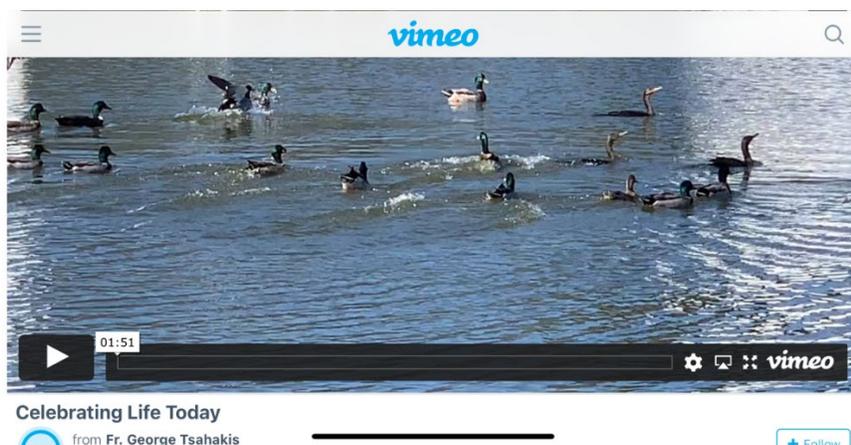


Message from Fr. George for 11.20.20 Weekly

Celebrating Life Today

On Tuesday, Presbytera Marinda and I were blessed with the birth of a new granddaughter, named after our daughter-in-law's maternal grandmother and our son's maternal grandmother. That night, Presbytera Marinda and I were privileged to put to bed the newborn's brother in his new bedroom and after we said our prayers, we asked him if he was comfortable and ready to sleep. What a blessing when he responded, *"Papou, we need to put my icon in my new room!"* In response, I moved his patronal Feast Day icon and some smaller ones so he could see them, and he relaxed and went to sleep. *What a joy to know our son and daughter-in-law have taught him to pray regularly and venerate the holy icons. He felt the peace and safety they offer from pondering their witness. Icons remind us of the family of God and His miracles throughout the history of His Holy Church.*

Earlier that day, while looking after our grandson as his mother recuperated from her surgical delivery supported by his father, Presbytera Marinda and I took a walk with our grandson. Together, we experienced an amazing landscape of natural beauty. I videotaped this backdrop and read an inspiring reflection witnessing the grandeur of God's creation. In thanksgiving to God for His providential care over humanity and creation as well as His precious gift of our new granddaughter, I share with you the video I took and the pastoral reflection about the glory of God.



[Click to view video "Celebrating Life Today" from Fr. George](#)

I shared this video because it reflects a great outdoor setting to read “*Delighting in God’s Creation*” by Fr. Steven Kostoff at oca.org/reflections/fr.-steven-kostoff/delighting-in-gods-creation.

Excerpt follows:

“O Lord, how lovely it is to be Your guest. Breeze full of scents; mountains reaching to the skies; waters like boundless mirrors, reflecting the sun’s golden rays and the scudding clouds. All nature murmurs mysteriously, breathing the depth of tenderness. Birds and beasts of the forest bear the imprint of Your love. Blessed are you, mother earth, in your fleeting loveliness, which wakens our yearning for happiness that will last forever. In the land where, amid beauty that grows not old, rings out the cry: Alleluia!” [Kontakion 2] - from the remarkable Akathistos Hymn, ‘Glory to God for All Things.’”

Thanks be to God for His countless blessings.

+Fr. George Tsahakis, 11.17.2020... a glorious day of new and renewed life!