health care. He laid some basic foundation stones for the establishment of a society for Orthodox Christian medicine. Fr. Symeon also developed a catechism course particularly suitable for introducing non-Orthodox and Orthodox health care workers to the Way of Christ.



## Email Distribution List Coordinator

Alexandra Funchess, LCSW, is a psychotherapist in private practice. Aware of the need for practitioners in mental health care to practice according to the mind of the Church, Alexandra has assisted with steps toward building a viable Orthodox Christian health care ministry. She maintains our email list and serves as a point of contact for mental health professionals in the Fellowship.

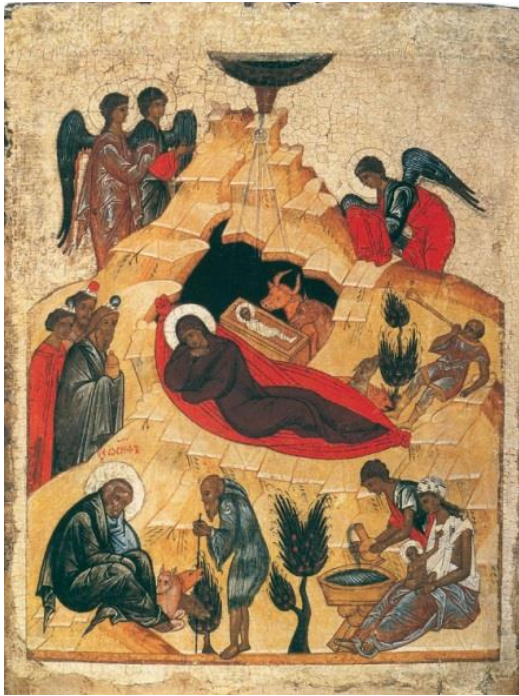
## Additional Newsletter Editorial Team Members

James Anton, MD

Presbytera Jing Anastasia Kees, MD

Rachel Anastasia Jantea, MD

# THE BIRTH OF THE DIVINE PHYSICIAN



## WHY THE LORD BECAME HUMAN

“Some may then ask, why did He not manifest Himself by means of other and nobler parts of creation, and use some nobler instrument, such as sun or moon or stars or fire or air, instead of mere man? The answer is this. The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholder. But for Him Who came to heal and to teach the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who need Him....”

St. Athanasius, *On the Incarnation*, trans. by a religious of C.S.M.V. (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1998), 78.

## THE GREAT PHYSICIAN:

### GOD AND MAN, BORN AND UNBORN

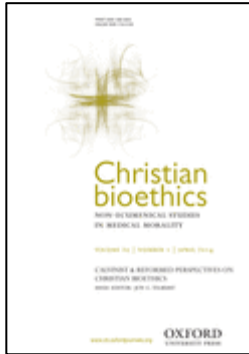
One of the myths pervading our secular culture is that Jesus of Nazareth was merely a human teacher bearing no more Truth or divine authority than other religious leaders in history. Some falsely assume that the Christian Church, perhaps under political pressure, officially elevated Jesus to the status of god. Without an understanding that Jesus is the Son of God and without knowing who Jesus Christ truly is, the significance of His birth as a human being and His mission to heal us is lost. We should not marvel, then, why the real meaning of Christmas has been largely forgotten in our society.

In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Ignatius, the second bishop of Antioch who lived during the time of Christ and the Apostles, explained concisely the Apostolic teaching that Jesus Christ, the Physician who came to heal us from death, is fully God and completely human. This very brief passage reminds us why the Feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ is so important:

“There is only one Physician,  
who is both flesh and spirit,  
born and unborn,  
God in man,  
true life in death,  
both from Mary and from God,  
first subject to suffering  
and then beyond it,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.”

St. Ignatius, “Letter to the Ephesians,” *The Apostolic Fathers*, ed. by Jack N. Sparks, (Minneapolis, MN: Light and Life, 1978), 79-80.

# RESOURCES



## **CHRISTIAN BIOETHICS JOURNAL: NON-ECUMENICAL STUDIES IN MEDICAL MORALITY**

*Christian Bioethics*, published by Oxford University Press, includes articles on a range of bioethical issues written from various perspectives. A significant number of contributors are Orthodox Christians. This publication provides a venue for Orthodox Christians to clearly express the Orthodox Faith, rooted in the teachings of the Apostles and experience of the Saints. Articles often describe the dramatic difference between the Orthodox Way and secular approaches to health care. The December 2014 issue, for example, includes an article by Jeffrey Bishop, MD, PhD entitled “Christian Morality in a Post-Christian Medical System.” To access more information on *Christian Bioethics* and to review the contents of the current issue, visit the webpage for this publication here:

<http://cb.oxfordjournals.org/>.

### **CONTACT INFO**

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### **THE SAINT PANTELEIMON FELLOWSHIP**

is a ministry for  
**Orthodox Christians**  
**in Health Care**

from all canonical  
Orthodox Christian  
jurisdictions