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# St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church

Sunday, July 8th, 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](mailto:yohanna-1965@hotmail.com)

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

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**3204 Ridgewood Rd., Akron OH 44333**  
**Ph: 330-666-7116/Fax: 330-666-8292**  
**Email: [mail@stgeorgeakron.com](mailto: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](mailto:joe@tlccateringinc.com)

**Greeters:** Hanan Halaseh

**Epistle Reader:** Renee Reale

**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:

- Cindy Shama in memory of Charlie Sturm
- 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, Myrna Kalail, Mary Lou Simon, Jan Kattouf, Wafiga Zawahri Family, Mike Shuman Shawns, Kathy Velikoff, Neda Zawahri Serhan, David Aramouni, Ann Sayre, Donald Kenny, Danny & Pierre Nader, Mike Pancoe and David Welling

## (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, 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, Robert, Dr. Richard Esper, Amanda Hagger, Pat Magette, Jordan Miller, Bob & Flo Howell, Shaun Curley, Violet & David Carey, Bentley Licitiri

## 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, Richard Simon, Elie Samaha

## RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

## 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 ST. PROCOPIUS THE GREAT-MARTYR IN TONE FOUR

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee \* received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. \* For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants \* and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. \* O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

## 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.

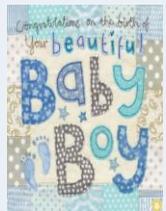
## ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

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.

## CALENDAR

<i>Sun., Jul. 8<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Procopius the Great Martyr</i></li><li>• <i>Antiochian Women meeting following Divine Liturgy</i></li></ul>
<i>Tues., Jul 10<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Parish Council Meeting at 7.30 pm</i></li></ul>
<i>Sun., Jul. 15<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Fathers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Council Ecumenical Council</i></li></ul>
<i>Jul. 16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Clergy Symposium</i></li></ul>
<i>Fri., Jul. 20<sup>th</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Feast of Prophet Elias (Elijah)</i></li></ul>
<i>Sun., Jul. 22<sup>nd</sup></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Mary Magdalene Equal to the Apostles</i></li></ul>

**Congratulations to.....Michael & Rebecca(Elias) Noecker on the birth of their new baby boy Alexander Isaac on July 3, 2018, 3 lbs 13oz and 16.5 inch long. Proud grandparents are Norman Jr.& Diane Elias and Great Grandparents are + Norman and Alice Elias. Alexander's aunts are Laura and Katherine,and his uncle is Joseph. May God Grant Him Many Years**



## **THE EPISTLE**

*Thou, O Lord, wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation.  
Save me, O Lord, for the Godly man hath disappeared.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans:(12:6-14)**

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

## **THE GOSPEL**

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

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.

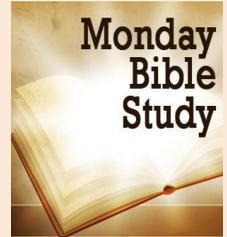
## SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Frank Chirakos is hosting a weekly **Bible Study** during summer.

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

**Where:** Chirakos Residence 464 Schocalog Rd., Akron OH 44320

**Questions:** Please contact Frank at 330-807-7214 or [fchirakos@gmail.com](mailto:fchirakos@gmail.com)



## JULY DONATIONS

### BUILDING FUND:

\$30	Gernard & Wilma Drayer in memory of Richard Simon
\$ 50	Robert & Robin Simon in memory of Norman Elias
\$ 50	Helen Zimmerman in memory of Richard Simon

### FOUNDATION FUND:

\$100	Anonymous in memory of Norman Elias
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### CAMP FUND:

\$100	Anonymous in memory of Norman Elias
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**Congratulations.....**to Michael and Natalie Pancoe on the birth of their baby girl Katarina on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 8 lbs 7oz, 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are Michael Sr. & Diane Pancoe and Todd & Nada Norval, Great Grandparents are + George & Gerry Ostich. Katarina's aunt & uncle are Jordan & Laura Wilhite, and her little cousin is Olivia Wilhite. **May God Grant Her Many Years**



**Our Lady of the Cedars Church**  
507 South cleveland-Massilon Road  
Fairlawn, OH 44333

**30 th Annual Lebanese Festival**

**DATES:**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY AUGUST 3rd & 4 th**  
**11:00am - 9:00pm**

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST-2018**  
**In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

We heard in this morning our Gospel, we see a paralyzed man who cannot walk on his own, healed of his paralysis by God, He who had made his legs in the first place and given this man his first heart-beat in his mother's womb. For, as the Psalmist David says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made...You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb" (Ps. 138). Christ God, as the Logos (Word) of God, through whom all things were made, knew this man and loved this man with a fatherly love even before he was presented to him.

