



Features for this month:

- [Finding God in Popular Culture](#) by Archpriest John Erickson
- [Look Up at the Sky, Touch Grass and Hug a Family Member](#) by Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak

From the Editor

In a world saturated with digital noise and global anxieties, the quest for meaning and comfort is more urgent than ever. Fr John Erickson's article, "[Finding God in Popular Culture](#)," challenges us not to retreat from the modern world, but to engage it with open eyes and ears, seeking glimpses of divine truth and the human search for Christ in unexpected places.

This mission of finding the sacred in the everyday is powerfully embodied by a new initiative from SUPRASL. Thanks to a generous grant from the Ganister Foundation, we are developing a narrative-style podcast, "[SUPRASL: A Podcast - Stories of Orthodox Life and Culture](#)." This project will use immersive, sound-rich storytelling to transport listeners into the lived experience of Orthodox faithful across the globe, reclaiming the narrative and fostering unity.

In this same spirit of intentional engagement, we are thrilled to announce SUPRASL's next event: "**All is Quiet on New Year's Day**," **December 30 to January 3**. This gathering will offer participants an opportunity to welcome the New Year in quiet reflection, deep conversation, and sacred stillness. Highlights include a contemplative workshop on the music of Arvo Pärt, Midnight Divine Liturgy on New Years, a bread baking workshop, a polar bear plunge, and a sleigh ride. Space is limited, so [apply now](#) to leave the noise behind.

Finally, not only are we saturated with noise and anxiety but so many of us are carrying trauma, are on the edge of burnout or despair and suffering from pain of all sorts. As a way to begin healing Archdeacon Joseph suggests we "[look up at the sky, touch grass, and hug a family member](#)," and reflect on St. Maximos the Confessor's teaching, that we perceive God's goodness through His creation and providence. Whether through a podcast that connects us to human stories, a quiet retreat, or the direct comfort of nature and loved ones, the path to peace and knowing God is found by engaging authentically with the tangible world He made. This is at the heart of SUPRASL's mission and we are grateful to each of you who support us in a multiplicity of ways.



VOICES OF STONES (Lk 19:40)

How does our understanding of God mature as we do? Reflecting on 1 Corinthians 13:11, where St. Paul writes about putting away childish things, we spoke with Joseph, a member of the SUPRASL 2025 community from Norway. We asked him to share how his relationship with God has evolved from his childhood to the present day.

View more from our Voices of Stones series [here](#).

"SUPRASL: A Podcast - Stories of Orthodox Life and Culture"

is a new project that asks: What does it actually feel like to live an Orthodox Christian life? Not just as an idea, but as a day-to-day reality, with all its struggles, its triumphs, its funny moments, and its big feelings.

While there are many great Orthodox podcasts out there that are lecture based, devotional, or conversational, there's a space that's been largely quiet: the space for narrative and storytelling.

We're building our stories with ambient sound and music, so you don't just hear about a pilgrimage to a monastery... you feel like you're walking the path.

We hope to launch our first full episode at the beginning of the new year. Until then we will post some short stories.

[Click here to listen our introduction to the concept, and stay tuned.](#)



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