



St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Sunday, July 1st, 2018



**The Most Reverend Metropolitan
JOSEPH**, *Primate Antiochian Orthodox
Christian Archdiocese of North America.*

**The Right Reverend Bishop
ANTHONY**, *Auxiliary Bishop*
V.Rev. Fr. John Alassaf, Pastor
(330) 907-5811

yohanna-1965@hotmail.com

*Every Sunday:
Matins 9:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM*

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
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Email: mail@stgeorgeakron.com

Rev. Protodeacon Joseph Harb
Rev. Deacon James Reale
Sub-deacons: Sam Snyder, & Samer Zawahri
Church School Director: Julia Shaheen
Parish News Coordinator:
Kh. Rania Alassaf 330-907-9151
Choir Director: Kim Shama Hanna
Arabic Chanter: Tanios Tabanji
Young Adult Advisor: Dr. Bill Shaheen
Web Master: Jessica Zuder
TLC Catering, Joe Catalano: 330-607-4360
joe@tlccateringinc.com

Greeters: Suzette Saadeh

Epistle Reader: Debi Halasa

Acolytes: VOLUNTEERS

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST” / “HE IS AND EVER SHALL BE” THE COMMUNION PRAYER

I believe, O Lord, and I confess, that thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who didst come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. And I believe that this is truly Thine own immaculate Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Wherefore, I pray Thee, have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions, both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance; and make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thine immaculate Mysteries, unto remission of my sins unto life everlasting. Amen. Of Thy Mystic Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither will I give Thee a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief, will I confess Thee; Remember me; O Lord in Thy Kingdom. Neither unto judgment nor unto condemnation, be my partaking of Thy Holy Mysteries, O Lord, but unto the healing of soul and body.

Holy Bread Of Oblation for Today's Divine Liturgy is offered by:

- Atef & Teresa Haddad and Family
- Olga Yogmour
- Walid & Victoria Qaqish Family

Holy Remembrances are offered for the health of:

Christian Simon, Margaux Yerian, Frank & Gladys Chirakos, Edmund & Geri Farris, Dawn Shaheen, Bob & Flo Howell, Shaun Curley, Myrna Kalail, Violet & David Carey, , Mary Lou Simon, Jan Kattouf, Wafiga Zawahri Family, , Mike Shuman Shawns, , Rick Karm, Bentley Licitiri, Kathy Velikoff, Neda Zawahri Serhan, David Aaramouni, Ann Sayre, Donald Kenny, Danny & Pierre Nader, and Mike Pancoe

(Quiet prayer at the altar) Holy Remembrances at the Table of Oblation for the health of

Samar Jabbour, Fadia Albanna, Bonnie Dallas, Carl Massouh, Elie Eid, Deacon Joe Harb Family, Helen Dadas, Freda Corbin, Ethan Wernecke, Mary Smolinski, George & Georgette Zabaneh Family, Paul Megois, Richard Morrow, Marsha Lindsay, Tony Jaber, Celia Kulmala, Sophia Britton, Kristen Sage, David Pilversack, Elie Asmar, Daisy Salem, Jihan & Hamodeh Albanna, Atty. George Mallo, Rachel D'Fantis, Madeleine Khoueiry, Kelsey Thompson, Sandra Shofani, Maroun Benchi, Peter George, Landon Skidmore, Matthew Hallowell, Susan Bogunovich, Tina Gmerek, John Bourjaily, Larry Ciavarella, Josephine Katzbach, Becky Burtoff, Brianne Dishong, Dr. Richard Esper, Amanda Hagger, Pat Magette, Jordan Miller, Wilma Seely, Bentley Licitiri Doug Simmons, John Stevens, Johnny Bennett Stevens, Kory Wiita, Mildred Halamay, Norma Kakish, Botros Kerro, Elia Shoufani, John Mashni, Helen Zimmerman, Kathy Curley, Jerrie Elias, Issam Halasa, Sadie Kannam, Carl Moore, Habouba Rahbani, Greg Kattouf, Jamileh Hilaneh, Edward L. Collins, Wagdi Anton, Antoine Aramouni, Gerald Hanna, John Simon, Jackie Wilson, Ralph & Rosalie Yerian, Vincent & Eleanor Alexander, Antoinette Jabbour, June Denios, Isaac & Gamalat Gaid, Ghassan & Mona Ashkar Romeo Jajju, and Jackie Shama, Romeo Jajju

Holy Remembrances are offered for the Repose of the Souls of :

Chaker Debs, Hannah Kakish, George Ostich, Nathme Al-Smeirat, Norman Elias Sr., George Elias, and newly departed Richard Simon

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Come, let us worship, and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

APOLYTIKION OF SS. COSMAS AND DAMIAN IN TONE EIGHT

O ye silver-hating, wonderworking saints, Cosmas and Damian, visit our sicknesses. Freely ye received, freely give unto us.