Yes, the paralytic was brought to His Creator, our Creator, and He received healing from the Lord. He was given a new lease on life, a new beginning.

Every miracle, both those past and present, is a testimony of the truth of God, the truth that is God, in that it points us directly to the Kingdom of Heaven, to the restoration of the human race. Every miracle reminds us of God's defeat of sin and death on the cross, His triumphant resurrection from the dead, His harrowing of Hades, His glorious ascension, and His victorious and final Second Coming when all that Christ has assumed, will restore all those who have joined the new race of Adam in Christ and we will see a new heaven and a new earth in which Christ will be all in all. Miracles are a sign of the "eschaton," the reality of the Kingdom of God after the Second Coming of Christ.

The healing of the paralytic alludes to all of these works and promises of God on our behalf, where those who are being saved will be gathered up to join the ranks of heaven in Christ God's near presence, where "sighing and sorrow shall flee away" (Isaiah 51:11).

A greater miracle is at work here in today's Gospel: We read that when Jesus saw the faith of those who had brought the paralytic to him, He instantly healed the man of his paralysis? No! He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." This was not what some were expecting; Christ's words must have come as quite a shock.

These men didn't pull up in a car, an easy drive from the city on modern roads, and carry their friend the last hundred feet to lay him before Jesus. These men must have carried their friend a great distance. Why? Because they had faith that Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, could heal their friend of his condition. They would not have undertaken such an exhausting enterprise as to carry a grown man so many miles on foot without possessing great faith. And Jesus first says to the man not, "take up your bed and walk," but "your sins are forgiven you."

Christ clearly teaches us here the priority of our eternal souls over our decaying bodies. Our souls are eternal. Sin, having entered the world and separated us from

Him who is Life itself, means that our bodies wear out “like a garment” (Job 13). It wasn’t meant to be so: in Christ, we’ll be given resurrected bodies at His Second Coming. And so here we see yet another sign of the eschaton to come.

Christ addresses the ultimate need of the paralytic. Yes, he needs his legs, but more importantly, he needs to be cleansed, purified, forgiven. More important than the healing of his legs is the healing of his soul, of his becoming an adopted son of the living God, a co-heir with Christ. Everything else pales in comparison.

By forgiving the sins of the man, Christ clearly declares Himself to be God for, as the scribes rightly understood, “who can forgive sins but God alone?” (Mk. 2:7; Lk. 5:21) Exactly! Their sinful hearts could not comprehend that the God who lovingly spoke creation into being through His Word (His Logos), would Himself enter into human nature to restore that nature, to restore a path to the Kingdom for His beloved sons and daughters, the pinnacle of His creation, with whom He so dearly desires communion.

The Scribes instantly charge blasphemy. Then Christ, to deepen the faith of all those assembled and silence the actual blasphemers, does two things that reveal Himself to be God: first, He tells them what they are thinking, saying, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?”

For which is easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins...” and then and only then, does Christ say to the man, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” The man arose and departed to his house. Both of these miracles, the revelation of the inner thoughts of others and the healing of the paralysis prove that Christ is God.

What a joy! Can you feel it? Can you see it on the faces of this man and his friends? Their load has been taken from them. They walk home together, rejoicing, glorifying God. But the greatest joy is that this son of Adam has been forgiven, reconciled to God.

Those beset by any passions, repeated sins that paralyze our souls from progressing in our deification, our journey further up and further in the Kingdom of God and communion with the only Lover of mankind, here the words of our Lord, “Arise, take up your bed, and go unto your house.” With the Lord, there is forgiveness, there is new life, there is renewal. Fittingly, the title given to this story in the Orthodox Scriptures is “the Paralytic Restored.”

Christ God will restore us to if we come before His presence with faith, with the hope of restoration, of growth, of renewal in Him who is Life itself, the Great Physician of our souls. He alone is God, the only One who can forgive our sins, renew our baptism, and help us to progress in our participation in His life. Call on Him in time of need, entrust yourself to His grace and mercy. His grace is sufficient and His strength is perfected in weakness. **Amen**

# PARKING LOT PARTY

## ST. GEORGE CHURCH



### Classic Car Cruise-In

**ALL MAKES AND MODELS WELCOME!**



St. George Antiochian  
Orthodox Church  
3204 Ridgewood Rd.  
Akron, OH 44333

@stgeorgeakron on  
**FACEBOOK**

### END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

1:00 - 4:00PM

- FREE Family Event
- Car Cruise-In
- Bounce House
- Giant Backyard Games
- Dunk Tank
- Music
- Food Trucks\*

\*Food available for purchase from The Cedar Grille, Amanda's Hot Dogs, and Kona Ice of Central Canton