

Parenting Conference 2020

When Parents Disagree: Kerry Pappas

Synopsis and Introduction: Some husbands and wives approach parenting from a similar perspective; others don't. And, even if the husband and wife have a similar approach to parenting, differences surface as day-to-day challenges arise, inevitably creating tensions in the marriage relationship. So, as husband and wife, how do we navigate the disagreements we have, both in our overall approach to parenting and in the daily challenges -- a baby who cries a lot; a toddler throwing a tantrum; a teenager testing limits by sneaking out of the house at night; or, a young adult child who is having difficulty launching into adulthood?

Outline:

1. The primacy of the marriage relationship in the home
2. Children learn what they see, not what they hear
3. The importance of listening to understand
4. Myth or truth? Parents arguing in front of children is inappropriate.
5. Common sources of parenting conflict
6. Reaching a united front even when you disagree

Resources:

1. *Wounded By Love: The Life and the Wisdom of Elder Porphyrios*, pp. 195-211)
2. Sayings of Mr. Fred Rogers on Parenting (Google)
3. *Bread for Life*, Henri Nouwen
4. Center for Family Care, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (podcasts, webinars, articles)

Bio: Kerry Pappas is the Coordinator for Clergy and Seminarian Couple Care for the Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. She is a graduate of Gettysburg College, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and Adler Graduate School and a licensed marriage and family therapist. She lives in Stamford with her husband of 39 years, Fr. Harry Pappas. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.