TROPARION – HYMN OF ST. GEORGE

As deliverer of captives and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, victorious Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God for our soul's salvation.

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

JUNE DONATIONS

NEEDY FUND:

\$100	Fr. Myron Zuder
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BUILDING FUND:

\$100	Jim & Cathy Snyder-Sage
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CALENDAR

<i>Sun., Jul. 1st</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cosmas & Damian the Holy Unmercenaries</i>
<i>Mon., Jul. 2nd</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bible Study 6:30 – 8PM at Chirakos House</i>
<i>Sun., Jul. 8th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Procopius the Great Martyr</i>
<i>Sun., Jul. 15th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Fathers of the 4th Council Ecumenical Council</i>
<i>Mon., Jul. 16th - Fri., Jul. 20th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Clergy Symposium</i>
<i>Fri., Jul. 20th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Feast of Prophet Elias (Elijah)</i>
<i>Sun., Jul. 22nd</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mary Magdalene Equal to the Apostles</i>

THE EPISTLE

In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous.

I beheld the Lord ever before me, for He is at my right hand, that I might not be shaken.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (12:27-13:8)

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (8:28-9:1)

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have we to do to Thee, O Son of God? Art Thou come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If Thou castest us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city. **Amen.**

The Gadarene Demoniac -2018

In the name of the Father, and the son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

The Lord's entry into the country of the Gadarenes was a testimony that He came into this world, to seek and save the darkened and fallen nature of humanity, because the situation cannot remain like this. Humans should not live with a fearful and darkened heart, but in joy, in love and in the light.

The light is to know, what is the goal of our life?

The purpose of our life is that we become holy, perfect in love. St John said, 'the person who fears is not perfected in love, but perfect love casts out fear' (1 Jn 4:18). This means, to reach a state of mind where we can love and glorify God because He is our Creator and He created everything good; to give ourselves to God and have victory over death.

Everyone in this story, with the exception of Jesus, was afraid. The demoniac was afraid and the townspeople were afraid. Even after the demon possessed man was healed, the townspeople were still afraid!

What causes fear? What frightens people? Is it facing death? Is it their lack of knowing the purpose of life, to love God and His creation in Jesus Christ?

Jesus said: "Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness instead of light, lest their deeds should be exposed" (Jn 3:19). In other words, lest their lack of love be exposed.

Socrates said: "we can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light".

People are so caught up in running from the things that frighten them, that they miss the point and message of life.

People fear poverty, starvation, cancer, and crime.

People even fear truth and honesty, being upright with themselves and pure in their heart. So one will say to themselves: "What if people knew how I really feel, who I really am? Surely, they would not like me."

Fear involves pain and suffering. This is why it concerns itself with movement, the fight and flight response, doing anything to take away the fear.

There's a primal part of us that instinctively feels scared when we believe we recognize a threat. If we're not self-aware, and if we don't learn to challenge ourselves, that fear can manifest in all kinds of limiting emotions and actions.

It can keep us from getting to know people who could be kindred spirits, despite an appearance that might suggest otherwise. It can prevent us from taking smart risks that could help us reach our dreams. It can even bind us in depression and anxiety, convincing us the world is full of suffering, when oftentimes, our interpretations create it.

Ultimately, all of the little fears come from one big fear, that is, the fear of death.

If people are sensitive enough to 'believe in their hearts that God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead' (Rom 10:9), they already rejoice in their hearts because they know that in Jesus Christ, life comes through death.

We need to die to our life in order to allow Christ's life to live in us, if we are to overcome death. Jesus said: "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it" (Lk 9:25).

Therefore the gospel calls us to do something quite different than what we are used to doing with fear in our lives. It invites us not to run away from fear, not to run away from death. The gospel calls us to follow the example of Christ, to love the light. Jesus Christ said: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (Jn 8:12).

Jesus did not run away from the demoniac. He met him face to face. He did not run away from Golgotha. He met death face to face.

Let us be careful so as not to allow our fear, coldness, and arrogance drive out the Lord from our homes and our hearts. Our task is to attempt to find a way to enter into the light of Christ.

The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus (Lk 8:38), but Jesus sent him away through His compassion for the unbelievers in the country of the Gadarenes. Jesus sent him back in to the town to witness and proclaim 'how much Jesus had done for him' (Lk 8:39), so they could see the light and change their hearts.

Blessed are those who hear the Lord's voice calling in their heart, and who have the courage to follow Him, and make Him the center of their lives by accepting and loving Him. Amen .

Fr. John

MEMORY ETERNAL... We regret to inform you of the passing of **Richard Simon**, Wednesday, June 27, 2018. He is the husband of the late Ginny Simon, father to Cheryl Molnar and Cathy (Rick) Hager, and grandfather to Sarah & Rachel Molnar and Amanda & Alaina Hager.



Donations may be made to the family or to St. George Church.

May His Memory Be Eternal

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

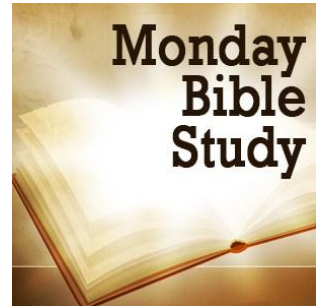
Frank Chirakos is hosting weekly **Bible Study** this summer, every **Monday**.

When: Every **Monday** this summer from **6:30 – 8PM**

Where: Chirakos Residence **464 Schocalog Rd.**

Akron, OH 44320

Questions: Please contact Frank at **330-807-7214** or fchirakos@gmail.com



Holy Wonderworking Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian at Rome .Commemorated on July 1



Their life of active service and their great spiritual influence on the people around them led many into the Church, attracting the attention of the Roman authorities. Soldiers were sent after the brothers. Hearing about this, local Christians convinced Saints Cosmas and Damian to hide for a while until they could help them escape. Unable to find the brothers, the soldiers arrested instead other Christians of the area where the saints lived. Saints Cosmas and Damian then

came out of hiding and surrendered to the soldiers, asking them to release those who had been arrested because of them.

At Rome, the saints were imprisoned and put on trial. Before the Roman emperor and the judge they openly professed their faith in Christ God, Who had come into the world to save mankind and redeem the world from sin, and they resolutely refused to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. They said, “We have done evil to no one, we are not involved with the magic or sorcery of which you accuse us. We treat the infirm by the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and we take no payment for rendering aid to the sick, because our Lord commanded His disciples, “Freely have you received, freely give” (Mt. 10: 8).

The emperor, however, continued with his demands. Through the prayer of the holy brothers, imbued with the power of grace, God suddenly struck Carinus blind, so that he too might experience the almighty power of the Lord, Who does not forgive blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Mt. 12:31). The people, beholding the miracle, cried out, “Great is the Christian God! There is no other God but Him!” Many of those who believed besought the holy brothers to heal the emperor, and he himself implored the saints, promising to convert to the true God, Christ the Savior, so the saints healed him. After this, Saints Cosmas and Damian were honorably set free, and once again they set about treating the sick.

But what the hatred of the pagans and the ferocity of the Roman authorities could not do, was accomplished by black envy, one of the strongest passions of sinful human nature. An older physician, an instructor, under whom the holy brothers had studied the art of medicine, became envious of their fame. Driven to madness by malice, and overcome by passionate envy, he summoned the two brothers, formerly his most beloved students, proposing that they should all go together in order to gather various medicinal herbs. Going far into the mountains, he murdered them and threw their bodies into a river.

Thus these holy brothers, the Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian, ended their earthly journey as martyrs. Although they had devoted their lives to the Christian service of their neighbors, and had escaped the Roman sword and prison, they were treacherously murdered by their teacher.

The Lord glorifies those who are pleasing to God. Now, through the prayers of the holy martyrs Cosmas and Damian, God grants healing to all who with faith have recourse to their heavenly intercession. **Amen**